

**HAYS ARTS COUNCIL
FAMOUS FIGURES PROJECT**

**Finals - Thursday, May 5, 2011
8:20 to 11:45 AM
12th Street Auditorium**

Project Information:

* "Famous Figures" is a competition open to 5th grade students in Ellis County. Students present themselves in character and costume as a famous person in history.

* **This program promotes thinking in a creative manner, the use of research skills, writing, organization, awareness and appreciation of the qualities of positive leadership, as well as developing acting and public speaking skills. *** utilize the included judging form to prepare and direct student skills and development.***

* Each 5th grade classroom is allowed two (2) contestants - to be determined however you choose (by the students, teachers, judging panel, etc.). Classroom competitions prove very popular and rewarding when done as an entire class project.

* Students must arrive in general costume and/or makeup - minor accessories or simple details can be finalized in the "green room" offstage area. (arrival time will be announced later)

* Each presentation will be made in costume, performing as the character she/he has chosen to portray. Any historical character is eligible - many instructors tie the choices to a particular class project: famous authors; early American history; United States presidents/leaders; religious, military, civil rights, medical and scientific leaders; musicians, actors, artists; etc. ***Fictional characters are NOT eligible.*** Encourage students to think creatively and to select someone whose personal attributes, characteristics & accomplishments they admire.

* The performance is to be approximately three (3) minutes (*deduction after 3 ½ minutes*). * Minimal props are allowed if needed - a chair & small table will be available (*students are responsible for anything else*).

* Following each performance, the judges will ask a couple of simple, general "interview" questions of each ***"character."*** Students need to remember to respond as that character.

* Each entry is to be one person performing as one character - no duet performances are eligible (ex. - Wright *Brothers* as one entry)

* Deadline for the submission of the two (2) classroom entries is 3:00pm Thursday, April 28. BUT, we also ask that you contact us by March 30 with a confirmation as to whether you plan to participate or not. The Hays Arts Council number is 625-7522 – or you can email to *bmeder1038@aol.com*.

* Presentation times will be arranged and confirmed with your school on Monday, May 2. Substitutions are allowed in cases of illness or emergency, but we ask that the substitution call be made as soon as possible.

* All contestants performing on May 5 will be awarded engraved medals with the 1st through 5th place finishers also receiving trophies. The announcements will be made immediately following the competition and the judges' decisions.

*support for this project has been provided by
The Hays Rotary Club and
The Fort Hays State University Department of Music & Theatre*