Wisconsin State Council *Knights of Columbus*

KNOWLEDGE CONTEST

MATHEMATICS - SPELLING

DUPLICATE COPIES AS NEEDED

Contents:

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY: ALL students in grades 5 through 8 are eligible to compete in the Knowledge Contest.

Parochial (including religious education classes), private and public schools are encouraged to participate. Home-schooled children are also eligible.

PROMOTION: Appoint a Knowledge Contest Chairman to work with the Community Director and/or Grand Knight. Send an explanatory letter (preferably on Council stationary) to area schools in late August or early September to lay the groundwork for possible participation.

SAMPLE LETTER:

The Knights of Columbus Council # _____ invites all boys and girls in grades 5 – 8 to participate in our annual mathematics and spelling contests which are held from December through mid-February. Students in parochial, private and public schools are welcome to participate.

Because most families have very busy schedules, the "tests" may be administered by the teachers in each school. (Both math & spelling have a 30-minute time limit.)

ALL "TESTS" WILL BE CORRECTED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS! The tests are the property of the Knights of Columbus and as such are NOT to be returned to the students, teachers, or parents for security purposes! Scores may be shown to students, teachers, or parents but not the actual tests, answers, or questions under any circumstances!

The local winners at each grade level will receive awards and are eligible to participate in Diocesan competition. First and second place winners at the Diocesan level qualify for statewide competition in late March.

Please call me to setup a mutually convenient time to discuss the Knowledge Contest in greater detail. I look forward to meeting you soon.

My phone number is _____ and the best time to call is _____. My e-mail address is _____.

Yours truly,

(Grand Knight/Contest Chairman)

FOLLOW-UP: Meet with your Principals and/or Directors of Religious Education several months in advance of the contest which is scheduled from December to mid-February. Showing them a copy of a math and a spelling "test" is recommended. Assure them that the Knowledge Contest is meant to foster the students' academic achievement and that it will not be used for any type of formal evaluation!

Publicize the contest in church bulletins, home & school newsletters and community newspapers.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION/AWARDS

COUNCIL:

NOTE: At the local level, contestants may enter BOTH the MATH and SPELLING CONTESTS. However, they may compete in only 1 contest – Math, Spelling or Free Throw at the Diocesan and State levels of competition since the 3 contests are usually held simultaneously at the same or different sites. It is not intended for a student to compete in 2 or all 3 of the contests!.

Only the four (4) FIRST PLACE winners in each subject are eligible for Diocesan competition. The ALTERNATE (second place finisher) becomes eligible IF the winner waives his right to compete.

Council winners/alternates must have the proper GREEN YOUTH DIOCESAN CONTEST TRAVEL CARD in order to register for the Diocesan contest! (These are available from your District Deputy.) These must be completely, accurately, legibly filled out by the Council Contest Coordinator and Parents/Competitors!

Individual councils are responsible for AWARDS (trophies, plaques, medals, certificates, gift cards, etc.) at the local level. Recognizing FIRST, SECOND & THIRD PLACE finishers would be appropriate.

If possible, present the awards at a K of C meeting, school or parish function.

The use of Participation Certificates is encouraged.

Publicize winners' names in local newspapers, church bulletins or home & school flyers.

DIOCESAN:

The times, dates and locations of these contests may be published in the STATE NEWSLETTER, but are readily available from your Diocesan Program Coordinator and District Deputy.

It is imperative that these important details are accurately recorded on all YOUTH TRAVEL CARDS by the Grand Knight/Contest Chairman!

Supply a MAP, ADDRESS or DIRECTIONS for the Diocesan Contest location if at all possible.

NOTE: Participants who finished FIRST in more than ONE contest (math, spelling or free throw) at the Council Level may compete in ONLY ONE event at the Diocesan Level! An alternate will need to be chosen to compete in the other contest(s).

The State Council will provide First, Second & Third Place Awards – certificates, medals, ribbons, etc.

STATE:

The time, date and location will be published in the STATE NEWSLETTER.

The FIRST and SECOND PLACE finishers in the Diocesan Contests are eligible for the State Knowledge Contest. THIRD and FOURTH PLACE finishers are ALTERNATES and will become eligible IF the first and/or second finalists waive their right to compete.

Each Diocese may qualify up to sixteen (16) contestants for State competition. All Diocesan finalists must have the proper ORANGE YOUTH STATE CONTEST TRAVELING CARD in order to register for the State contest! These must be completely, accurately, legibly filled out by the Diocesan Program Coordinator and Parents/Competitors!

The State Council will provide First, Second and Third Place Awards – certificates, medals, trophies, ribbons, etc.

NOTE: Travel card format will be updated in summer 2026.

CONTEST MATERIALS

COUNCIL LEVEL: The tests were updated for FY 2022-23. Copies of the local level 2025-26 tests will be available for downloading from the secure section of the State website and will also be provided to District Deputies and Councils who intend to do the contests. All efforts must be made to safeguard the security of the tests!

Each council is responsible for printing its own "test" booklets. Fill in your Council and District numbers and Diocese BEFORE you start printing the first page of each "test!"

Download all your needed materials from the State website. NOTE: Use 2025-26 tests if at all possible. But 2022-24 tests and answer sheets can be used.

DIOCESAN LEVEL: Materials for the Diocesan Knowledge Contest will be provided directly to each Diocesan Coordinator. NOTE: Use 2025-26 tests if at all possible. 2019-24 Diocesan Level tests may be used at the Diocesan level, if necessary. Local/Council tests are never to be used at the Diocesan level!

CONDUCTING THE "TESTS"

Conduct the Knowledge Contest in a classroom environment if possible.

Remind contestants that they must remain QUIETLY in their assigned seats for the entire testing period.

Have enough PENCILS and SCRATCH PAPER available.

Allow time for the contestants to fill in the FRONT PAGE of the booklets NEATLY AND COMPLETELY!

Limit the test period to 30 minutes!

Supervisors are not allowed to give hints or to pronounce any spelling words. Their job is to maintain order and encourage honesty! Students are not to be allowed to have access to cell phones or any other type of print or electronic reference materials (ie. calculators, smart watches, etc.)!

* EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO SAFEGUARD YOUR CONTEST MATERIALS. Don't give COPIES to anyone, except teachers or KC members authorized to administer the "tests."

Collect ALL contest materials including TEST BOOKLETS and SCRATCH PAPER before any contestants are dismissed.

ALL "tests" must be corrected by K of C members and/or authorized adults! They are not to be corrected by the schools/teachers and they are not to have access to the answer sheets.

Scores alone can be revealed, with discretion, to participants or parents; not tests or answers under any circumstances!

NOTE: Any student found responsible for compromising the integrity of the tests will be barred from further participation in KC Youth Contests. Any Council not able to ensure the security of the tests/answers, may be prevented by the State Program Director or Youth Academics Coordinator from holding future local or Diocesan Contests.

Grand Knights must sign the completed Knowledge Contest Report Forms and send them PROMPTLY to the Diocesan Coordinator.

Be sure to thank the participating schools for their cooperation.

STRUCTURE/GUIDELINES

MATHEMATICS

There are SEPARATE "tests" for grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.

There is a 30-minute time limit.

Students must use a PENCIL and be provided with scratch paper.

NO CALCULATORS, CELL PHONES OR SMART WATCHES are allowed!

Each CORRECT answer to questions 1 – 30 is worth ONE point. Each correct answer to questions 31 – 40 is worth TWO points, IF the correct unit of measure is included whenever it's required. The absence of the correct unit results in ONE point penalty. NO credit for unanswered questions!

The FIRST tie-breaker is the number of correct answers to questions 31-40.

The SECOND tie-breaker is the number of correct answers for questions 21-30.

SPELLING

There are SEPARATE "tests" for grades 5, 6, 7 and 8

There is a 30 minute time limit.

Students must use a PENCIL.

NO CELL PHONES, SMART WATCHES, DICTIONARIES or other reference books are allowed.

Contestants must proofread each group of four words. There is either ONE misspelled or ALL words are correct.

The misspelled word must be corrected in the answer space. NONE must be used if NO correction is needed.

Each correct answer is worth ONE point – NO credit for unanswered questions!

The FIRST tie-breaker is the number of correct answers to questions 41-50.

The SECOND tie-breaker is the number of correct answers to questions 31-40.

TIMELINE

Council contests are to run December 1, 2025 – March 22, 2026. Reports due to Diocesan Program Coordinators by March 26, 2026.

Diocesan contests will be held March 27 – April 19, 2026. Reports due to State Youth Programs Director Bill Frayer by April 23, 2026.

State contest will be at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids on April 25 or May 2, 2026.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
KNOWLEDGE CONTEST REPORT FORM
MATHEMATICS – COUNCIL LEVEL

COUNCIL # _____ DISTRICT _____ DIOCESE _____

NOTE: PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM.

GRADE FIVE **TOTAL NO. OF ENTRIES _____**

FIRST PLACE

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

SECOND PLACE (ALTERNATE)

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

(OVER)

MATHEMATICS

GRADE SIX **TOTAL NO. OF ENTRIES** _____

FIRST PLACE

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

SECOND PLACE (ALTERNATE)

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

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PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

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SCHOOL _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
(Grand Knight / Contest Coordinator)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
KNOWLEDGE CONTEST REPORT FORM
SPELLING – COUNCIL LEVEL

COUNCIL # _____ DISTRICT _____ DIOCESE _____

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
KNOWLEDGE CONTEST REPORT FORM
MATHEMATICS – DIOCESAN LEVEL

COUNCIL # _____ DISTRICT _____ DIOCESE _____

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(Diocesan Program Coordinator)

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KNOWLEDGE CONTEST REPORT FORM
SPELLING – DIOCESAN LEVEL

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CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____)_____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
(Diocesan Program Coordinator)

Wisconsin State
MATH CONTEST

NAME _____

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE MATH CONTEST

LOCAL COUNCIL LEVEL

_____ DATE

_____ COUNCIL

_____ CONTEST COORDINATOR

_____ GRAND KNIGHT

Wisconsin State
SPELLING CONTEST

NAME _____

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SPELLING CONTEST

LOCAL COUNCIL LEVEL

_____ _____

DATE COUNCIL

_____ _____

CONTEST COORDINATOR GRAND KNIGHT

LITHO. IN U.S.A.