**Speech and Debate Team**

**Coach: Mr. Harrold**

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**Mission:** The Speech and Debate team is an honor society dedicated to cultivation of performance, speaking, and debate skills among high school students.

**Meetings**: The team meets bi-weekly after school in Mr. Harrold’s room on Tuesdays. During the full season, meetings occur weekly, with extra practices throughout the week for willing students.

**Tournaments:** See schedules. Most tournaments are Saturday morning, beginning around 8am and lasting until 4pm. Buses will be provided from the high school

**Events:** Each member of the team specializes in an event. Many students work on a single event throughout an entire year while others try different events in order to pick strength. Events are grouped into two categories: Speech and Debate

**Speech Events**

**Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation:** Students will memorize and perform a monologue/scene, which is either dramatic or humorous. Students are not permitted to use props or costumes. Ten minutes max.

**Prose/Poetry-** Students will read a piece of prose or poetry dramatically. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form. A student may not use the same source used in Duo, Dramatic or Humorous at any NFL tournament. Ten minutes max.

**Extemp.**- Students personally prepare a bank of contemporary articles and current events. At the tournament, students are given a random topic and given a limited time to prepare a seven-minute speech.

**Original Oratory**- Students write and perform their own, original piece. The performance must use no props or costumes and last a maximum of ten minutes.

**Duo-** Same rules apply as DI and HI, however the piece has two members. No props, costumes, direct eye contact or touch. 10 minutes max.

**Debate Events**

**Congressional Debate-** This is individual debate in a large group setting. Congressional Debate models the legislative process of democracy, specifically, the United States Congress. At the tournament, students set an agenda of what legislation to discuss, they debate the merits and disadvantages of each, and they vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined. Students extemporaneously respond to each others’ arguments over the course of a session. Contestants are evaluated by judges for their research and analysis of issues, argumentation, skill in asking and answering questions, use of parliamentary procedure, and clarity and fluency of speaking.

**Lincoln Douglas Debate-** Lincoln Douglas Debate centers on a proposition of value, which concerns itself with what ought to be instead of what is. One debater upholds each side of the resolution from a value perspective. The debate should focus on logical reasoning to support a general principle instead of particular plans and counterplans. Debaters may offer generalized, practical examples or solutions to illustrate how the general principle could guide decisions. Topics change every two months.

**Public Forum Debate-** Public Forum Debate is audience friendly debate. Two pairs (teams) debate monthly controversial topics ripped from newspaper headlines. Rounds begin with a coin toss between the competing teams to determine side and order (Pro-Con or Con-Pro). Public Forum tests skills in argumentation, cross-examination, and refutation.

**Goals**

**Tournaments-** We compete at tournaments throughout November through April. The goal at these events is to gain points by participating and winning events. By earning points (some for participation, more for winning), you will make progress towards your official National Forensics League membership. In addition, you’ll gain valuable skills. The main goal; however, is to hone your event for National and State Qualifiers.

**Nationals and States**: There are three major tournaments: the PHSSL state tournament, the NCFL National event and the NFL National event. All events require qualification. The qualification rounds take place in March with the final in April through June.