



The “Making the Grade” Contest
Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity
In memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
West Chester and Liberty Townships, Ohio

As part of our community's nineteenth annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all students in grades K – 12 who reside within the Lakota Local School District boundaries are invited to participate in a contest. All contest entries will be displayed at the community commemoration of the holiday on January 15, 2018, and winners will share their entries with the public as part of the morning celebration.

This year's “Making the Grade” contest asks students to **Write a letter to Rev. Dr. King and report to him the grade you would give our country regarding our progress in living the dream for equality that he spoke about. Give the reasons as to why you chose the grade you gave. Then, grade yourself on how well you personally are doing in promoting racial unity, citing examples.**

Basically, the contest focuses on the concept of self-reflection and evaluation, of both personal and corporate responsibility, for moving our country toward the dream for racial unity about which Rev. King spoke. In other words, how are we doing living the dream, and what can I do to move it forward? Giving a grade for the country's progress as well as for individual efforts, and then justifying why each grade was chosen and offering constructive criticism as to improvements that can be made, is the essence of what we are looking for in this year's contest.

Students in junior high and high school are to submit in writing the equivalent to a two minute speech, or an artistic expression or performance.

Elementary students may respond through the artistic medium of their choice or through writing. In addition to an individual's entry, classes, troops, or youth organizations for students in grades K-12 who would like to enter the contest as a group project are invited to be as creative as possible, with skits, songs, artwork or videos that can be presented within a two minute time limit.

1. All entries must be the original work of the student.
2. Entries should be **typewritten on one side of one sheet of paper and limited to 2 minutes** if multi-media or performance, or when presented orally. Written submissions should be able to be read aloud within that time frame. Artwork may include a written explanation of what is depicted, although that is not required. All CD's should be done in IBM PC format. If they are unable to be opened, they will not be considered.
3. All facts must be accurate. False information will disqualify the entry. Entries that do not address or meet the requirements of the contest (see boldface above) will be disqualified. Those submitted after the deadline will not be judged.
4. Consideration will be given to clarity of thought presented/ease of interpretation. Creativity is encouraged.
5. Everyone who enters will receive a Certificate of Participation. One winner from each of the following categories will receive a prize valued at \$20: Elementary, Junior High, High School, E.S.L., and Special Education. A grand prize worth \$50 will be awarded to one overall winner as well.
6. All submitted entries will be equally considered. All entries will be prominently displayed at the community program in January, where all contributors will be recognized.

7. Entries should be submitted to the student's building principal or to the West Chester or Liberty Township Administration office. **Deadline for entering is Monday, November 27, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.** On Tuesday, November 28, 2017, all entries will be collected by Live the Dream committee members and turned over to the judges.
8. All entries will be judged anonymously although all entries must have a completed and signed registration form affixed to the back or underside. In the event that several depict very similar ideas, the final judgment will be determined by the quality of the submitted work and clarity of thought presented. Winners will be notified personally, both by a phone call or email and in writing. Decision of the judges is final. No further compensation beyond prizes for the winners, awarded at the community program, is implied. All entries become the property of the Live the Dream committee and will not be returned; however, anyone wanting to keep his entry may pick it up immediately following the presentation. Those not claimed at that time will be discarded.
9. If a group or class project is chosen as the winner, the prize money will be awarded to the supervising adult, to be distributed appropriately, or divided evenly among group members.
10. Questions about this contest or the January 15th program may be addressed to Gail Webster at 860-4049. Community service hours are available to high school students for help in implementing this event.

Check if appropriate:

_____ ESL student
 _____ Special Ed.

The "Making the Grade" Contest Entry Form

for Lakota's community-wide observance of Martin Luther King Day, known as the *Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity* celebration. All entries are to be turned in to your respective school principal or Township Administration office by **4 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2017**, and include the following information, *legibly printed*:

Name of Entrant: _____

Title of Entry: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Complete home address: _____

Phone number: _____ email: _____

I hereby declare that the attached entry is my own original work and accurately and honestly portrays my own thoughts and ideas. I understand that if I win the contest, I will be asked to publicly share it in the 2018 Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity program, without further compensation beyond the prize awarded at that time.

Signature of Student _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date: _____