

VERNON PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

2027 SPEECH AND DRAMA SYLLABUS

FESTIVAL DATES

March 2027 (Date to be Announced)

GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION - SPEECH

Teachers, participants and parents are responsible for familiarising themselves with the syllabus and rules before registering. Failure to comply with the general rules will result in disqualification. In case of disqualification, fees will not be refunded.

1. WORKING MANAGEMENT

- The Festival shall be under the working management of the Festival Committee. Any questions not dealt with in these rules shall be referred to the Committee through the Secretary and the decision of the Committee shall be final.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- Competitors must be bona fide residents of the Southern Interior of British Columbia.
- All classes, unless otherwise specified, are open to amateurs only. The term “amateur” means one whose principal income is not derived from the discipline being entered. This condition does not apply to conductors of choirs or those bona-fide students of music or dance who teach for the purpose of applying the money so earned to the furtherance of their musical education and does not preclude occasional remuneration received for services rendered in the arts.
- Competition may be entered by a non-professional performer following age guidelines
- First Place Winners of classes from previous festivals in which there were four or more competitors registered, are not eligible to compete again in the particular class in which they have already placed first. These winners must move up to the next age group or grade in order to compete in the same classification.
- Any winning selection from previous years’ festivals is not permitted to be used by the SAME competitor in any other class.
- To determine the age of the performer or competitor, please use their age as of December 31st, 2026
- Adults aged 23 and above may enter competitively or non-competitively, but are not eligible for scholarships and awards.

3. ENTRY INFORMATION

- Entries for all Disciplines MUST be made online.
- Payment must be made by PayPal Pay Now when registering
- Entries MUST be received online on or before the closing date of January 15th, 2027.
- Participants are responsible for entering the correct classes. The festival cannot be responsible for detecting errors.
- Pieces must be performed as entered; no changes will be accepted. A selection in the

wrong category will receive adjudication only. No mark will be given.

- Due to the nature of scheduling, refunds will not be considered for any reason.

4. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULING

- Number of entries and level will determine class divisions
- Once the entry list is closed, the Committee shall arrange the order of the Programme. The Committee reserves the right to alter the order of competing, to subdivide, add or combine the class (should the entries warrant) or to withdraw any class in which the number of entries is insufficient.
- The festival cannot accommodate a participant's or teacher's requests for preferential Scheduling
- Festival classes may be scheduled for any day of the week
- Once the programme has been completed NO CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE WILL BE PERMITTED OR ACCOMMODATED AFTER THAT TIME. All particulars regarding timing and competition order will appear in the Official Program.
- Refunds will be given in cases of illness ONLY. The application for a refund MUST be made within 60 days of discipline finish date and include a physician's certificate verifying the illness, a \$10 administration fee.
- A participant can enter the festival as either competitive or non-competitive. This designation is identified by clicking on it in the online registration form. Participants who choose to enter non-competitively will receive comments from the adjudicator for their performance, but will not receive a mark or be eligible for awards. They are scheduled separately from the competitive classes.

5. COPYRIGHT REGULATIONS

- Only original scores or copies authorized by copyright owners may be used at Festival Venues.
- The performer must provide the adjudicator with an original material (poetry book, play, literature) or authorized copy of the selection to be performed
- Use of unauthorized copies will result in disqualification. If a student is found to be using a photocopy, they will receive an adjudication only with no mark and the piece will not qualify for scholarships.
- If a selection is in the public domain, a letter confirming this fact is required from the publisher along with permission to copy.

6. ADJUDICATION

- Competitors MUST submit a clean copy or original source for their selection to the Adjudicator's Assistant PRIOR to their performance. Failure to do so will result in an adjudication ONLY. No mark will be given under such circumstances.
- It is not necessary to forward original copies of Speech Arts selections when submitting entries.
- Maximum time limits are given, please note that it is NOT necessary to fill the allotted time limit. Competitors who run overtime WILL be stopped and will receive only the adjudication WITHOUT mark NOR placement.

- Dress Code: Competitors are encouraged to dress appropriately to neither offend nor distract the adjudicator, performers or audience.
- Teachers, participants, parents of participants, or members of the audience should have no unauthorised communication with the Adjudicator prior to or during the festival.
- Unauthorised communication with an Adjudicator by the participant or their parents or teacher will result in disqualification of the participant.
- The Adjudicator shall have discretionary power to stop any performance at any time.
- In all matters of adjudication, the Adjudicator's decision shall be final.
- No protest or complaint may be addressed directly to any adjudicator.
- **TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY TROPHIES OR SCHOLARSHIPS, WINNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERFORM AT THE HONOURS CONCERTS, IF CALLED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE.**
- PLACEMENT: THERE WILL NOT BE ANY "TIED" PLACEMENT.

7. VENUES

- Unless a special room is provided, NO part of the venue may be used for practice during the festival.
- Family and friends of the performer and the performer must remain in the areas designated for festival participation.
- Absolutely no food or drinks are allowed into any venue
- Talking and entering/exiting the venue are not permitted during a performance
- All mobile devices should be silenced in the performance space.

8. PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

- Erase all marks and notations on books
- Arrive at the venue at least 15 minutes before scheduled performance time.
- When your name is called, hand your book to the Adjudicator's Secretary before proceeding to the performance floor or stage.
- If props are required, please place them prior to your name being called (you will be asked before it is your turn), and remove them from the stage once you have completed your performance.

9. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Categories of scholarships and awards are determined on an annual basis, based on Entries. All presentations of scholarships and awards are based on Adjudicator recommendations. Scholarships and awards for all disciplines are not listed in the 2026 Syllabus. Full details of all scholarships and awards will be printed in the 2027 VPAF program.
- To be eligible for any individual scholarships and awards, a student must enter at least 2 competitive classes.
- Determination of scholarships and awards is based on a student's top 2 marks of 85 and above, excluding ensembles, and at the discretion of the adjudicator.

10. PROTESTS

- THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.
- Registered protests MUST be made in writing to the Secretary during the Festival and accompanied by a protest fee of \$30.00. The fee will be returned if the protest is sustained. The protest shall be heard by the Protest Committee, which shall be composed of three members of the Festival Committee who have been appointed by the President. Their decision shall be final.
- Any questions or matters NOT referred to under General Rules may be dealt with by the Secretary and decided upon by the Joint Committee of the Festival. Their decision is final.

11. LIABILITY WAIVER

- The Vernon Performing Arts Festival Society (the "Society") is NOT responsible for any claims, demands or damages concerning injury to any competitor that may occur during the annual Vernon Performing Arts Festival. The Society will NOT be responsible for any loss or damage to musical instruments, equipment, props, or any other PERSONAL property. The Society's acceptance of a competitor's application for entry into the Vernon Performing Arts Festival, will release any responsibility of the Society or volunteers for the Society, from claims, demands, damages, actions or causes of action arising out of or in consequence of any loss, injury or damage to any competitor or any competitor's personal property incurred while attending or participating in the Vernon Performing Arts Festival.

PROCEDURE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Please double-check the accuracy and spelling of your entry, as what you type in is what will be printed. No changes or substitutions may be made after registration or at the time of performance.
- It is the responsibility of competitors and teachers to follow the Rules & Regulations of the Festival. Entries are the responsibility of competitors and teachers. Errors or omissions are not the responsibility of the festival.
- Participant Information
 - Name
 - Telephone number
 - Email address
 - Birthdate
- Teacher Information
 - Name
 - Email address
- Entry Information
 - Full Title, including author
 - Props (if needed)
 - Performance time (length)
- Payment
 - Payment must be made at the time of registration
 - Payment is online only

The following definitions have been established as guidelines for competitors:

1. POETRY: Any style of poetry can be used.

- Lyric: A short unified poem expressing the poet's own experience and emotion in a relaxed stance with NO movement.
- Narrative: A poem which tells a story and usually has dialogue; the telling of a story is the primary concern of the speaker.
- Dramatic: In a dramatic poem, a character distinct from the performer and poet speaks, revealing personality and attitudes.
- Sonnet: A sonnet is a fixed form lyric poem, traditionally consisting of 14 lines of iambic pentameter with a set rhyme.

2. SCENE: A monologue from a published play intended to be presented on stage by an actor assuming the language, movement and dress of the original character.

3. PROSE: Sourced from a work of fiction, the focus should be on the voice. Competitors may stand or be seated. NO ACTING. The selection should include narration, description, and dialogue. It should be spoken in the storytelling style, but should NOT be performed as a dramatic scene.

NON-COMPETITIVE VPAF SPEECH

All speech classes in the following section are non-competitive. Performers will receive verbal and written adjudication and a participation certificate. No marks will be given

Non-Competitive Poetry - 6 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Fee: \$20

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Prose - 6 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Fee: \$20

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Scene - 6 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Fee: \$20

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Shakespeare - 6 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Fee: \$20

Performers in this class will have the opportunity to perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Poetry - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Prose - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Scene - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Shakespeare - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers in this class will perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Poetry - 18 and older

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry provided they do not exceed the time limit. Introductions and Transitions are not required.

Non-Competitive Prose - 18 and older

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit. Introductions and Transitions are not required.

Non-Competitive Scene - 18 and older

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Shakespeare - 18 and older

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers in this class will have the opportunity to perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Non-Competitive Group Poetry - All Ages

Time Limit: 8 minutes

Fee: \$55

Performers in this class will recite a passage of poetry as a chorus. 2 or more performers are required.

Non-Competitive Group Prose - All Ages

Time Limit: 8 minutes

Fee: \$55

Performers in this class will recite a passage of prose as a group. 2 or more performers required.

Non-Competitive Group Scene - All Ages

Time Limit: 8 minutes

Fee: \$55

Performers in this class will enact a scene from a play as an ensemble. 2 or more performers required

Non-Competitive Group Shakespeare - All Ages

Time Limit: 8 minutes

Fee: \$55

Performers in this class will enact a scene from a work of Shakespeare as an ensemble. 2 or more performers required

Non-Competitive Speech and Dramatic Arts - 6 to 12 years old (online)

Time Limit: 3 minutes

Fee: \$20

Performers in this class will have the opportunity to perform as many pieces as they would like provided they do not exceed the 3 minute time limit. Introductions and Transitions are not required. Performers in this class will record their performances and upload them onto YouTube and will receive only written adjudication at a later date.

Non-Competitive Speech and Dramatic Arts - 13 to 17 years old (Online)

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers in this class will have the opportunity to perform as many pieces as they would like provided they do not exceed the 5 minute time limit. Introductions and Transitions are not required. Performers in this class will record their performances and upload them onto YouTube and will receive only written adjudication at a later date.

Non-Competitive Speech and Dramatic Arts - 18 or older (Online)

Time Limit: 5 minutes

Fee: \$30

Performers in this class will have the opportunity to perform as many pieces as they would like provided they do not exceed the 5 minute time limit. Introductions and Transitions are not required. Performers in this class will record their performances and upload them onto YouTube and will receive only written adjudication at a later date.

COMPETITIVE VPAF

All speech classes in the following section are competitive. Performers will receive verbal and written adjudication along with a certificate of placement. **Registrants in this category will not be considered for Provincial Festival regardless of the amount of pieces recited. For consideration in Provincial Festivals, apply for the Provincial Junoir, Intermediate or senior category.**

In a class where there are 1 to 3 competitors:
Placement of 1st Place will be allotted

In a class where there are 4 competitors:

Placement of 1st and 2nd Places will be allotted

In a class where there are 5 or more competitors:
Placement of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places will be allotted

Competitive Poetry - 6 to 8 years old

Time Limit: 4 minutes

Fee: \$25

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Prose - 6 to 8 years old

Time Limit: 4 minutes

Fee: \$25

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Scene - 6 to 8 years old

Time Limit: 4 minutes

Fee: \$25

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Shakespeare - 6 to 8 years old

Time Limit: 4 minutes

Fee: \$25

Performers in this class will perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Poetry - 9 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Prose - 9 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Scene - 9 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Shakespeare - 9 to 12 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers in this class will perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Poetry - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Prose - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Scene - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Shakespeare - 13 to 17 years old

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers in this class will perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Poetry - 18 and older

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any style of poetry provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Prose - 18 and older

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will recite from memory any passage from a work of fiction, including picture books and novels, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Scene - 18 and older

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers will present from memory any monologue from a published play, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitive Shakespeare - 18 and older

Time Limit: 6 minutes

Fee: \$35

Performers in this class will perform a selection from Shakespeare's poetry or dramatic monologues, provided they do not exceed the time limit.

Competitors wishing to be considered for recommendation to the Provincial Festival must enter one age category only: Junior, Intermediate, or Senior, and register for one of the following classes within that age category:

Junior Speech and Dramatic Arts

Intermediate Speech and Dramatic Arts

Senior Speech and Dramatic Arts

Competitors may not enter multiple Speech and Dramatic Arts categories or multiple Public Speaking and Storytelling categories.

Please refer to the Performing Arts BC Syllabus for full details, which may be found at www.bcprovincials.com

Provincials Junior Speech and Dramatic Arts

Time Limit: 15 minutes

Fee: \$ 75

1. One selection of Poetry
2. One selection of Prose
3. One selection of Drama

Age: 11 to 13 years old

Minimum Age: 11 years old (As of December 31 2026)

Provincials Intermediate Speech and Dramatic Arts

Time Limit: 17 minutes

Fee: \$ 85

1. One selection of Poetry
2. One selection of Prose
3. One selection of Drama

Age: 17 years and under

Minimum Age: 12 years old (As of December 31 2026)

Provincials Senior Speech and Dramatic Arts

Time Limit: 20 minutes

Fee: \$ 95

At this level all selections must have a unifying theme. Performers must introduce their theme to the audience at the beginning and then prior to the performance of each selection, briefly explaining the selection's connection to the theme. The selections below can be performed in any order.

1. One selection of Poetry
2. One selection of Prose
3. One Sonnet
4. One selection of Drama

Age: 22 years and under

Minimum Age: 15 years old (As of December 31 2026)

*The minimum age requirement for Provincials Senior Speech and Dramatic arts will be waived if the competitor has previously won the Intermediate age category at VPAF or at the Provincial level.