



Calling All Middle School Students!

Share your ideas and show off your civics skills in the National Civics Bee.

LOCAL

\$500
cash prize
FIRST PLACE

\$250
cash prize
SECOND PLACE

\$125
cash prize
THIRD PLACE

STATE

\$1,000
cash prize
FIRST PLACE

\$500
cash prize
SECOND PLACE

\$250
cash prize
THIRD PLACE

NATIONAL

State Finalists who advance to the national competition will compete for prizes worth more than **\$50,000**.

About the Bee

The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In the first round of the contest, students will participate in an essay competition. Judges will then select 20 finalists to participate in the final round: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge.

How to Enter

If you are a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student with an idea about using civics to solve a problem in your community, review the rules and guidelines on this page:

MiChamber.com/micivicsbee
(case sensitive)

Next, complete the online submission form, including contact information for your parent or guardian, and upload (preferred method) or mail your 500-word essay.

DEADLINE: Essays must be received by January 8, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Entries must be received via one of the six participating 2023-24 local chambers – Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, Canton Chamber of Commerce, Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Chamber, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, or the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber.

The National Civics Bee is presented by the Michigan Chamber Foundation with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Essay Topic

Identify a problem facing your community. How might a citizen solve the problem?

Write a 500-word essay, two pages, double-spaced, that includes the following:

- What is the problem, and how do different members in your community or neighborhood view it?
- What civic principles or systems could help to address the problem?
- What is your idea or recommendation for solving the problem?
- What primary sources, such as the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution, provide supporting evidence or examples for your idea or recommendation?
- How might members of your community or neighborhood bring your idea or recommendation to life?

Judging Criteria

Your essay will be evaluated based on how well you:

- Demonstrate an understanding of civics
- Acknowledge and address opposing points of view
- Use primary sources
- Clearly describe an idea innovative or new to you

Best of Luck!





Grant & Aid Assessment

FACTS makes quality education affordable for families by assisting schools in awarding financial aid. We work with schools to create a custom application and collect financial data so schools can make accurate award decisions based on financial need.

To apply for financial aid at St. Gerard Catholic School, please visit: <https://online.factsmgt.com/signIn/3YZNQ>

After completing the online application, you will need to upload all required supporting documentation.

The following supporting documents are required to complete the application process:

- **IRS Federal Income Tax Return**, including all supporting schedules (the year of the tax return depends on the tax requirements of your school). If applicant and co-applicant file separately, we require both tax returns for the same tax year.
- Copies of **all the current year W-2 Wage and Tax Statements** for both the applicant and co-applicant.
NOTE: If you are applying before you have received all the current year W-2 Wage and Tax Statements, please submit them as soon as they become available.
- Copies of all supporting tax documents if you have business income/loss from any of the following:
 - Business** - send Schedule C or C-EZ and Form 4562 Depreciation and Amortization
 - Farm** - send Schedule F and Form 4562 Depreciation and Amortization
 - Rental Property** - send Schedule E (page 1)
 - S-Corporation** - send Schedule E (page 2), Form 1120S (5 pages), Schedule K-1 and Form 8825
 - Partnership** - send Schedule E (page 2), Form 1065 (5 pages), Schedule K-1 and Form 8825
 - Estates and Trusts** - send Schedule E (page 2), Form 1041 and Schedule K-1

IMPORTANT: If you file a tax return but do not have W-2 wages because you are self-employed, you will be required to submit a copy of your current year Federal Form 1040 Tax Return.

- Copies of all supporting documentation for household Non-Taxable Income such as: Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). If you do not file a tax return, you are required to provide documentation of all income received.

All documentation received is imaged upon receipt and then destroyed.

You may log in to your FACTS user account to review the status of your application. Please allow 2 weeks processing time before inquiring further about receipt and/or status of the uploaded documents. Application deadlines are set by the institution awarding the aid. If you are applying after the deadline, contact your school to ensure that your application will be accepted.

A non-refundable application fee may be required before your application will be submitted.

NOTE: Award decisions are made by the institution providing the financial aid, not FACTS.