



2024 – 2025

Maryvale Prep

Bard Competition

Dear Maryvale Prep Students and Families,

Throughout the centuries, bards have been keepers of tradition, reciting the poetry of their people and passing on oral history through beautiful words. Poet and playwright William Shakespeare is famously referred to as “The Bard,” and is considered one of the greatest poets in history. The Bard Competition is an opportunity for students to memorize and recite beautiful poems that have lasted the test of time!

For the 3rd year, Maryvale Prep will be joining our fellow Great Hearts schools in holding a Bard Competition for our 3rd- 5th grade students. We will challenge these students to memorize and recite poetry, and over the course of two rounds and two poems, judges will choose one student to be our 2024 Maryvale Prep Bard! That student will represent our school at the Great Hearts Archway Bard Competition to be held in the Spring of 2025.

Below you will find Maryvale Prep Bard Competition Registration Guidelines and a Registration Form. If your student wishes to participate, their **registration form is due no later than Thursday, October 3rd**. Whether your student participates or not, we invite all Archway families to join us for these public recitations:

Round 1	December 12, 2024, 4:00 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center
Round 2	March 6, 2025, 4:00 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center
Great Hearts Final	April (date TBD), 2025, 6:30 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center

2024-2025 Bard Competition Guidelines

Please keep this page for your reference

- Participants must be enrolled in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade.
- Participants must return the registration form *by Thursday, October 3rd*. Please type into the form below and email to Mrs. Taylor Saar at tmarshall@maryvaleprep.org OR send in a paper copy to give to your student's homeroom teacher by the due date. (Any registrations sent in after the due date will be declined.)
- The poem for Round 1 must be between 10 and 35 lines in length and be approved by Mrs. Saar. It cannot be an original work, and it **cannot be a poem already memorized in class**. There will be no speeches allowed, and **all poems must be published before 1970**.
- When helping your scholar choose a poem, note that **it must be approved by the Bard Coordinator before they begin memorizing**. Include the name of their poem choice on the registration form and Mrs. Saar will reach out with confirmation of approval or suggestions for choosing an appropriate poem for the competition.
- Participants will have the opportunity to work with Mrs. Saar on select Wednesday mornings from 7:15-7:50 in preparation. Mrs. Saar can help with choosing a poem, memorization practice, recitation coaching, etc. Poetry practice days will be sent out after registration is confirmed.
- All participants will recite in Round 1. The participants with the highest overall scores will advance to Round 2. A **new poem** must then be chosen to memorize for Round 2. Participants will again have the opportunity to work with Mrs. Saar in preparation for Round 2. After Round 2, our Maryvale Prep Bard winner will go on to the final Bard Competition in April with winners from other Great Hearts schools!
- Recitations will be judged on physical presence, voice and articulation, evidence of understanding, dramatic appropriateness, overall performance, and level of difficulty of the poem.

2024-2025 Bard Competition

Student Registration Form

Due Thursday, October 3rd (email or turn into teacher)

Student Name: _____ Section: _____

Name of Poem: _____

Author: _____

The poem you memorize for Round 1 must be between 10 and 35 lines and published before 1970. It cannot be an original work, a speech, or something that has previously been memorized in class.

Recitations will be judged on

- Physical presence
- Voice and articulation
- Dramatic appropriateness
- Level of difficulty of the poem
- Evidence of understanding
- Overall performance/"wow factor"

Important Dates:

Round 1 (All participants)

December 12th, 4 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center

Round 2 (Finalists only)

March 6th, 4 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center

Great Hearts Annual Archway Bard Competition

April 2024 (date TBD), 6:30 pm, Maryvale Prep Marley Center

Competition dates and times are subject to change. Please provide your contact information so we can communicate with you about competition details, as needed.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Phone Number: _____