

☀️ Congratulations, you are now the parent/guardian of a Battle of the Books reader! ☀️

The Battle of the Books is a reading competition for middle school students hosted by Gallaudet University's Youth Programs. Did you know that an average of 40 schools and programs nationwide (plus Canada and the United Kingdom) participate in the Battle of the Books annually? This means that in the Battle of the Books your child will have the opportunity to meet and play against their peers from all over!

Now that your child is on the team, they'll be given three or four books to read (depending on which Division they're in) in order to prepare for the competitions. Then during Battle of the Books matches your child will have to work with their teammates to answer short answer, multiple choice, and true or false questions about the three assigned books. If your child's team performs well, they could qualify for a free trip to Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. for the National competition!

The 2024-2025 Battle of the Books competition timeline is as follows:

- Preliminary Competition:** November 12-14, 2024
- Final Competition (Bison Division only):** November 19-21, 2024
- Playoff Competition (Buff & Blue Divisions only):** December 2-6, 2024
- National Competition:** March 28-31, 2025

You may be wondering how to help support your child throughout their Battle of the Books journey and the best way to do that would be to continue what you already do best – being their biggest cheerleader! Ask your child's school if you can watch the preliminary competition and root for your child and their teammates. Your excitement and support will go a long way in motivating your child!

The Battle of the Books is designed to be largely student-led so we do not encourage parents to read the assigned books along with their child (at least not until *after* the competition) to avoid being tempted in supporting your child with the reading and discussing the book with them. If your child has a question about the reading, encourage them to talk with their teammates or their Chaperone about it.

Together we'll work to spark a lifelong love of reading in your child and to make this a fantastic Battle of the Books experience for them!

Warmly,
Alison O'Hara
Battle of the Books Coordinator