

BHS Speech 2019

The 2019 Speech season is approaching, and preparations begin NOW. There will be a few noteworthy changes from past years for the season ahead.

It is important for students to understand that Speech is not a “club” activity. It is a highly organized, well-regulated, very competitive activity, sponsored by the MSHSL. Since this is the case, all students should be prepared to compete through the POST-SEASON tournaments. The Sub-Section Meet is in Fergus Falls on Thursday, March 28th, the Section 8AA Meet is in Willmar on Thursday, April 4, and STATE is in Wayzata on April 12-13.

If you are new to Speech, it may not be what you expect. You will NOT be performing on a stage with hundreds in the audience. Most preliminary rounds involve 6 or 7 other competitors and a judge. The great majority of students who participate find that while competition is at a high level, you’ll develop friendships amongst your teammates and competitors that, in many cases, may last your lifetime. It’s exhilarating, challenging, intense, and consistently fun.

Speech offers THIRTEEN competitive categories, with rules and requirements unique to each event. While we balance our approach for team success, students almost always are able to choose their category. Some students are better suited to succeed in INTERP categories, which are performance-oriented, and some are better suited to PUBLIC ADDRESS, which are analysis-oriented. Of course, all have elements of both. They are divided as follows:

Oral Interpretation of Literature (Interp)	Public Address
Creative Expression Drama Duo Extemporaneous Reading Humorous Poetry Prose Storytelling	Discussion Great Speeches Informative Extemporaneous Speaking Original Oratory

Some experienced students may be allowed to “double-enter” at competitions which allow it. This would be in consultation with the coaches to determine the wisdom and potential benefits for the student and team.

IT MUST BE NOTED THAT ALL decisions regarding category choice, material choice, cutting, topic selection, and student duo pairings are ultimately the coaches’ decisions.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held in Room 2203 on Thursday, November 15 and Friday, November 16. If necessary, we will continue tryouts on Monday, the 19th. Tryouts with student interviews will help determine category placement, and potential commitment roadblocks. All students must sign-up for a tryout time at Ms. Hamann's room: 2203. Materials for those unable to make the info meetings will be available there as well. Students will read an interp segment and a P.A. segment for coaches.

Practice

ALL BHS SPEECH MEMBERS MUST ATTEND PRACTICE WITH A COACH ONCE PER WEEK. The penalty for missing a week of practice will be a .5 UNEXCUSED absence, added to your season total absences. Students will sign-up for a practice session with their assigned coach on Google Sheets Monday through Thursday, with Friday as a make-up day. We will inform how short weeks will be handled as they approach. There will be team meetings on Friday as the competitive season approaches.

Schedule (tentative)

We have a full and diverse schedule this season, and students are expected to make a serious commitment to attend and compete. The nature of the activity, and specifically Section 8AA, requires a competitive schedule with maximum judge input and exposure, hence the requirement of a minimum of SIX varsity tournaments attended.

Saturday, January 19 – Grand Rapids Early Bird

Friday-Saturday, January 25-26 — Marshall (possible alternate meet for those not going to Marshall)

Saturday, January 28 – Fergus Falls

Saturday, February 2- Duluth Denfeld

Saturday, February 9– Staples

Friday, February 15 – East Grand Forks

Saturday, February 23 – Bemidji

Saturday, March 2 – Walker

Saturday, March 9 – Eagan (possible alternative meet)

Saturday, March 16 – Blackduck

Saturday, March 23 – Grand Rapids

Thursday, March 28 – Sub-Section at Fergus Falls

Thursday, April 4 – Section at Willmar

Friday-Saturday, April 12-13 – STATE at Wayzata

Minimum requirements are outlined in the TEAM RULES section on the website, but like any other competitive team activity, you are expected to attend each event, and should plan accordingly. Up to 3 EXCUSED absences are allowed, with no practice misses. The 2nd unexcused absence will result in

removal from roster, including .5 practice penalties. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OFF SCRIPT BY NO ,LATER THAN FEB. 15!

JV Schedule (9th graders only, varsity judges)

Monday, February 4 - Blackduck

Tuesday, February 12 – Cass Lake

Tuesday, February 19 – Pequot Lakes

Tuesday, February 26 – Park Rapids

Tuesday, March 5– Walker

Lettering

Students who compete at a minimum of SIX varsity events, plus the Section Tournament, and maintain a regular practice schedule while following team rules are eligible for lettering.

National Speech and Debate Association

All BHS Speech students acquire points for competition toward membership in the NSDA, which allows for additional opportunities for you, including national tournament qualifying.

Captains this season will be selected in January. Head coach is Mr. Tom Lucas – lucast01@paulbunyan.net, or tlucas@isd31.net. Home phone is 218-755-9866, and cell 218-308-1866. Assistant Coaches are Ms. Anna Hamann – anna_hamann@isd31.net, Home phone 218-243-2359, and cell 218-760-4929, Ms. Holly Nelson at literacyabc@gmail.com, or 218-340-0340, Ms. Larissa Donovan at larissa.donovan@outlook.com and 218-407-4266.

WELCOME TO THE 2017 BEMIDJI SPEECH FAMILY!

TO SIGN UP FOR “REMIND” UPDATES, text @2019bhss to 81010.