



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of Gathering of the Talents?

Gathering of the Talents strives to create an environment where students' God-given skills are both developed and celebrated as they experience Concordia's campus, students, and staff. This event is designed to give students who are in grades 4-8 the opportunity to exhibit their talents in art, creative writing, drama, dance, and music, all for the glory of God.

When is Gathering of the Talents?

Saturday, March 28, 2020. Events will take place from approximately 8:00 am – 4:00 pm on the campus of Concordia University, in Seward, Nebraska.

What grades of students can participate?

Students in grades 4-8 in local homeschools, schools, churches, and organizations are invited to participate.

What will the day look like?

The day will offer each participant an opportunity for evaluation, development, and inspiration. All participants in the Gathering of the Talents will receive useful evaluation and feedback on each of their entries. There will also be opportunities for skill development and exploration in the form of workshops. Finally, young students will have an opportunity for enjoyment and inspiration as they experience college students' talents in action, including performances by Concordia's music ensembles and IMPROVables.

What will my student receive?

Each student will receive a certificate for participation as well as evaluations on each of their performances or projects. The evaluations will provide valuable feedback and coaching for each entry. We will award the outstanding performances in each division with a framed certificate as well as an outstanding performance ribbon.

Does the student need to be present on the day of the Gathering?

Yes, the richness of the experience exists in being present for the full measure of the offerings. In order to receive valuable feedback and coaching, the student is required to be present the day of the event. Art and Creative Writing entries will be critiqued with the student only if they are present.

What events can my student participate in?

We offer events in the categories of Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, and Music. Your student can participate in the following workshops: Art Experience, Creative Writing, Drama, and Music. They will also have the opportunity to see performances by Concordia music ensembles and IMPROVables group. More specific event details can be found in the **Gathering of the Talents Manual** located at www.cune.edu/gott.

Where are events located?

All events will be located in various venues on Concordia's campus. For a map of campus, please click the link https://estrada.cune.edu/deptweb/general/19_755%20Pocket%20Campus%20Map_smallestsize.pdf

Will there be a closing ceremony?

Yes, there will be a celebration ceremony, where everyone at the Gathering will have an opportunity to recognize outstanding achievement, to be inspired by top college-level talents, and to rightly recognize and thank the Lord for the gifts that He has given to each of these students.

Who will be evaluating, providing feedback, and coaching on performances and projects?

Students will receive learning-based feedback from Concordia University professors and students rather than receiving a particular score. The purpose of the evaluation is to encourage students through valuable feedback and coaching, which will help each student thrive and excel in their respective division. There will also be one-on-one art and creative writing critique sessions for students to get feedback on their projects.

What are the fees/dues for the event?

There is a flat fee for each student to participate. **The flat rate charge is \$10.00 per student** for up to a **maximum of five events per student**. Each school/church/organization will receive an invoice with the fee total for their school/church/organization.

How many events can a student register for?

A maximum of five events per student.

Are children younger than 4th grade still welcome to support older students and siblings?

Yes, friends and family are encouraged to come support the students as they use their talents to glorify God. **There will also be family activities on the campus quad offered throughout the day.**

What if I have several students who want to participate in a group event, but one of the students is too young?

All events are limited to grades 4-8. Any students younger than 4th grade will need to wait for another year to participate. We understand that some schools/churches may have group events of varying ages. We ask that you please limit your performance group for this event to include students in grades 4-8 only.

If we are finished with all my students' performances, why should we stay?

We would love to have you join us for the performances by Concordia's music ensembles and IMPROVables group. Look for performance times on each students' schedule. And, as mentioned above, the closing ceremony will also be an uplifting celebration of outstanding achievements during the day, and an opportunity to thank and honor the Lord, the gracious provider of all our talents.

Can my student submit more than one entry in each category?

Specific details on the number of entries for each division can be found in the **Gathering of the Talent manual**. This will be **available on the website** to all participating schools, churches, and organizations.

What is the parent's role for this event?

Encourage your student to practice for each of their events. Connect with your school or church to determine what is needed for your student.

As I plan out my day, what other options are available on campus?

We will have information booths available to assist you with any questions you might have. In addition, Concordia Admissions Office will be offering tours of our new STEM building, the Dunklau Center. The Scholastic Half-Price Book Sale will again be available. You can also enjoy a visit to the Bartels Rock Museum located on the lower level of Link Library. In addition, you can enjoy some delicious food at the Dining Hall or a beverage at the coffee shop. You are always welcome to watch any of the performances by other students or join in on the family activities being offered on the campus quad.