



SPEECH TEAM HANDBOOK

2016-2017

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Also reference the separate "Speech Judging Guidelines" document for the following:

- Sample judging comments -- helpful when practicing with your student.
- Judging guidelines and ballots for each speech category from the Blanchet tournament.

Speech Team Coordinators

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INTRODUCTION

The OLF Speech Team has a long history of developing public speaking skills in a fun, supportive environment where individual effort is celebrated and everyone is an important part of the team.

The team structure and rules are designed to further our goals as a team and to help students get the most from their efforts. Families who embrace the opportunity to engage in the process will see the greatest results. Participation requires focus and an investment of time and energy, all of which lead to tremendous long-term benefits for students.

SPEECH TEAM REQUIREMENTS

REGISTRATION: All paperwork must be complete, along with the \$40 fee, by June 3, 2016.

CHOOSE SPEECH CATEGORIES: Each student must choose two speech categories, one each from "Round 1" and "Round 2" that are defined later in the Handbook. Speech category assignments will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

SECURE A COACH: Each student will secure a coach. Coaches can be parents, adult family members, family friends, past OLF speech coaches, etc. The Speech Team Coordinators can assist with coach selection as needed.

TIME COMMITMENT: September 2016 through January 2017 (8th Graders) or February 2017 (7th Graders). Successful participation requires practice, practice and more practice! Students must practice on a regular basis and meet regularly with their coaches throughout the Speech Team season. They must be on time and prepared for all coach meetings and team meetings. Speech Team meetings will be held every Wednesday, immediately after school. These meetings are a brief but important part of the students' speech activities for the week.

FATIMA QUALIFIER

Participation in this tournament is **mandatory** in order to qualify for high school tournaments. It will be scheduled for mid-November.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students interested in Speech Team must make a commitment to the program. It takes time to research, write and practice, but the effort pays off in life-long skills! Student responsibilities are outlined below:

- Choose two speech categories.
- With the help of a parent, find or write material in the chosen category (with the exception of Impromptu).
- Meet all deadlines that your coach gives you. Failing to do this and not being prepared can result your inability to participate in the tournaments.
- Provide typewritten copies of the material to your coach
- Bring your final typewritten draft with you to every practice. Keep it in plastic sheet protectors to stay organized.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! EVERY DAY. Practice with your parents, coach, friends, and alone in front of a mirror!
- Participate in the tournament(s) to which you are assigned.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents of Speech Team students must also make a firm commitment to the program. Parent responsibilities are outlined below:

- Work with your student to choose two speech categories.
- Help with speech selection. This will involve brainstorming, research and writing assistance to develop selections that meet the criteria of each speech category.
- Help your student practice by listening, timing the speech and always encouraging them.
- Sign up to judge for *at least one* of the high school speech tournaments. It is MANDATORY for one parent of every speech team student to judge in one of the three high school tournaments during speech team season.
- Attend a Judge's Workshop. Bishop Blanchet hosts a workshop, and all parents who have not judged before or have not attended this workshop should plan to do so. The workshops are held on several dates in early December.
- If possible, come to all of the tournaments, not just the one in which you are judging. Share the pride of your student's accomplishments and support other team members. Cheer for our school! Speech tournaments are exciting, team-building events and everyone benefits from the experience.

FINDING A SPEECH

This is the most challenging part of speech! The goal is to find a category and a topic that are a great fit for the student. Speaking about one's passions and interests makes the writing and practice process easier and the speech more comfortable to deliver.

Take some time over the summer to consider possible sources for great speech material. Talk to students and parents who have attended speech tournaments and ask for advice (many past attendees write the titles of selections as they watch speeches performed). For the interpretive categories, consider selections from books, plays and movies (provided that you can find a *published* manuscript). For original speeches (round 2), consider the student's interests and hobbies as starting point for topic development.

Each student will select two speeches, one from each list below:

Round 1 Categories

Dramatic Interpretive Reading (DI)
Humorous Interpretive Reading (HI)
Dual Interpretive Reading (Duo)

Round 2 Categories

Expository (Expos)
Oratory
Editorial Commentary (Ed Comm)
Impromptu

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

DRAMATIC INTERPRETIVE READING

One or more selections of prose, poetry and/or drama from a published source. (Note that selections from YouTube, Saturday Night Live, etc. are prohibited unless the speaker presents a copyright printed copy of the material.) Material should be serious in nature. If more than one selection is read, they should be connected by a central theme. The presentation must be from a manuscript. The speaker is required to have a short introduction (usually memorized) and "transitions" should connect selections as needed. The illusion of reading must be maintained. Movement and gestures are limited. Over-dramatization may be penalized. Costumes and/or props are prohibited.

These speeches are best when they deal with difficult or challenging circumstances, when they offer several voices for the student to perform, and when they are truly dramatic and moving reading selections. The best ones will bring tears to your eyes. Good ones in the past have covered the holocaust, Rwanda, poverty, etc. and are often told from a child's point of view. They require a short intro and presented with the illusion of reading.

Time Limit: 8 minutes with a 30 second grace period (most are 5-7 minutes)

HUMOROUS INTERPRETIVE READING

One or more humorous selections from a published source. If more than one selection is read, they should be connected by a central theme. The presentation must be from a manuscript. The speaker is required to have a short introduction (usually memorized) and "transitions" should connect selections as needed. The illusion of reading must be maintained. Movement and gestures are limited. Over-dramatization may be penalized. Costumes and/or props are prohibited.

These speeches should be funny! Really funny! If the student is capable of creating great voices for characters and he/she has a lot of charisma, then humorous is a fantastic category. Inserting your own personality into the speech, along with voices, can make the reading material into something truly hysterical.

Time Limit: 8 minutes with a 30 second grace period (most are 5-7 minutes)

DUAL INTERPRETIVE READING

A selection from prose or drama involving the portrayal of two or more characters is presented by two students competing together as a team. The same Interpretive reading rules apply.

These speeches can be dramatic or humorous and are best when there is interesting banter between two characters. Think carefully about whether Duo is the right category for you since you will need to schedule your weekly practices with a partner. This can be challenging if a partner becomes sick or is out of town on a tournament date.

Time Limit: 8 minutes with a 30 second grace period (most are 5-7 minutes)

EXPOSITORY

An explanatory speech to describe, clarify, explain and/or define an idea, object, concept or process. This informative speech must be the original work of the student. It may be delivered with or without notes. Visual aids are allowed (recommended but not required). Students can be very creative with this category and it can be quite fun.

Time Limit: 8 minutes, with 30 second grace period.

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

The commentary takes a position on an issue of public concern as if the speaker were an editorialist attempting to influence the audience toward his/her point of view. The speech must be the original work of the speaker and is delivered with or without notes. The speaker is seated delivering the speech, as if to a television camera.

Time Limit: 1:45-2:00 minutes EXACTLY (no grace period)

ORATORY

This original work of the student is a persuasive piece that requires research and personal opinion to convince the audience. The speech alerts the audience to a threatening danger, strengthens devotion to a cause, or eulogizes a person. The oratory is memorized and must be the original work of the speaker; he/she must have a written copy of the speech present.

Often this category has fewer contestants thereby offering the student more opportunity at success.

Time Limit: 8 minute max (30 second grace) for 8th grade; 5 minute max (30 second grace) for 7th grade

IMPROMPTU

Without specific advance preparation, the speaker is challenged to “think on his/her feet” in delivering an organized presentation about one of three topic choices: a Word, a Quotation, or a Social Concern. Use of notes or other materials is not allowed. Timing signals are given by the judge.

Students in this category prepare by reading the newspaper, discussing controversial or current events with parents, and practicing speeches on a variety of topics. Keys to success include being able to think quickly and clearly, organize thoughts and ideas, and draw on beliefs and opinions to support a position. Again, this category generally has fewer contestants and offers your student a fantastic experience in public speaking.

Time Limit: 2 minutes prep time; speech 1-5 minutes

STORYBOOK

OLF does not participate in the Storybook category.

Specific details such as time limits, descriptions and desired qualities for each speech category are found in the Judging Guidelines attachment. Thank you to the Blanchet Tournament coordinators for allowing us to utilize descriptions and information from their judge’s training packet.

TOURNAMENT INFO

Each of the high school tournaments are set up differently. A student must choose **two** speech categories in which to compete.

You will not know prior to the Fatima Qualifier which high school tournament(s) your student will attend. The RESULTS from the qualifier will determine this, as highest scoring students earn priority. The high school your child prefers to attend will have little to do with which tournaments your child attends—we have found that often those preferences change throughout the school year. *Our goal is to send the best TEAM to each tournament.*

Fatima Qualifier – November TBA **3:30-5:30pm** **7th/ 8th grade**

Round 1: Humorous, Dramatic, Duo

Round 2: Expository, Impromptu, Oratory, Ed Comm

Bishop Blanchet - Sat. 10 Dec, 2016

7:30am-6:30pm

Round 1: Humorous, Dramatic, Duo

Round 2: Expository, Impromptu, Oratory, Ed Comm

Priority to 8th Grade; 7th Grade as space permits. All participants will need a parent available to judge. Judging training courses will be announced.

Seattle Prep – Sat. 14 Jan, 2017

7:30am-6:30pm

Round 1: Humorous, Dramatic

Round 2: Expository, Ed Comm

Round 3: Impromptu, Oratory, Duo

Priority to 8th Grade; 7th Grade as space permits

****8th grade students competing for Prep's scholarship must compete in 3 categories at this tournament. Talk to a co-chair for more information.**

Eastside Catholic or Equivalent

Date TBD

7:30am-6:30pm

7th grade

Round 1: Humorous, Dramatic, Duo, Storybook

Round 2: Expository, Impromptu, Oratory, Ed Comm

REGISTRATION LIMITATIONS

Bishop Blanchet 25 students per school/50 events maximum.

BB also limits a maximum of 6 Jr's (7th grade) and 6 Sr's (8th grade) per category.

Seattle Prep 20 students per school/ 40 events maximum

Eastside Catholic 40 events maximum per school *note: OLF gives 7th graders priority*

Given these restrictions we will put together the best team of 7th and 8th graders for each tournament based on the Fatima Qualifier results. **It is important for each student to prepare themselves for the Fatima Qualifier since the rest of the season depends upon those results.** Some preference will be given to 8th graders, but all serious speech students will be the heart of our program. Students are expected to attend the tournament to which they are assigned. Each of the three tournaments offers a great environment for public speaking and experience.

SPEECH TOURNAMENT ATTIRE

Appearance is an important part of public speaking. Looking great helps you feel great and do your best! But there's no need to shop for new clothes – borrow and be creative to come up with an outfit that is tournament-ready and comfortable for all-day wear.

Boys: Nice polo shirts, a sweater, tucked in button-down shirts, nice khaki or dark pants with a belt, or a suit are all possibilities. Choose dress shoes as opposed to gym shoes. This is a good time for a haircut!

Girls: A smart, pulled-together look is best. Choose knee length skirts (no miniskirts) or nice, long pants with a modest blouse or sweater. Flats or low heeled shoes (no high heels or open toe shoes) No spaghetti straps or slinky dresses. Hair should be neat or pulled back and off the face. Nail polish should be fresh, not chipped.

DAY OF TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE

Plan to arrive a little early so you aren't rushed. It helps to have a pencil and paper to record your assigned room numbers and times. Fatima will have a table of parent volunteers where you can get a copy of the school map and the student's competition number. Each tournament is run a bit differently—some assign students a number, some use a school code and last name. Some schools post the lists showing events, times and locations right away while others seem to wait until the last minute with that information! When your student gets this information, be sure to write down the judge's name or number to ensure they don't get the same judge two rounds in a row.

Be sure to carry any items you need for your speech. At Seattle Prep, you will have to walk outside between buildings –it could be cold and wet. Expository boards should be covered in plastic. At Eastside, the parking lot is a long distance from the school entrance, and if it's raining, your shoes will be drenched in the river of water that flows down the sidewalk and street between the parking lot and school!

- Bring plenty of food and water to last the entire day, including a lunch and snacks to share.
- Be respectful of the hosting school's property.
- Be conscious of the time, and allow enough to travel to your room assignment through crowded hallways.
- Students will perform each speech 2 or 3 times at a tournament, in front of different judges.
- Students are expected to perform their speeches on tournament days—the only exception is if they must go home because of an illness. Intentional no-shows completely disrupt room assignments, judge allocation and the overall fairness of the tournament, not to mention that every no-show spot is a spot wasted that could have been filled by someone else. *Tournament participation is one of the requirements of speech team students.*

We strongly encourage all parent judges and students to attend for the entire day. Please clear your calendar for the entire day to support this team effort. Judges who aren't around in the morning miss the judges' meeting. Students who leave early miss the awards ceremony and students who arrive later in the day aren't supporting the team effort. It is a long day but the kids have a blast!

RECOGNITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The most important things to take away from a tournament are the wonderful, supportive opportunities to speak in public and the sense of pride that comes from several months of commitment and practice. It is not about being a finalist or award winner, though that is a nice bonus. At the end of the tournament, the awards ceremony recognizes individual awards as well as team awards in which every student's scores contribute. The school awards are our ultimate goal as a team.

Individual awards include:

Bishop Blanchet (400 + students from 25 schools competing)

- \$1,500 scholarship to Blanchet for each 1st place winner in each Senior category (8th grade). Seven categories total.

Seattle Prep (400 + students from 25 schools competing)

- \$1,000 scholarship to Seattle Prep for the Best Overall Boy and the Best Overall Girl of the tournament (must do three non-conflicting speeches to qualify).

Eastside Catholic (unknown number of students competing)

- Seven \$1,000 scholarships to Eastside Catholic for students who win in two events or rank the highest in three straight rounds of one event.

** Note that all Scholarship amounts are based on prior year tournaments. Actual 2016-2017 amounts can be confirmed in the fall, after tournament coordination begins.*