



Celebrating 10 Years!

THE MARYLAND REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE

February 9, 2019

(Snow Date – February 23, 2019)

Location: The [Maryland School for the Blind](#)

Follow us on Twitter @mdblchallenge #mdbc19



The Maryland School for the Blind
ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE



Division of Special Education / Early Intervention Services





The Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland School for the Blind will be hosting the Maryland 2019 Regional Braille Challenge

The 2019 Maryland Regional Braille Challenge is celebrating 10 years so it's time to boogie on over to the Maryland School for the Blind and be a part of the disco theme! It's going to be Dy-no-mite!

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 pre-kindergarten 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 competing. 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 what it takes to be successful in college. Our keynote speaker is Sergio Oliva, National Programs Director at Braille Institute. We hope you will join us for this exciting event!

For the 2019 Braille Challenge all contests for all grade levels will be in UEB. There will no longer be an EBAE option.



To learn more about the Braille Challenge visit BrailleInstitute.org and to find practice materials go to [Braille Institute's Braille Challenge Information](#) and select the "Sample Contests" link.



The iBraille App is a free app created to bring braille and digital literacy together. Through the app, using an iPad and a refreshable braille display, students can practice and hone their braille literacy skills anywhere, anytime!

HOW TO START

1. Download the app from the iTunes store onto your iPad
2. Connect to WiFi and pair your iPad with your refreshable braille display
3. Open the app and click on the sign-up button
4. Set up your account using your email address to receive a 5-digit code
5. Log in and start using the iBraille Challenge App



WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 2019 (Snow Date: February 23, 2019)

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 2019 Regional Braille Challenge Tentative Agenda

Parent/Guardian Tentative Agenda

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

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

- Welcome and introductions
- Event schedule, housekeeping items

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

- Keynote Speaker: Sergio Oliva, National Programs Director, Braille Institute

10:40-12:40: Session 2

- Presentations

12:45-1:15: Lunch

1:15-2:00: Session 3

- Continuation of presentations

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

- Reuniting of families as competition is completed
- Vendor fair and activities

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



Student Tentative Agenda

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

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

- Welcome and introductions
- Event schedule, housekeeping items

9:45-10:45: Session 1

- Students in preK-12 competition and/or Mini-BELL

11:00-11:45: Session 2

- Students in preK-12 competition and/or Mini-BELL

11:45-12:30: Lunch

12:30-2:00: Session 3

- Students in preK-12 competition and/or Mini-BELL

2:00-3:15: Session 4

- Continuation of competition as needed
- Vendor fair and activities with family members (Knefley)

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



A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF BRAILLE INSTITUTE

MARYLAND REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE

Baltimore – February 9, 2019 | Snow Date: Feb 23

Sponsored by The Maryland School for the Blind

2019 PERMISSION FORM

Must be signed by parental/legal guardian and returned by **January 18, 2019** to MSB, 3501 Taylor Ave, Baltimore, MD 21236, Attn: Kerry Michael, by email: kerrym@mdschblind.org, or via fax (410) 319-5708. Only contests submitted with a signed permission form attached will be eligible for the Braille Challenge® Finals at Braille Institute®.

Please print legal name clearly and fill out completely

* Required fields

* Last Name _____ * First Name _____

* Address _____ Apt. No. _____

* City _____ * State _____ * ZIP _____

* Birthdate _____ * Age _____ * Grade _____ * Gender Male Female Decline to Answer

* E-mail _____ * Telephone _____

Adult attending with student _____ TVI Parent Para

T-Shirt Size **Youth:** X-Small Small Medium Large

Adult: Small Medium Large XL XXL XXXL

TO BE COMPLETED BY TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED (Please fill out completely)

Name of Teacher of the Visually Impaired _____

Teacher's Email _____ Teacher's Phone _____

Regional Coordinator Name (if applicable) _____

Mark one. Note: all contests are in UEB format only.

Student Contest Level: PreSch/Kinder App Fresh Soph JV Varsity
(NOT Grade in School) Local Category Grades 1–2 Grades 3–4 Grades 5–6 Grades 7–9 Grades 10–12

At Grade Level **Or** Below Grade Level (BGL) *(If Apprentice BGL Contracted **or** Uncontracted)

*Students who take a contest below their academic grade level in school or who take the uncontracted Apprentice contest are not eligible to attend the Finals.

CONTENT RELEASE

I hereby give permission to The Maryland School for the Blind ("MSB") and Braille Institute of America, Inc. ("BIA"), 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 22, 2019.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE

I hereby authorize MSB and BIA to photograph, videotape, or otherwise record by visual, audio, electronic or manual means, the visual likeness and/or voice or other sounds created by the above named contestant (collectively "Reproductions"). MSB and BIA may use or permit to be used the Reproductions in any CD, DVD, exhibition, display, publication, solicitation or promotional or educational material or on any website including without limitation BIA's website, Facebook, or YouTube without compensation to the contestant, the contestant's heirs, successors or assigns.

Parent's Print Name _____ Signature _____



MARYLAND REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE
Baltimore – February 9, 2019, Snow Date: February 23
REGISTRATION

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Height: _____

Lunch Option (circle one): chicken turkey roast beef vegetarian

Please select: Braille Challenge or Mini-BELL Participant

Name of Parents/Guardians Attending:

Lunch Option (circle one): chicken turkey roast beef vegetarian

Lunch Option (circle one): chicken turkey roast beef vegetarian

Accommodations to be provided for Parents/Guardians upon request:

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. **Student should able to use one or both devices independently. Please contact Jackie Otwell at jacquelineo@mdschblind.org if this is a concern.**

I will bring a Victor Reader Stream **OR**

I will bring a BookPort Plus

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).

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 competition 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.

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](#) to download an application.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED and SENT TO KERRY MICHAEL BY
JANUARY 18, 2019**

Email to kerrym@mdschblind.org or fax to 410-319-5708

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT FROM OUR NATIONAL SPONSORS



Braille Challenge

Art Challenge

Calling all Braille Readers and/or Braille Appreciators...

*Here is your chance to show your support of Braille and the **Regional Braille Challenge** by creating wearable art in the form of a T-shirt design!*



On **Saturday, February 9th** we will be celebrating the **10th Anniversary** of the Maryland **Regional Braille Challenge**. In addition, the Braille Institute will celebrate it's 100th Anniversary in 2019. The Braille Challenge is an academic competition for Braille readers grades 1-12 to show their literacy abilities in five categories of fundamental Braille skills; **reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading and charts and graphs.**

Won't it be **AWESOME** knowing that all **Maryland Braille Challenge competitors** are decked out in your **wearable artwork**?

How to enter the 10th Anniversary of the MD Regional Braille Challenge

Art Competition:

1. Students in grades K–12 create a design within the parameters of the attached paper that represents what Braille means to you. This design can be a literal or abstract design, and can be tactile (though will not be tactile in the final print on the shirt). Have fun with it!!
2. Your design can be up to 4 different colors, plus the white background of the t-shirt.
3. Make sure you sign your artwork and include your name, age, grade, school and title of your artwork on the paper attached.
4. Place your original artwork and the info page into an envelope large enough to accommodate braille paper 11-1/2"x11". Seal envelope and send in the mail by December 17th to:

MSB Outreach Art Contest

Renee Kirby

3501 Taylor Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21236

The winner will be chosen and notified by January 25th along with all other entries.

A runner up and honorable mention will also be chosen. Regardless of your participation in the Braille Challenge, all 3 winners will be given a t-shirt with the chosen design.

*Your artwork will not be returned, so please snap a picture prior to sending it to the above address.



NAME _____

AGE _____

GRADE _____

SCHOOL _____

**TITLE OF
ARTWORK** _____

Don't Miss Your Chance!!

Limited Availability!

Show your support and preorder your Braille Challenge T-shirt now to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the



**Claim your original student artwork and a piece
of history for just \$15!**

Send payment and info page to:

MSB Outreach Attn: Kerry Michael

3501 Taylor Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21236

*Please make checks payable to The MD School for the Blind

**Participants and volunteers receive a complimentary T-shirt the day of the event. For more information contact Kerry Michael, kerrym@mdschblind.org

Please include the following information with your pre-order:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Unisex Size:

Adult Small ___ Adult Medium ___

Adult Large ___ Adult XL ___ Adult 2XL ___

**If you are not able to attend the braille challenge, someone will reach out to discuss delivery of your shirt after the event.