The 2022-2023 Oratorical is sponsored, in part, by Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club, Sawnee Cumming Optimist Club and Northside Forsyth Hospital.

The two Forsyth County Optimist Clubs are honored to conduct an annual oratorical contest. This program is offered to all Forsyth County students in grades 5 through 12. Students create and present a speech based on a specific topic. The 2022-2023 topic is ***“Discovering the Optimism within Me”***. For some time now, our program has been the **largest** Optimist Oratorical in the **WORLD**! Most recently a Forsyth County winner, **Samiksha Gaherwar**, from our 2021-2022 contest went on to win the zone, area, district, and **YES WORLD!** Samiksha graduated from Lambert High School and now is attending Princeton University. We are grateful to all parents, school coordinators, teachers and principals for their participation and support in helping us with **“Bringing Out the Best in our Kids!”**

All contests this year will be held in the Academies of Creative Education in the Media Center on the Third Floor. Address is 1160 Dahlonega Highway, Cumming, Ga. 30040. The building is just past the new FoCAL building.

**Sawnee Cumming Optimist Club will host their schools on the below nights:**

**Students are to arrive by 5:30. The contest starts at 6:00 pm.**

Monday, February 27, 2023, Elementary Semi Finals

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Middle/High Semi Finals

Monday, March 6, 2023, Elementary Finals

Thursday, March 9, 2023, Mid/High Finals

Contact: Carolynn Martin CarolynnCMartin@gmail.com 770-402-8689

**Forsyth Cumming Optimist Club will host their schools on the below nights:**

**Students are to arrive by 5:30. The contest starts at 6:00 pm.**

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, Elementary Semi Finals

Thursday, March 2, 2023, Middle/High Semi Finals

Tuesday, March 7, Elementary Finals

Thursday, March 9, 2023, Mid/High Finals

Contact: Joyce Mullins nancyjoyce.mullins@gmail.com 678-570-7002

***Elementary Final winners***, 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place trophies. 1st place will also receive a check for $100.00 at the luncheon hosted by Northside Forsyth Hospital. Parents, principals, and coordinators are invited to attend the luncheon on April 19th at 11:30 a.m. located in the Bennett Education Center Classroom on the ground floor in the 1400 Building at the hospital. Our sincere Thanks to Northside Forsyth Hospital for hosting this event.

***Mid/High Final winners***. Top 4 winners, (2 from each club) will receive Gold medals, 2 alternates will receive Silver medals. Top 4 winners will also receive a check for $500.00 each at the luncheon hosted by Northside Forsyth Hospital. Parents, principals, and coordinators are invited to attend the luncheon in March 2023 (date TBD) at 11:30 a.m. located in the Bennett Education Center Classroom in the 1400 Building on the ground floor at the hospital.

**Mid/High Final winners** will advance to the Zone contest on March 24, 2023. Place TBD. Winners (2) from Zone will advance to the Area contest on April 8, 2023. Place TBD.

Winner (1) from Area will advance to the District contest April 22, 2023. Winner will receive a $2,500 Scholarship. Place TBD.

Winner from District contest will advance to the Regional Contest in St. Louis, Missouri. Date TBD. Winner will receive a $5,000 Scholarship.

Winner from Regional contest will advance to the WORLD Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. Date TBD. $15,000 Scholarship to 1st place, $10,000 for 2nd place, and $5,000 for 3rd place.

NEW RULE: Section III - Qualifications for Contestants 2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year (October 1 to September 30). Once a contestant wins first place at the Regional level of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest at any level again.

Schools are to run their own competitions and provide their own Judges. If someone has an emergency and needs an Optimist member to fill in as a Judge, please see the list below:

Brenda Basey 770-519-9490 bsbasey@comcast.net

Gwyn Hanie 678-525-0330 coavee@gmail.com

Joyce Seay 770-598-9839 joyceseay@comcast.net

Michael Sapp 770-608-2314 msapp1252@gmail.com

Mary Allen 404-918-9735 mca1800@yahoo.com

Linda Kelly 404-725-1805 dorothyfan57@gmail.com

Jody Langton 470-367-1510 jody.langton@gmail.com

Jyoti Patel 404-906-0913 jyoti\_amin@yahoo.com

Harold Mullins 678-570-7001 harold.mullins@comcast.net

Joyce Mullins 678-570-7002 nancyjoyc.mullins@gmail.com

Forsyth Cumming Optimist Club is coordinating with the following schools and Joyce Mullins (nancyjoyce.mullins@gmail.com 678-570-7002 is your point of contact:

**Elementary Schools** **Middle Schools**

Brandywine Covenant Christian

Brookwood DeSana

Cumming Hendricks

Kelly Mill Lakeside

Mashburn Liberty

Matt Little Mill

New Hope Pinecrest Academy

Sawnee Vickery Creek

Settles Bridge

Shiloh Point

Silver City

Vickery Creek

Pinecrest Academy

Covenant Christian

**High Schools**

Alliance

Covenant Christian

Denmark

East

Lambert

Pinecrest Academy

South

West

Sawnee Cumming Optimist Club is coordinating with the following schools and Carolynn Martin (carolynncmartin@gmail.com) 770-402-8689 is your point of contact:

**Elementary Schools** **Middle Schools**

Big Creek North

Chattahoochee Otwell

Chestatee Piney Grove

Coal Mountain Riverwatch

Cornerstone South

Daves Creek Cornerstone

Haw Creek Horizon

Johns Creek Fideles

Midway Veritas

Poole’s Mill

Sharon

Whitlow

Veritas

Horizon

Fideles

**High Schools**

Academics for Creative Education

Central

Cornerstone

Fideles

Horizon

North

Veritas