Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

2026 OCSTA Short-Video Contest Guidelines

The annual OCSTA Short Video contest is for students in grades 4-12 at Ontario's Catholic District School Boards. This year the contest is centred on the 2026-27 Catholic Education Theme, ***Catholic Education: Becoming Artisans of Peace.***

Students are invited to create a 2-minute video demonstrating how the scriptural quote defining this year's theme is calling us to be active artisans of peace:

> *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9).*

The Inspiration for this Year's Theme: Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the 40th World Youth Day, invites each of us to become active artisans of peace. In a world often wounded by conflict, division and indifference, our Holy Father's message invites us to build bridges where there are divisions and to reflect Christ's love in every encounter.

The deadline for submissions is November 26, 2026

Section 1: Requirements

Contest participants are invited to create a 2-minute video based upon the theme **"Catholic Education: Becoming Artisans of Peace".** To support the creation of videos we invite all participants to review the references connected to this year's contest theme, which are included in the 2026-27 Catholic Education theme document – to download please click here.

We ask that all videos created contain images of real people and surroundings and that animation and AI not be used in the creation of any video submission.

Factors that will be considered during the adjudication process will include adherence to contest guidelines; appropriate content for youth; visual appeal; audio clarity; and creativity.

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Section 2: Uploading Videos

We ask all participants to upload completed videos to YouTube (www.youtube.com). Instructions for uploading to YouTube are on the YouTube website. The process will provide each video with a unique YouTube URL (web address) that is to be clearly recorded on the submission form.

Section 3: Adjudication and Awards

Adjudication:

All videos that adhere to the requirements outlined in Section 1, will be reviewed and scored by a provincial adjudication committee.

Prizes (Elementary and Secondary):

First Place	$300 Best Buy Gift Certificate
Second Place	$150 Best Buy Gift Certificate
Third Place	$100 Indigo Gift Certificate

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded at both the elementary and secondary panels and will be announced at the OCSTA Catholic Trustees Seminar in January.

We thank all students, teachers, staff and trustees of all Catholic District School Boards for their support of this contest in which we celebrate the precious gift of publicly funded Catholic education. If you require additional information, please contact Sharon McMillan, Director of Communications, OCSTA 416-932-9460 / smcmillan@ocsta.on.ca.