

# Speech and Debate

## Team Syllabus & Guidelines

**Annual Objective:** My objective for the team this year is to unify Saratoga's Speech and Debate program under one solid and committed umbrella. With that, we will need to instate a strong sense of structure and expectations for the team. Our primary focus will be building a team with a strong sense of equality, camaraderie and respect.

**Weekly meetings:** It is going to be important for us as a team to meet on a regular basis, not only to practice against each other and run rounds, but also to prep collectively and collaborate on cases and personal points of expertise.

- Meetings will be held each week for practice, critique and preparation for tournaments. Separate meetings will be held for: IE's, Impromptu/Extemp(s), Congress, Parliamentary Debate and Public Forum Debate.
- Meeting times will be specified at the beginning of the year to account for conflicts with coaches.
- Captains will be present at all the meetings, for the entire duration, and act as supporters, instructors and critics. Any and every student should feel comfortable and confident going to their captain for advice or help.
- Attendance at these meetings will be a factor of consideration for tournament entry.

### **Tournament Protocol:**

- **Student participation in a tournament is left to the sole discretion of the coach.** Participation will be determined by a number of factors listed below.
  1. Attendance in weekly meetings as per discussions with captains and coaches
  2. Commitment of student, as per tournament sign-ups and follow-through
  3. Work done by student in preparation for the tournament, as verified by coaches and captains
  4. Number of league tournaments attended, records at these tournaments, and finally seniority.

**How to sign up for a tournament:** As per new league requirements, there will be a very specific structure for tournament sign-ups.

- **Necessary information**
  1. complete student name with phone number
  2. complete judge name with phone number
  3. event(s) student wishes to compete in, ranked in order of importance
  4. time schedule for judge

- **Participants**
  1. Students **MUST** sign up for a tournament by the Saratoga-stated deadline-date. All necessary information (see above) must be completed by that point, or the entry will not be considered.
  2. Students can not make changes to the entry past the deadline-date.
  3. Students are to meet at the front of the school on the day of the tournament at the posted time and ride along with the team to and from the tournament. (parent carpools to/from with morning and evening judges).
  4. **Students are not allowed to drive themselves or others to the tournament, leave early from the tournament, or go home with parents (possible amendment for league tourney). The time commitment will be a full day (7AM-10PM), plan accordingly.**
  5. Any Speech and Debate competitor from Saratoga High School **MUST** compete under the school name.
- **Judges**
  1. Parents must plan on judging for every tournament their child attends
  2. Judging time-slots will be posted and presented to the parents to fulfill league judging requirements.
  3. It is my goal to have as many parents as possible, to lighten the load for each individual parent.
  4. Time slots for tournaments will be on a first-come-first-serve basis
  5. No judge-swapping is allowed.
  6. Judging assignment changes can not be made past the deadline-date.
  7. Judges are expected to remain for the entirety of their time slot
  8. Judges may be bought for Invitational Tournaments, **not** for league ones.

### **Captains**

Students interested in becoming captains of their event or of the team will need to prove a level of leadership within the team, personal incentive to aiding new and needy team members, and volunteering time and responsibility without being asked. A genial and proactive outgoing personality is also considered in the choosing of captains. Captains will be chosen by coaches at the end of the year, from a pool of applicants.

**Consequences: Any derivations from these rules will hold strict and immediate consequences set forth to ensure equality amongst team members and uphold the respect and value of the team itself. A suspension from tournament attendance can be considered the minimum consequence, followed by dismissal from the team.**

As a form of understanding of the rules listed above, and as a prerequisite for signing up for the team and participation at meetings and tournaments, it is required that both the students and parents sign this page of the syllabus and return it to Mr Rector. By signing, both parents and students understand the content of the syllabus and will abide by its rules.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_