Maryland Regional Braille Challenge 2018
A National Program of Braille Institute 

THE MARYLAND REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE

February 3, 2018

(Snow Date – February 10, 2018)

Location: [Maryland School for the Blind](http://www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org/)

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The Maryland State Department of Education and The Maryland School for the Blind will be hosting the Maryland 2018 Regional Braille Challenge.

**The weather may be cold outside but we have plans to make you feel warm! For the first time, this year we will be having a theme: Hawaiian Luau! So please wear clothing with a tropical flair! Aloha Braille!**

Braille is an important key to literacy! It allows for the enjoyment of reading, leads to school success, and opens the doors to future employment. Come celebrate braille literacy with a day filled with fun, competition, learning, and prizes! In addition, bring in Braille books you no longer read for our Braille Book Exchange!

The non-competitive program for Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) will return again this year. Students will participate with peers and blind adult role models in various fun activities which integrate Braille. This is for elementary aged students and the group size is limited to 10. This program is designed for beginning braille readers who are learning the alphabet and some contractions.

Students who read braille in grades Prekindergarten through Grade 12 are invited to participate in the Maryland Regional Braille Challenge reading and writing contests. Parents are invited to participate in workshops while students are taking the tests. Teachers and school staff are invited to assist with test proctoring, scoring, and facilitating activities throughout the day. Presentations include workshops to address independent and adaptive living skills, and JAWS screen reading software. The JAWS screen reading software presentation is limited to the first 10 individuals that sign up, so make sure you get your name on the list. Our keynote speaker is Kristen Smedley, author of Thriving Blind. We hope you will join us for the exciting day!

**For the 2018 Braille Challenge all contests for all grade levels will be in UEB. There will be no EBAE option for 2018.**

To learn more about the Braille Challenge visit brailleinstitute.org and to find practice materials go to [Braille Institute's Braille Challenge Information](http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braillechallenge-for-students.html)  and select the “Sample Contests” link.

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 2018 (Snow Date: February 10, 2018)

COST: FREE

TIME: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Lunch will be provided)

WHERE: The Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Taylor Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21236

 Maryland 2018 Regional Braille Challenge Tentative Agenda

**Parent/Guardian Tentative Agenda**

8:00-8:45 Registration (Knefley Gym)

9:00-9:30 Opening Ceremony (Knefley Gym)

* Welcome and Introductions
* Event Schedule
* Housekeeping Items

9:45-10:30 Session 1 (Knefley Gym)

* + - Keynote Speaker: Kristen Smedley, Author and Motivational Speaker

10:40-12:40 Session 2 (Knefley Gym)

* + - Presentation: Integrating Braille into Independent Living Skills and Adaptive Living Skills. Presented by Daniel Norris, Program Coordinator, University of Massachusetts Boston and Sara Borlie, Educational Consultant, Maryland School for the Blind
    - Presentation: Hands on Experience with JAWS for Parents.   
      Presented by Cody Laplante, B.S.Ed, TVI, Technology Instructor, Maryland School for the Blind

12:45 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:00 Session 3 (Same Locations)

* + - Continuation of Presentation

2:00-3:15 Session 4 (Knefley Gym)

* + - Reuniting of Families as Testing is Completed
* Vendor Fair and Activities

3:15-4:00 Awards (Knefley Gym)

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**Student Tentative Agenda**

8:00-8:45 Registration (Knefley Gym)

9:00-9:30 Opening Ceremony (Knefley Gym)

* Welcome and Introductions
* Event Schedule
* Housekeeping Items

9:45-10:45 Session 1

* + - Students in PreK-12 Testing and/or Mini-BELL

11:00-11:45 Session 2

* + - Students in PreK-12 Testing and/or Mini-BELL

11:45 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30--2:00 Session 3

* + - Students in PreK-12 Testing and/or Mini-BELL

2:00-3:15 Session 4

* Continuation of Testing as Needed
* Vendor Fair and Activities with Family Members (Knefley)

3:15-4:00 Awards (Knefley Gym)

 **MARYLAND REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE**

**Baltimore – February 3, 2018 Snow Date: February 10**

**PARENT REGISTRATION**

Participant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Option (circle one): Wraps – Chicken, Turkey, Roast Beef, Vegetarian

Please select: ( ) Braille Challenge or ( ) BELL Participant

Name of Parents/Guardians Attending:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Option (circle one): Wraps – Chicken, Turkey, Roast Beef, Vegetarian

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Lunch Option (circle one): Wraps – Chicken, Turkey, Roast Beef, Vegetarian

I’d like to participate in the JAWS Workshop (Limited to first 10 registrants) ( )

**Accommodations (to be provided upon request) for Parents/Guardians**.

Please specify. ( ) Large Print ( ) Braille ( ) Electronic

**For Students in Grade 5-12 Only:** Students may bring their own or school system Victor Reader Stream and headphones to use for the “Speed and Accuracy” contest. If they cannot bring one, a Bookport Plus will be provided for use. Please check one box**. Students should able to use one or both devices independently. Please contact Jackie Otwell at** [**jacquelineo@mdschblind.org**](mailto:jacquelineo@mdschblind.org) **if this is a concern.**

( ) I will need a BookPort Plus **OR** ( ) I will bring a Victor Stream

( ) **Yes**, I would like to bring books to exchange at the Braille book exchange. I will bring approximately \_\_\_\_ books (count each volume as a separate book please, this is to help with planning).

*\*Is your child a member of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped? If not, visit* [*Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped*](http://www.lbph.lib.md.us/) *to download an application.\**

Workshops will be provided throughout the day for parents.

NOTE: At least one parent must attend and remain on site throughout the day while their child is present and competing. Parents are not allowed in the testing rooms with their child. You are encouraged to participate in the workshops provided. Your children will be escorted and supervised by teachers and staff from the Local School Systems and The Maryland School for the Blind.

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED and SENT TO KERRY MICHAEL BY JANUARY 12, 2018**

**FAX 410-319-5708 or Email @** [**kerrym@mdschblind.org**](mailto:kerrym@mdschblind.org)

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