



Santa Barbara County Education Office

4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd, PO Box 6307, Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6307
Telephone: (805) 964-4711 • FAX: (805) 964-4712 • sbceo.org

Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent of Schools

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Contact: Valerie Cantella, (805) 964-4710, ext. 5282
Rose Koller, (805) 964-4710, ext. 5222

Students to battle over books on May 2

At our 18th annual Battle of the Books, over 200 students in fourth through sixth grades from more than 30 schools throughout the county will test their knowledge May 2 in the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) auditorium.

The battle focuses on 30 pre-selected books and approximately 8,000 students in public schools countywide have been challenged to read as many books as possible. These books will be the source of the questions and challenges that the students will face at the “battle.”

In order to qualify for the event, students are encouraged to read all 30 books, but must read at least 15 to attend the Battle of the Books. Each school may send a maximum of five students.

“We look forward to cheering on students from around the county as they collaborate with their peers and compete in this friendly ‘literary battle.’” said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido, whose office coordinates the event. “We love the excitement and energy the students bring to the competition and thank the students, teachers, library staff and families for their commitment and support.”

The competition is set up with two teams of six students competing against each other by answering 20 comprehension questions based on the 30 books. The students must agree upon and offer their answers as a group.

All teams compete in a round-robin tournament of four battles, and the highest-scoring teams will take the stage for the final battle, facilitated by guest author Lee Wardlaw.

“When they arrive for the Battle of the Books, the students are re-blended into teams so that no one school competes against another,” said Scott Spector, coordinator of Innovation and Academic Events, Educational Technology Services, the SBCEO department that conducts the event. “Regardless of who wins the final battle, every student receives a certificate, and the winners receive books and t-shirts,” he added. “Students also have an opportunity that day to vote for a book they’d like to see on the list for next year’s event, which is a fun way to motivate and engage the young readers.”

For more information, call Rose Koller at SBCEO, (805) 964-4710, ext. 5222 or email rkoller@sbceo.org.

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