



The Maryland Regional Braille Challenge

Sponsored by
The Maryland State Department of Education and
The Maryland School for the Blind

We are inviting students from Maryland in grades 1-12 to compete in a series of five skills contests demonstrating braille reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading, and chart and graph reading. All Maryland Regional contest entries will be submitted to the Braille Institute to be entered in the national competition.

WHEN: Saturday, February 6, 2010 (Snow date: February 20, 2010)

TIME: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

WHERE: The Maryland School for the Blind

**3501 Taylor Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236**

Parents can participate in workshops throughout the day while their child is competing. Lunch will be provided for all. The day will culminate in entertainment, games, and awards!

Tentative Agenda

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|--------------------|--|
| 8:30-9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00-9:45 | Opening ceremony/Guest Speaker |
| 10:00-12:00 | Student Competitions/Parent Workshops |
| 12:00-12:45 | Lunch |
| 1:00-3:00 | Student Competitions/Parent Workshops |
| 3:00-4:00 | Games, entertainment, awards |

Registration materials for students and parents are attached.

**To learn more about the Braille Challenge, visit:
http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braille_challenge**

Questions? Contact Lisa Wright @ 410-7676-0812



**THE MARYLAND
BRAILLE CHALLENGE**
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2010 PERMISSION FORM

MUST BE SIGNED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN AND BE RETURNED TO LISA WRIGHT, MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 9TH FLOOR, 200 W. BALTIMORE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21201, OR BY FAX AT (410) 333-8165, BY DECEMBER 18, 2009. ONLY CONTESTS SUBMITTED WITH A SIGNED PERMISSION FORM ATTACHED WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE BRAILLE CHALLENGE® FINALS AT BRAILLE INSTITUTE®.

(Please print name clearly, as you would like it to appear on your certificate)

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ Apt. No. _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Birthdate _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Telephone (____) _____
 E-mail _____ Alternate phone (____) _____

CONTEST RELEASE

I hereby give permission to the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland School for the Blind and Braille Institute for my child to participate in The Braille Challenge preliminary contest. I understand that if my child qualifies, he or she is eligible to attend The Braille Challenge final contest in Los Angeles on June 26, 2010.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE

I hereby authorize and give full consent to Braille Institute of America, Inc., the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland School for the Blind to copyright, publish and display in any fashion all photographs and electronic recordings authorized by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland School for the Blind in which the above named contestant appears. It is further agreed that the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland School for the Blind and Braille Institute may use or permit to be used the contestant's photographs for or in any and all exhibitions, public displays, publications, commercial art and advertising purposes.

T-shirt sizes: Child Small Child Medium Child Large
 Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large

Parent's Signature _____
Print Name _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY TEACHER OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Name of Teacher for Visually Impaired _____
County _____ **School Student Attends** _____

Mark one:
Student Contest Level: Apprentice: Grade 1 Grade 2 Freshman: Grade 3 Grade 4
 Sophomore: Grade 5 Grade 6 Junior Varsity: Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 9
 Varsity: Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12



The Maryland School for the Blind

PARENT WORKSHOP

In conjunction with **THE BRAILLE CHALLENGE®**

Saturday, February 6, 2010 ~ 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Parents of students participating in the competition are invited to attend 3 *free* workshops focusing on technology for blind students. *Lunch will be provided.*

WORKSHOPS

<p>Emergency Homework Toolbag</p> <p>Presenter: Melinda Demaris, TVI Wicomico Co. Public Schools</p> <p>For those days when the calculator is left at school, the teacher forgot to modify the assignment, or the assignment just doesn't quite fit, this session will offer some free tips and tools for parents to turn to for help, including how to access free screen readers, talking calculators, recorded stories, and environmental sounds online; how to get your Windows computer to talk; and creative ways to use materials from around the house for tactile art and social studies assignments.</p>	<p>Accessible Devices & Software Options</p> <p>Presenter: Joshua Irzyk, TVI The MD School for the Blind</p> <p>With the rapid increase in the amount and easy availability of accessible reading materials, students who are blind or visually impaired now have the capability to obtain reading materials in large print, Braille, and audio in a way that was not possible just five years ago. This session will focus on the devices and software options which use the DAISY format for accessible talking books by providing an overview of currently available software and hardware options.</p>	<p>Finding Wheels: Experiences of a Non-Driver</p> <p>Presenter: Martin R. Monson, Ed.D., Director of Education, MSB</p> <p>This session will focus on transportation and ways in which people who do not drive can get to where they want to go, when they want to go there. Tips and real life experiences will be shared.</p> <p>Vender Presentations and Demo</p> <p>Vendors will provide an overview and demonstration of the variety of technology available to increase access to printed and graphic information, including JAWS, Kurzweil, and Tiger Software.</p>
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Registration

Participant's Name: _____

Parents/Guardians Attending: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number attending Lunch: _____

Special Accommodations: Large Print _____ Braille _____ Interpreter (ASL or Tactile) _____

Please Fax or Mail Registration Form to:

Lisa Wright, Statewide Vision/Low Incidence Specialist

MD State Department of Education

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

200 W. Baltimore Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21236

Fax: 410-333-8165

Registration Deadline: December 18, 2009



The Maryland School for the Blind

DIRECTIONS

From the Northeast: Take 95 south to 695 West heading towards Towson. Take Exit 32 (Rt. 1 South) onto Belair Rd. Follow Belair Rd. to Taylor Avenue. Make a right onto Taylor and travel approx. 1 mile. The entrance to the school will be on your left.

From Northwest: Take Rt. 83 south to 695 East. Take Exit 31 for Harford Rd. Go south on Harford Rd. and follow it to Taylor Avenue. Make a left onto Taylor. The entrance to the school is about 200 yards on the right.

From South of Baltimore City: Take either 895 or 95 north through the tunnels. Take Exit 695 West towards Towson. Take Exit 32 for Belair Rd. (Rt. 1 South). Follow Belair Rd., then turn right onto Taylor Avenue. The entrance to the school will be on your left.

From Baltimore City: Take either Perring Parkway or Harford Rd North. Turn right at Taylor Avenue and proceed through several traffic lights. The entrance to the school will be on your right about 200 yards after the intersection of Moyer Ave.

