

FOR PRESS RELEASE

It's Poetry In Any Language

2/20/2010

**Contact: Denise Massari, Hector Negrón, Julie Reinshagen
Co-Chairpersons, 2010 CT COLT Poetry Recitation Contest
Wilbur Cross High School , 181 Mitchell Drive, New Haven, CT 06511**

For twenty-eight years public and private schools in the State have awarded thousands of certificates to World Language students who have participated in the Poetry Recitation Contests sponsored by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT), an organization composed of language teachers from most schools in Connecticut.

This year's event is hosted by Wilbur Cross High School. Approximately 1,100 students from 93 schools will compete in 19 languages including American Sign Language (ASL), Ancient Greek, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, English Language Learners (ESOL/ELL), French, German, Modern Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Nepalese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Students prepare in their home schools: middle schools and high schools. Poems for Middle School and Level HS1 will have between 10 – 20 lines. All other levels will have no less than 14 nor more than 30 lines. Students will be judged in four areas: memorization, diction, interpretation, and body language. Latin and Ancient Greek poetry must be recited according to the classical metrics. Students are free to select the poem they wish to present. The following categories will be judged: Middle School, beginning and continuing; High School levels 1-6; Native Speakers (MS and HS) for students of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Modern Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Latin and Ancient Greek students do not have the latter category. There are only native speaker categories (Middle School and High School) for Hindi, Korean, and Nepalese. American Sign Language students include hearing and hearing impaired anywhere from one year to three years or more. ESOL students include high-beginner, intermediate and advanced for MS and HS. There will be up to three prizes for each level of each language. All participants are awarded certificates of participation. The middle school and high school with the most winners each receive a plaque to be displayed in their schools.

Denise Massari, Hector Negrón, and Julie Reinshagen, all teachers in the New Haven Public School System, are the co-chairpersons of this year's event. They are confident that it will be the greatest ever because of the ardent support of the language teachers and the enthusiasm of the students. The event will take place on April 27th at Wilbur Cross High School at 3:00 p.m.

At Wilbur Cross High School, the contest will begin with registration at 2:30 p.m. and will end at 6:30 p.m. News coverage is welcome at the opening ceremony (3:00 - 3:30) and awards presentation (5:30 - 6:30); we consider this event the "Super Bowl of Foreign Languages" and greatly appreciate your support! If you need additional information, or would like to confirm attendance, please contact: Hector Negrón at Wilbur Cross High School at (203) 946-8728.

**Please send this press release to your local newspapers
so that we can publicize this event properly and give it
the recognition it truly deserves!!!**