

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) ABOUT THE VINCE KASPAR PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

Q: May I submit an entry to the Poetry judging AND to the Art judging?

A: YES. (In prior years, some students have received recognition in both poetry and art.)

Q: May I submit more than one poem or more than one art entry to the contest?

A: YES. The poems are judged “blindly.” (The judges do not know the identities of the poets, so it is possible to win multiple awards if more than one poem is entered.) However, poets are asked to limit their entries to a reasonable number. For art, while a student may submit multiple entries and art modalities (fine art, computer enhanced, photography, video, sculpture, etc.) as a body of work, the coordinator and the judges will decide whether to consider multiple entries from one student for recognition or only the one piece deemed most outstanding. This decision will be based upon the overall total number of entries, the number of students submitting only one entry, and the range of art entered into the contest.

Q: Is there a particular theme required for the poetry or the art?

A: NO. There is absolutely no restriction as to type, length, or subject matter of poetry entries, only that it be original work. The same is true for art entries. Our goal is to encourage creativity and expression among high school juniors and seniors.

Q: Must art entries be the original art piece?

A: NO. If you feel your artwork is well represented and competitive as a reproduction, you may submit photographs, photocopies or printed (laser or inkjet) copies of your work. **Submission of entries by CD or DVD or thumb drive is encouraged.** However, while every effort will be made to duplicate the quality seen, the judges cannot be responsible for the accuracy of colors when judging material from photocopies, printed or electronic entries.

Q: Will my entry be returned to me?

A: NO for poetry. YES for art, per the following. You can arrange to pick up original artwork at the Awards Ceremony, from a judge, or to make other arrangements with the contest coordinators. Photoshop/computer entries are by nature reproductions and will not be returned. Photos and matted reproductions will be returned if labeled “Please return” on the back.

Q: Is the contest open to home schooled students?

A: YES, as long as they reside in the same geographic jurisdictions covered by the contest. (Fairfax or Arlington counties, cities of Falls Church, Vienna, Alexandria, and Fairfax.)

Q: What are the judges looking for?

A: The judges are looking for originality, creativity and, additionally, for art, expertise in the medium. Although it carries less weight, presentation is also considered for art (entries should be clean and neat, showing pride in the artwork).

Q: Can I submit my entry on line?

A: No. Our web site lacks sufficient capacity to receive graphics and multiple entries. Also, there is a potential for viruses. All entries must be mailed to the address on the announcement.