**EHS SPEECH AND DEBATE HANDBOOK**

**Expectations and**

**General Team Information**

**2014/2015**

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<http://www.eastsidespeechandebate.weebly.com>

[www.scspeechanddebate.org](http://www.scspeechanddebate.org)

[www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org)

**Welcome to the Eastside Speech and Debate Team!**

This is our team’s third year here at Eastside, and we are excited about our potential to develop as a dynamic program at the state and regional level. We have a record of small successes that we look forward to building on as we gain more students, accept new challenges, hone our talents, and strive for excellence. We seek diverse individuals who have the desire and work ethic to participate in rigorous public speaking and debate events.

As a student in our club, you’ll have the opportunity to compete against the best and brightest students from our district, state, and region. You’ll witness everything from spellbinding performances and hilarious routines to inspirational speeches and lightning-fast crossfire debates. You’ll be amazed by the level of competition, inspired by the devotion of the contestants, and energized by the excitement of the tournaments. Once you catch the competitive spirit, you will dedicate yourself to performing at your highest caliber and marvel at your own capabilities. Even if you are not standing onstage during the awards ceremony, you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you have performed to the best of your ability. Most importantly, you will mature into an articulate, thoughtful, and self-actualizing individual.

In order to achieve such greatness, though, you will be expected to work harder than you’ve ever worked in your life. You will need to come to practices after school, give up several Saturdays to attend tournaments, wear professional attire, memorize speeches, and generally conduct yourself in a way that would bring positive recognition and respect to our program and school. But the rewards for your hard work will far outweigh the effort you put into it. Being a confident speaker and a knowledgeable citizen is paramount in today’s hyper-competitive society. Success hinges not on having a 4.0 but on having an opinion, not on the pursuit of perfection but on the pursuit of your passions, and not on your ability to test well but on your ability to sell yourself as a valuable asset to a team. Speech and Debate helps you develop those life skills that exist beyond a textbook.

I know that it can be a challenge to balance homework, AP exams, clubs, sports, family duties, and an active social life, but the Speech and Debate Club is worthwhile. When you become a member of our club, you are preparing yourself for the rigors of college. In fact, Speech and Debate has been identified by many colleges as the top extracurricular activity that they want to see on your résumé. Not only does it offer you increased chances for college admission and scholarships, it gives you an opportunity for personal growth and development.

If you love to read, if you enjoy making people laugh, if you argue adamantly over mere trifles, if you keep up with politics, or if you just enjoy winning, then this club is for you. I hope that you take full advantage of this this outstanding academic opportunity and devote yourself to having fun, preparing for tournaments, and representing Eastside in a positive manner.

**Joining the Team**

If you are enrolled in the Speech and Debate class, you are automatically on the team. However, if you not enrolled in the Speech and Debate class, you can still be on the team and compete in tournaments and participate in all other events that we host throughout the year (e.g. Poetry Out Loud). There will be a **Parent Meeting** at the beginning of the year in which we will discuss goals for the season, practice expectations, tournaments, fundraising, communication, and volunteering opportunities. At this informational orientation meeting, we will collect the following:

1. Permission slip for the year’s tournaments
2. **$20 dues** for a Team shirt and NFL membership items
3. Handbook signature form
4. Shirt size.

**The “Three Tracks” of our Team**

Our Team is made up of three tracks: **Speech, Interpretation,** and **Debate**.

The **Speech** track events include Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Impromptu, Expository, and Radio Broadcasting.

The **Interpretation (Interp)** tract events include Children’s Literature, Duet Acting, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Acting, and Prose & Poetry.

The **Debate** tract events include Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Congressional Debate.

**Students may either choose one track in which to focus, or may double-enter in several events in two or more tracks** as tournaments allow.

**The Benefits**

We may have late nights & long hours ahead, but the benefits are great: notoriety and connections, NSDA

Honor Society membership, improved grades and standardized test scores, increased self-esteem, improved communication skills, and lasting friendships are just a small part of what you will receive by competing in Speech and Debate.

Students who participate in Speech and Debate will:

1. learn to overcome and calm speaking anxieties

2. receive valuable training for college and future careers

3. increase their public communication skills

4. develop improved study habits and research skills

5. develop time allocation and organizational skills

6. advance critical thinking and reasoning skills

7. become familiar with current societal issues

8. be open to both sides of an issue

9. learn to consider and adapt to different audiences

10. be more prepared to speak on their feet

11. be more aware of a wider range of people, personalities, and cultures

12. learn how to lose gracefully

13. learn how accept criticism and be judged on their performance

14. learn how to work with others, as individuals and a team

15. learn how to perform with virtually no sleep

16. learn respect for dissenting opinions

17. learn that appearance is very important - wear the right clothes, get a haircut, tone down the makeup, etc.

A Glossary of Speech and Debate Terms

NSDA – National Speech and Debate Association

Joy Of Tournaments – The website that most tournaments use for entry registration. Also refers to the software used to set up and tabulate the tournaments. Created and maintained by Brent Hinkle of Dallas, Texas. www.joyoftournaments.com/az

IE – Individual Events – Any event other than debate. Interpretation and Speech events are all IE, even Duo Interpretation

OO – Original Oratory – A ten minute public address memorized speech about an issue (usually value based) that affects society. This event is featured at Nationals.

Expos – Expository Speaking – A ten minute public address memorized speech usually informing the audience about a subject they may not know.

Extemp – Extemporaneous Speaking – A 7 minute limited preparation speech where students get 30 minutes to prepare a speech on a current event topic. They are allowed to use materials that they have previously researched and brought to the tournament to prepare. This event is split into Domestic and International topics at Nationals.

Impromptu – A limited preparation speech where the students have 7 minutes to write AND deliver their speech. The topic is usually a quotation, a single word, an aphorism, or a common household item.

Poetry – A ten minute interpretation of literature. The students use a manuscript to deliver the speech. Several poems may be used within the 10 minute presentation.

Prose – A ten minute interpretation of literature. The students use a manuscript to deliver the speech. These are usually short stories or pieces cut from a larger novel.

HI – Humorous Interpretation – A ten minute interpretation of literature. This event is memorized. This may be from any genre of literature, but must have a humorous tone. This event is featured at Nationals.

DI – Dramatic Interpretation - A ten minute interpretation of literature. This event is memorized. This may be from any genre of literature, but must have a dramatic tone. This event is featured at Nationals.

Duo – Usually means Duo Interpretation - A ten minute interpretation of literature. Two competitors perform. This event is memorized. This may be from any genre of literature. It can have any tone you want. This event is featured at Nationals.

LD – Lincoln-Douglas Debate – One student per side. Intended to debate societal values rather than strict current events. Topics change every two months. A typical round takes 45 minutes.

PFD – Public Forum Debate – The newest debate. Two students per side. Topics change monthly. The topics usually evaluate a hot current topic. The format of the debate is more flexible than the others. A typical round takes 35-40 minutes.

Piece– the literature selection (title and author) you are performing in interpretation events: DI, HI, DUO, Prose, and Poetry

Time Signals– Hand signals showing how much time you have left

Cut – to take only selected sections from a piece. To cut to make time limits or to cut inappropriate material

Breaking – Refers to a student who reaches the next round of competition, i.e. “I broke to semifinals in OO!”

Tab Room – The place where the tournament directors work the computers that run the tournament. The place to go if there are problems.

Ballots – The official score sheet for the round – Speech ballots have a master cover-sheet where you copy your rankings and speaker points

Ballot Table – Where ballots are picked up before the round and dropped off once the round is complete.

Code – Each student is given an alpha-numeric code so that students will not be aligned with any particular school and judges cannot be prejudiced in their decisions

Ranks – Where the student places in that round. First Place is best.

Speaker Points – The quality of the student’s overall performance. The best speaker in the round is first place, but may have low speaker points.

Sweepstakes – The team awards at the end of the tournament.

Invitational – A tournament run by a school, not by one of the state or national governing bodies.

Judge – The adult who scores the speakers in the rounds or adjucates the debates. There is usually one judge in each preliminary round, and 3 judges in elimination rounds. Judges must be high school graduates.

Congress – Student Congress – Students compete in a debate intended to resemble a legislative body. Students debate mock bills and resolutions that they have created and submitted before the tournament. The only event where students choose the eventual winner. Usually takes place on Friday from 8:00-3:00.

Scorer – The person who gives points for speeches in Student Congress

Parli – Parliamentarian – The adult who keeps Student Congress running according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

PO – Presiding Officer – The student who is elected to preside over the Student Congress session.

Blocking– any movements made during a performance

Double Entered– entered in more than one event in a round

Novice – a competitor in their first year of competition (used at tournaments) or a division in a tournament involving only first year competitors

Varsity – a seasoned and experienced competitor (used at tournaments)

Round(s)– a complete debate or round of individual events; there are four regular rounds at each tournament

Flight – A full debate consisting of half of a round. In practice, most tournaments are “double flighted,” meaning that there are two debates per round - an “A flight” and a “B flight.” Each debater only debates for one flight, but judges usually have to judge both.

Speaker Points – Points awarded to debaters. Some ballots list them as on a scale from 0 to 30, but it’s a general rule that speaker points are on a 22-30 scale. Anything less than 22 is effectively horrible – e.g. throwing food at the judge or opponent. 30 = the best you’ll hear today, 29 = Superior, 28 = Excellent, 27 = Very Good, 26 = Good, 25 = Decent, 24 = Okay, 23 = Fair, 22 = Improve.

Low-Point Win – When the winning debater has lower speaker points than the losing debater; strictly forbidden in South Carolina

**Tournament Information**

Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to compete at local area tournaments in various events for the following reasons: (1) the possibility of advancing and placing in events, leading to (2) the possibility of qualifying for State, District, and National tournaments, and (3) membership into the National Speech and Debate Association, which is our **Honor Society,** (4) exposure, connections, and experience in communication enhancement, (5) the opportunity to learn from judges, your coach, and other competitors in a real-world setting, (6) the opportunity to put into performance all of the preparation for events learned in and out of class time, (7) access to Scholarship money, and (8) lots of fun!! And there are so many more great benefits & reasons to compete at speech tournaments.

**South Carolina Speech and Debate Association**

Our regulartournament season runs from **August through February**. If students accumulate **25 NSDA points**, earned by consistently placing in their event(s) at local tournaments, they will not only gain admittance into the **HONOR SOCIETY** but also qualify forState. The **State Tournament** is held the first part of March, and because it is a prestigious honor toqualify and a great reward for hard work and practice, **students are expected to prepare & attend the State tournament if they are qualified**. Location of the State Tournament rotatesaround South Carolina.

**TOURNAMENT DESCRIPTION**

Most tournaments are held on Saturdays at a host school’s facility. Tournaments begin at 9 a.m. and end following the Awards Ceremony usually by 7 p.m. **Contestants and judges should arrive at the school no later than 8:15 a.m**. Some tournaments run two or more days. Tournaments can end earlier or much later depending on the size of the tournament, the number of available judges, the number of events offered and other factors. **Bring money with you to purchase lunch and snacks throughout the day - $10 - $20 should cover everything.** Contestants will participate in **FOUR** rounds of their respective event and receive ballots with constructive criticism at the end of each tournament. **STUDENTS MAY NOT ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE A TOURNAMENT EARLY**.

The number of tournaments our team will attend, as well as the location of local and/or out-of-town tournaments, will be at the **Coach’s discretion** each year. Attendance will be determined by number of Team members signed up for tournaments, school and other scheduling considerations (ex. SAT dates, homecoming games, etc.) and budget constraints. \*Special considerations may be examined should the need arise (ex. adding a tournament for one student if s/he is lacking two points to qualify for State, etc.)

Our **Team Officers** will be Coach-appointed. Officers may have input into goals for the year, which tournaments are attended, fundraising opportunities, and events that will take place throughout the year. They are expected to communicate with the team and provide leadership/mentorship/guidance for younger speakers and debaters.

**Practice and Tournament Attendance Rules**

**Students are free to choose which tournaments they attend**. There is a sign-up sheet on the team bulletin board, and students are responsible for checking their schedules for any possible conflicts **BEFORE** signing up for tournaments.

Students in the Speech and Debate class and team are required to attend a minimum of **ONE** tournament in the Fall, and **ONE** tournament in the Spring. **Students in the class will receive a free 100 for a major grade** for each of the two required tournaments that they must attend. Students in the class can attend as many tournaments as they like, but they will not receive more than two free 100s for their participation.

Students competing at tournaments should also be **fully prepared** for each event they enter in order to attend. Competitors should plan times, not only during class but outside of school, to come in and work on their case or performance.

**Practice Schedule**

**Speech – Tuesdays after school from 3:45 – 5:00**

**Debate – Thursdays after school from 3:45 – 5:00**

**A minimum of TWO practices must be attended in order to attend a tournament**.

Students are expected to attend team practices in order to best represent themselves and our school at tournaments. Simply attending practices, however, will not ensure that students are adequately prepared to compete at such a high level of competition. Independent practice is essential, and we cannot allow students who are unprepared to compromise the reputation of our program.

Students must sign up for tournaments by the **DEADLINE** in order to attend.

Students are responsible for paying **DROP FEES** - if you have to drop out of a tournament FOR ANY REASON after the deadline has passed (this includes illness or oversleeping). Please be aware of this before signing up for each tournament.

Competitors who do not attend tournaments, or who do not follow the rules for tournament attendance are subject to suspension from tournaments, expulsion from the team, a zero in the gradebook, or other actions deemed appropriate by the Coach and/or administrators.

**DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to **DRESS PROFESSIONALLY** for each tournament. We arenot only representing our team, we are also representing Eastside, our families, and ourselves. Please adhere to the followingguidelines:

1. **Competitors should wear subtle colors at all times**. This allows the focus to be on the PERFORMANCE, and not on the clothing. Examples are blacks, browns, navy blues, and grays. Collared shirt colors under suit jacket maybe white, black, blue, light pink, or gray.
2. **GENTLEMEN**: SUIT AND TIE with dark dress socks and shoes. The minimum requirement is pressed dress shirt and tie with dress slacks and dress shoes. Suit vests may also be worn. NO khaki pants or casual wear, wrinkled shirts/pants, sweater vests, tennis shoes, white socks, bright colors, or patterns should be worn.
3. **LADIES**: pant suit or skirt suit with jacket, and comfortable matching dress shoes (low heels or comfy high heel- closed toe, matte finish). If a skirt is worn, dark hosiery MUST be worn, along with dark, close-toed shoes. Accompanying collared blouse must be of appropriate solid color (see above colors) with no pattern. No low-cut, spaghetti straps, tight or revealing tops of any kind may be worn.
4. **Jewelry/Nail polish** – Jewelry must NOT be a distraction to your performance. It should be very conservative (small stud earrings, simple pearl necklace) and no more than one ring per hand, if worn at all. Nail polish should be CLEAR or traditional French manicure ONLY.
5. **Hair** should not be a distraction, nor should it be in your way. Gentlemen MAY NOT have facial hair, nor long hair at the front or back. Ladies should braid or clip their hair back out of their face. Our look is to be CONSERVATIVE and PROFESSIONAL so that your performance is the focus at all times. Be sure to plan your hairstyle based on your **performance requirements**, rather than on your personal style.
6. **Team members must stay in tournament dress throughout the tournament**. Students should plan to remain in tournament clothes throughout the tournament. The only exception is that ladies may change into more comfortable shoes IF they are not advancing in any of their events, and gentlemen may remove their jackets/ties at the end of the final day, but must wear them to Awards. There should **never** be pajamas, slippers, jeans, shorts, or other dress that appears sloppy or unprofessional brought to a tournament.

**Competitors who do not comply with the above guidelines may be dropped from a tournament at the student/parent’s expense, suspended from future tournaments, penalized with a zero in the gradebook, or other actions deemed appropriate by the Coach and/or administrators**.

**Keep in touch with your parent(s).** Tournament schedules change, and students may or may not advance, so we often do not have a set time we will be finished. Students should keep in contact with their parent(s) during the tournament to let them know our status (not to mention bragging rights if you advance in your event!). **\*Let your parents know that phones must be turned OFF in rounds.**

**Cell phone and Texting:** In order for us to keep in contact during tournaments, keep students safe, etc. your Coach will exchange phone numbers with the students on the Team (parents will also have access to the Coach’s number for emergency use). Please use the Coach’s cell phone number for **SCHOOL BUSINESS ONLY**. Reasons to call or text would include: Letting us know you are on your way to meet the bus (or if you have missed the bus, letting us know you have a ride to meet us), letting the Coach know if you are ill before or during a tournament, letting the Coach know if you advanced in your event or are out of your rounds at a tournament, etc.

**REMIND**: The Coach will make use of this helpful, educational, secure texting service for reminders, announcements and upcoming events. Students and Parents can subscribe to secure groups and/or classes, so no cell numbers are visible to anyone else in the group, nor can the messages be replied to directly by receivers.

**Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Social Sites:** Please remember that (again) you are ALWAYS an EHS Speech & Debate Team member, representing our **Team** and our **School**. Please do not discuss such things as our Team business, procedures, gossip, your Coach, or any internal information on your wall or page in any way (especially with other competitors!). You should also not be discussing ANYTHING with **judges** AT ALL. Nor should you post inappropriate or embarrassing PHOTOS. Just remember… **YOU NEVER KNOW WHO IS** **READING!!** Please be professional at all times during your time with us on the Team.

**TOURNAMENT CONDUCT**

Students must remain on the Tournament school’s campus throughout the tournament. **Students may not leave a tournament for ANY reason** (including crossing streets to get food without their Coach, going home after their rounds, etc.). The only exception to this is for special circumstances, agreed upon by parents & the Coach.

**Students should act professionally and responsibly throughout the tournament**. Any behavior contradicting this may result in the Coach sending students home without possibility of completing their events, suspension from future tournaments, a zero in the gradebook, and other restrictions/consequences, depending on the severity of the infraction or behavior.

**Students are responsible for reporting to their rooms for their events ON TIME EVERY**

**TIME (which means EARLY)**. You will be given a map of the school at the beginning of the day, so look over that and know where you are to go. If you don’t know, ask one of the student volunteers. Students are expected to follow all rules of the host school and tournament (ex. Never enter a room without a judge present, never enter or exit a room during a performance, and never leave right after your performance unless you are double-entered, etc.)

**Students must keep cell phones OFF in round rooms**. Please be sure you DO

NOT allow your cell phone to ring/buzz during performances!

**ALWAYS be respectful to your Judges.** We may not like or agree with a decision, but we must ALWAYS remain respectful of our Judges, even outside of the round. This also applies to other Coaches, your Coach, and each other. A common way to exit each round is to thank your judge for judging (they have given up their entire Saturday to listen to you…).

Please do not be overheard **gossiping** about anyone! If you wish to discuss a performance, judge, etc., please speak privately far away from others.

**Conduct yourself maturely in the Cafeteria and at Awards Assemblies.** Make sure you are having fun, but not being too crazy or being too loud/obnoxious in between rounds at our Team table OR at the Awards ceremonies. We are representing Eastside and should conduct ourselves appropriately (while still having fun!).

**Signature Form**

I [print name]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will abide by the rules stated in this handbook, as well as any others raised by my Coach and/or administrators.

I also understand that I am responsible for any/all information on our **Team Website**, and that I should check it for announcements, schedule changes, etc. on a daily basis.

**Signed (student): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

As the **parent** of student listed above, I [print name]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also acknowledge that I have read the information and guidelines listed in this handbook, and also understand that most information regarding the Team (schedules, announcements, etc.) may be found on our Team Website. I also understand that I am encouraged to email Mr. Dorn anytime I have questions or need further information.

**Signed (parent): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**