

Dear Parents and Students,

I wanted to touch base with you on some important details regarding the Assembly of God's program for teenagers called Fine Arts. Fine Arts Festival is a discipleship tool of national youth ministries designed to "help students discover, develop and deploy their ministry gifts." Beginning in September each year, over 70,000 junior and senior high school students begin preparing their entries for the District and National Fine Arts Festivals. Students may enter as many as 35 of the 52 categories offered in 8 main divisions: Art, Communication, Dance, Drama, Exhibition, Instrumental, Vocal, and Writing.

I have been involved in facilitating and coaching teens in Fine Arts since 2000, and I have seen amazing things happen for these students. Not only do they have an opportunity to use their gifts for ministry, but they have the chance to find NEW gifts that they didn't know they had. In addition to the intrinsic rewards in sharing their gifts, they receive recognition at these events, and additionally these students are given opportunity to receive scholarships for college as they advance through the competitions.

Some key points:

- Fine Arts is open to students in grades 6-12.
- There are registration fees for each level of competition.
- Competition Dates:
 - Sectional Competition: February 20th, Freedom Life, Lewisburg, PA
 - Deadline to Register: February 1, 2016
 - All creative writing, short film, mini saga, and promo video must be sent in by January 18th to be accepted for the festival.
 - \$30 for first category, \$5 for each additional category
 - District Competition: March 23-24, Carlisle, PA (This is right before Youth Convention, so you would most likely stay one extra night)
 - National Competition: August 1-5th Louisville, KY

I realize we are embarking on this pretty late in the game, however, I would like to make myself available to help guide any students who are interested this Sunday before Youth Group at 6:00. There are lots of opportunities for individual entries (keep in mind some are due on Monday, so start working right away). You can find the information for these early categories as well as registration information at the church website: <http://www.echohope.org/#!fine-arts---youth/adgtu>

In addition to individual entries, I would be happy to help a **group** with any of the following categories:

- Percussion Ensemble, Unconventional (This is like Stomp)
- Vocal Ensemble
- Drama Ensemble (Skit, this would be comedic memorized acting)

If you have any interest in Fine Arts at all, have additional questions, or may possibly be interested, please contact me at 724-986-0601 (text is fine, too), or on Facebook.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with all of you!

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