

TO: Parents of St. Monica School Speech Team Participants
FROM: Speech Team Coaches
RE: Speech Team

Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in the St. Monica Parish School Speech Team. This HANDBOOK is intended to: (1) give you a general description of what your child will experience on the team; and (2) be a helpful resource for you throughout the year. Of course, if you ever have any questions, you are welcome to call or email Nancy Baron at 206-232-5432, extension 175, and nbaron@stmonicasea.org.

I. INTRODUCTION TO ST.MONICA PARISH SCHOOL SPEECH TEAM:

St. Monica School Speech Team is an extra-curricular program and is strictly optional. The primary goal of Speech Team is to help your child learn how to speak with confidence in a public forum. Reading, researching, writing, memorizing, and sometimes even acting are some of the skills your child will utilize while participating in Speech Team. The overwhelming majority of students on Speech Team also choose to compete at two or more of the three local speech tournaments. Students who participate in these tournaments learn the responsibilities and positive results of being part of a competitive team.

Only Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth graders are allowed to participate. Each Speech Team participant must commit to creating and verbally delivering at least one speech. (Students who have successfully prepared one speech may be granted permission to prepare subsequent speeches). Aside from that, there is no requirement for joining the team. Students who are nervous or shy about speaking in public are just as encouraged to participate as those who are naturally outgoing and confident.

Generally, it is hoped that each participant will compete in at least two of the three local speech tournaments.

II. EXPLANATION OF ONE-ON-ONE GOAL:

St. Monica School Speech Team meetings occur four days of every week. This allows for fewer of the Speech Team participants to attend each practice. The coach trIES for one-on-one time with those participants who want assistance, and our team benefits by sending well-prepared participants to the tournaments.

We have clearly seen that the more adult involvement each participant has, the more the participant will learn. Our program has been designed with the primary goal of giving each Speech Team participant as much personal coaching as possible.

III. COACH

Nancy Baron is the primary Speech Team coach. You should know Ms. Baron as the Reading Specialist at St. Monica Parish School. Ms Baron's classroom is located in the rear corner of the library.

Melissa DeBruyne is the St. Monica Parish School librarian and is an excellent resource for students who wish to use excerpts from the world of literature in their speeches.

IV. TYPES OF SPEECHES:

Your child has a total of eight different speech-types from which to choose. Some of the detailed rules about each speech-type differ from tournament to tournament. The tournament organizers provide Ms. Baron with the rules just prior to the tournament date. Your child should check each tournament's rules regarding their particular speech-type before tournament day. Sample judging forms for each speech-type may be found in "*Appendix A*" to this HANDBOOK.

General descriptions of each speech are listed below:

A. Editorial Commentary (ED-Com):

Editorial Commentary is a short speech in which the student presents and explains his or her position on an issue of current public concern.

The speech is delivered as if to a television camera. The student sits at a desk, holding the written speech much like a real life TV commentator would, and looks from the speech out to a fixed spot ahead as if being recorded by a video camera for television. The speech cannot be shorter than 1 minute and 45 seconds or longer than 2 minutes. (This generally works out to one and a quarter double spaced typed pages.) The tournament rules do not require the speech to be memorized. However, students who have memorized the speech always deliver a better Ed.-Com speech.

B. Oratory:

Oratory is a *memorized* speech in which the student presents a problem and a solution, champions a cause, or eulogizes a person. No visual aids or note cards are allowed. The speech may not be longer than 8 minutes nor shorter than 5 minutes.

C. Expository Speaking (Expos):

Expository speaking is a demonstration or explanation of an object, concept or process. While the tournament rules allow for students to use notes for this speech, we strongly recommend that it be memorized. Visual aids are recommended for this speech type. Students often find that their aids help to prod them on if they lose their place. The speech may not be longer than 8 minutes.

D. Dramatic Interpretive Reading (Dramatic Interp.):

Dramatic interpretative reading is an introduction and reading from a published dramatic story, poem, or play. No props or costumes are allowed. In order to give the most effective delivery, we encourage memorization and only an illusion of reading. The speech should not exceed 8 minutes and should be at least 5 minutes.

E. Humorous Interpretative Reading: (Humorous Interp.):

Humorous interpretative reading is just like dramatic interpretative reading: an introduction and reading from a published humorous story, poem, or play, but it is funny! No props or costumes are allowed. In order to give the most effective delivery, we encourage memorization and only an illusion of reading. The speech should not exceed 8 minutes and should not be less than 5 minutes.

F. Children's Storybook:

Children's Storybook is an event where a student reads from a picture book as if to a child or to a group of children in a library or bookstore. Eighth graders are excluded from participating in this speech type at any of the tournaments. The speech should not exceed 6 minutes and not be less than 5 minutes. (Not every tournament offers this event.)

G. Impromptu:

In Impromptu, the student receives an assigned topic two minutes before speaking. The two minutes are to be used for gathering thoughts and organizing an impromptu speech. The speech must be at least one minute in length and should not exceed five minutes.

H. Duo Interpretative Reading (Duo):

Duo Interpretative Reading is a dramatic or humorous reading done by two students with appropriate character, timing, and voice transitions. Memorization is not required by tournament rules, however, we strongly encourage it. The students must maintain the illusion of reading. This speech may not exceed 8 minutes and should not be less than 6 minutes.

V. SPEECH TEAM PRACTICES:

A. Weekly Meetings:

Ms. Baron will hold four meetings per week, immediately after school on Tuesdays through Fridays. In order to ensure each participant gets the most from each meeting, we hope to have one-fourth of the Speech Team members at each meeting. Your child will be asked to commit to, and then sign up for, one weekday for his or her weekly Speech Team meeting. Once committed, approval will be needed prior to any changes in meeting days on a short or long-term basis.

Very few speech meetings will actually have a classroom format. Once topics are chosen, coaches will begin meeting with students individually and in small groups. Students listen to and give support to each other, often benefiting from suggestions given to others. Although Speech Team is often “fun”, please help us ensure that your child knows this is not intended to be a social hour.

B. Mock Speech Tournament:

We hope to have one “Mock Speech Tournament” on the Saturday before the first real tournament. At this Mock Tournament, your child will be required to deliver his or her speech before St. Monica Parish School parents and/or teachers. This will encourage your child to have their speech prepared and memorized and will enable them to practice delivering it in a tournament-like setting.

VI. SPEECH TOURNAMENTS:

There are three local tournaments for the school year. The first is at Blanchet High School. The second and third are at Seattle Preparatory School and Eastside Catholic High School, respectively.

A. General Description of Tournaments:

Each of the local tournaments has a Junior Division and a Senior Division. In the Junior Division, Sixth graders may compete in one or two speech-types. Seventh graders may compete in one to three speech-types. The Senior Division is limited to Eighth graders. The Eighth graders may compete in up to three speech-types, excluding Children's Storybook.

1. Blanchet High School:

8200 Wallingford Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98103

See "*Appendix B*" for driving directions.

The first tournament of the year is scheduled to occur at Blanchet High School on Saturday, December 11th, 2010. The tournament will start at 8 a.m. and go for the entire day. Usually, this tournament ends at approximately 6 or 7 p.m.

2. Seattle Preparatory High School:

2400 11th Avenue East
Seattle, Washington 98102

See "*Appendix C*" for driving directions.

The second tournament of the year is scheduled to occur at Seattle Preparatory High School on Saturday, January 22nd, 2011. The tournament will start at 8 a.m. and go for the entire day.

3. Eastside Catholic High School:

232 228th Ave. SE
Sammamish, Washington 98074
See “*Appendix D*” for driving directions.

The third and final tournament of the year is scheduled to occur at Eastside Catholic High School on Saturday, February 5th, 2011. The tournament will start at 8 a.m. and go for the entire day.

B. Format:

St. Monica Parish School will be assigned a single table in the lunch room at each tournament. This will be our meeting, eating, drinking, and resting place throughout the day. From this location, students will learn the classroom numbers in which their particular speech-types and groups will compete. Those students who wish to compete without any coach, team-mate, or parent present will be respected. However, most students seem to want a friendly face in their audience, and we make every effort to ensure that happens.

C. Nutrition:

Students should pack a sack lunch and plenty of healthy snacks and fluids to get them through the long and exciting day comfortably. While there are sometimes vending machines close by, they rarely have anything but pop and candy in them and are usually blocked by eager students from other schools who did not bring their lunches.

D. Dress Code:

Students are not allowed to wear anything that reveals which school they attend. Beside that, there are no specific rules set by the tournament organizers.

Dressing should not be flamboyant or revealing. No jeans, sweatshirts, un-tucked or low cut shirts, or loud jewelry should be worn. Conservative pants or skirts, clean and ironed button-down shirts, and/or tasteful but not overly expressive sweaters are welcomed. Think professional dress – as if your child is going on his or her very first job interview! Anything about your child’s dress that will take the judge’s attention away from his or her speech (e.g. flashy earrings, unruly hair, excessive make-up, etc.) will most likely work to his or her detriment.

E. Judging:

The judges at these tournaments are usually teachers, parents, coaches or adult friends of the students participating. (Parents and coaches are not allowed to judge in their own school team’s event.) Most are not experienced. Many times, the judge will review the rules of the tournament for the very first time immediately before the tournament begins. Speeches should be geared appropriately to the judges.

D. Audience:

The audiences in the tournament rooms are usually made up of friends, family, and coaches of the participants. Although quiet professionalism is encouraged, it is not always practiced. An out-of-control cell phone or irritating opponent is not uncommon. Your child should be prepared to handle “unexpected” events like these with poise. Often, judges will reward students who handle these tough situations with grace.

VII. SUPPLIES:

Your child should have a Speech Team notebook. Other supplies that are not required but will be helpful to your child are: (1) a stop watch for timing speech length, and (2) a quiet place and a mirror (full length if possible) to practice speeches. Those students who have access to a computer will have an easier time getting their written product completed. Your child should save every draft of his or her speech so that editing and timing changes can be easily incorporated.

VIII. WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP THEIR CHILD WITH SPEECH TEAM:

A. Assistance With Your Child's Speech:

It's an easy call. Participants who get the most adult practice time do the best in the tournaments. In the beginning, parents can help their children in (1) deciding which speech-type(s) are best for them; (2) choosing a topic or selection that is interesting to them and would be interesting to the adult judges; (3) researching (if necessary) their topic(s); and (4) writing their speeches. *Parents should not do the students' work for them.* Rather, parents should merely help their child with these steps.

After speeches are written and finalized, parents should help their children to memorize. Then, your child will benefit from your involvement in their practice, practice, practice!

B. Snack Sign-Up:

Parents will be asked to sign up to provide snacks for practices. Snacks should be tasty, healthy, and light on sugar (e.g. crackers, fruit, protein bars, etc.).

C. Judging:

The success of the local tournaments depends upon volunteer judges. Since St. Monica School competes, we are asked to supply judges. Judging at a tournament is a great way to learn exactly what your child is facing. We will also be looking for parent volunteers at the Mock Tournaments.

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE JUDGING FORMS

At this time, each of the three host high schools uses their own judging forms; however, they are all fairly similar.

APPENDIX B

Driving Directions From St. Monica Parish School To Blanchet High School:

Head **south** from **87th Ave SE** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn **right** at **SE 44th St** - go **0.2 mi**
Turn **right** at **Island Crest Way** - go **1.2 mi**
Take the **I-90** ramp - go **0.4 mi**
Merge into **I-90 W** - go **4.1 mi**
Take the **I-5 N** exit **2C** to **Vancouver B.C.** - go **0.7 mi**
Bear **right** onto the **James St** ramp - go **0.3 mi**
Bear **left** into the **I-5 N** entry ramp to **Vancouver BC** -
go **5.8 mi**
Take the **N 85th St** exit **172** to **Aurora Ave N** - go **0.3 mi**
Bear **left** at **N 85th St** - go **0.4 mi**
Turn **left** at **Wallingford Ave N** - go **0.1 mi**

Arrive at 8200 Wallingford Ave N
Seattle, WA 98103

APPENDIX C

Driving Directions From St. Monica Parish School To Seattle Preparatory High School

Head **south** from **87th Ave SE** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn **right** at **SE 44th St** - go **0.2 mi**
Turn **right** at **Island Crest Way** - go **1.2 mi**
Take the **I-90** ramp - go **0.4 mi**
Merge into **I-90 W** - go **4.1 mi**
Take the **I-5 N** exit **2C** to **Vancouver B.C.** - go **0.7 mi**
Bear **right** onto the **James St** ramp - go **0.3 mi**
Bear **left** into the **I-5 N** entry ramp to **Vancouver BC** -
go **2.0 mi**
Take the **Lakeview Blvd.** exit **168A** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn **left** at **Lakeview Blvd E** - go **0.1 mi**
Continue on **Harvard Ave E** - go **0.6 mi**
Turn **left** at **11th Ave E** - go **36 ft**

Arrive at 2400 11th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98102

APPENDIX D

Driving Directions From St. Monica Parish School To Eastside Catholic High School:

- 1. Head North on 87th Ave. SE**
- 2. Turn left at SE42nd ST.**
- 3. Turn right at 86th Ave. SE**
- 4. Turn right at SE 40th St./Freeman Ave.**
- 5. Turn left at Gallagher HillRD.**
- 6. Continue on SE 36thSt.**
- 7. Take the ramp onto I-90 E**
- 8. Take exit 15 for WA-900W toward Renton**
- 9. Keep left at the fork to continue toward 17th Ave.
NW/Renton Issaquah Rd SE/WA-900**
- 10. Turn left at 17th Ave. NW/Renton Issaquah Rd
SE/WA-900**
- 11. Slight right at NW Sammamish Rd.**
- 12. Turn left at E Lake Sammamish Plwy SE**
- 13. Turn right at SE 43rd Way**
- 14. Continue on 228th Ave. SE for 2.6 miles**

APPENDIX E

Sample Ed. Com. Speech

APPENDIX G

Sample Expository Speech

APPENDIX H

Sample Impromptu topics

APPENDIX F

Sample Oratory Speech