Guidelines for Levels III & IV of the Declamation Contest

Three judges are present during the entire timing of the contest (9-10am).

All judges will have a list of the students who signed up to participate in Declamation III or IV.

The rating sheets for the judges have three categories: a) presentation/quality of recitation, b) ability to remember all parts of the poem, and c) quality of pronunciation. Each of these components is marked on a 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) scale, and the score for each category is noted on the sheet next to the participant’s name. The judges add up the total from all three categories and write this in a fourth column.

At the end of the event, the judges compare their highest scores. As in any situation in which oral skills are rated by more than one judge, some explanation and/or compromise is needed to determine the first, second, and third prize winners. Because negotiation about the winners and the winners’ scores occurs every year, the judges are urged to make all marks on the rating sheet in pencil. There have been years where one honorable mention is given. The judges circle the names of the prize awardees on each ratings sheet and return them to the German Day coordinator. Prizes for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded in each level.