



CO-PRESENTED BY



Dallas Independent School District

2010 DALLAS EVENT FACTS PAGE

Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition

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Event:

- 18th Annual **Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition** sponsored by the Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP law firm and co-presented by the Dallas Independent School District:
 - **Semi-Finals:** Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 6:30-8 p.m., Dallas ISD Headquarters Auditorium
 - **Finals:** Friday, January 15, 2010, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Majestic Theatre, Downtown Dallas

Question/Theme: *What will I be able to achieve in my life because of what Dr. King achieved in his?*

Participant Criteria:

- Fourth and fifth grade elementary students compose their own original 3-5 minute speeches answering the question/theme “*What will I be able to achieve in my life because of what Dr. King achieved in his?*” and incorporating excerpts or ideals from Dr. King’s writings, speeches and other records
- Students are judged on delivery, stage presence and decorum, content interpretation and memorization at all three levels (school, semi-finals and finals) of the competition
- Consent forms (participation and photograph) must be turned in prior to the start of the in-school competitions
- The 15 Dallas ISD elementary schools will host in-school competitions of no more than 20 students per school; the 8 first place winners will then participate in the semi-final competition
 - 15 students will compete at the semi-finals on December 8, 2009 at which time 8 finalists will be selected
 - 8 finalists will compete in the final competition on January 15, 2010

16 Participating Dallas ISD Elementary Schools by Learning Communities (LC):

NE LC:	NW LC:	SE LC:	SW LC:
S. S. Conner Elementary	Amelia Earhart Learning Center	Charles Rice Learning Center	Clara Oliver Elementary
Urban Park Elementary	Jerry R. Junkins Elementary	H.S. Thompson Learning Center	R.L. Thornton Elementary
Kiest Elementary	Onesimo Hernandez Elementary	J.P. Starks Elementary	T.L. Marsalis Elementary
	Arlington Park Community Learning Center	John Neely Bryan Elementary	Thomas Tolbert Elementary

Purpose:

- Annual program designed by Gardere to recognize and encourage the writing and speaking skills of elementary students
- Celebration of cultural diversity and opportunity to spotlight talented Dallas ISD students as they learn about Dr. King
- Presented in the spirit of learning and as a celebration of Dr. King’s legacy

History:

- The competition was established in Dallas in 1993 to commemorate the life of Dr. King
- Gardere’s Houston office will also host its annual (14th) Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition on Friday, January 15, 2010
- In 2009, more than 250 students, representing 26 schools, participated in the competitions in Dallas and Houston
- See the following link for more program details, including video links to the 2009 speeches and a compilation video of the 2008 competition: <http://tinyurl.com/yk7lpxa>

Awards:

- Awards for participation include a certificate of participation for all students; in addition, the 8 finalists will receive a U.S. Savings bond, a plaque and other gifts
- Participating schools receive a book on civil rights for their libraries

Program Details:

- The Final competition on January 15, 2010 will feature representatives from Gardere, Dallas ISD along with longtime host and emcee, Clarice Tinsley, veteran journalist for Channel 4 Fox News in Dallas and community leader, as well as VIP community/civic/business leaders on the judging panel
- Outstanding entertainment presented by the Dallas ISD Elementary All-City Honor Choir and the Dallas ISD Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School Jazz Ensemble
- Judges at the semi-finals on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 will include Gardere attorneys and DISD administrators
- Gardere attorneys and staff members serve as judges at the 15 preliminary in-school competitions