

METRO's 1st ANNUAL
"Snow Place Like the Internet"
VIRTUAL VARSITY TOURNAMENT 2022

Hosted by
Metro Academic and Classical High School Speech & Debate Team
4015 McPherson Ave. Saint Louis, MO 63108

November 15, 2021

Metro Academic and Classical High School would like to invite you to attend our first annual **Virtual Varsity Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament** on the 12th-15th of January. We will be using Speechwire and Zoom to host rounds. This tournament will be run as a round robin.

We shall offer competition in the following events: Original Oratory, Radio Speaking, Humorous Interp, Dramatic Interp, Storytelling, Informative, Duo, POI, Lincoln-Douglas Debate (5 rounds), Policy Debate (5 rounds), and Public Forum Debate (5 rounds). We will be enforcing a cap of FIVE entries per event given the virtual format.

Also, please note the judging obligations for each school, noted below. Please fill out our **ONLINE JUDGING FORM** for ALL of your school judges.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. My cell phone number is 314-570-7875. You may send tournament-related emails to me at Laura.Trieschmann@slps.org. E-mail is the best method of communication and shall be answered within 24 hours or less.

Entries shall be accepted until Friday, 7th January 2022. We would appreciate your confirmed entry no later than Monday, 10 January 2022 - drops after this time forfeit the entry fee. Drops on the day of the tournament will result in a deduction of five sweepstakes points per entry.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Cara Borgsmiller and the Parkway West Speech and Debate team for putting together the norms, policies, and procedures the Saint Louis area is using for virtual tournaments. As always, we are incredibly grateful for Cara's leadership and service to this activity and our district.

We look forward to welcoming you for a weekend of exciting virtual competition!

Thank you,

Laura Trieschmann
Head Coach

Clarisse Aasgaard, Evey Ohs, Zukai Sagan, Helen Schiller, and Thalia Vincent
Metro Speech and Debate Board

Events Offered

We reserve the right to collapse divisions and/or events if numbers are low. Each school may enter up to but no more than FIVE students in each division. Charge is \$8/entry for speech & \$10/per team for debate.

Events

Original Oratory
Radio Speaking
Informative
Storytelling
Humorous Interp
Dramatic Interp
Duo Interp
POI

Debate

Lincoln-Douglas Debate
Policy Debate
Public Forum Debate
Congress

Tournament Schedule

January 12th - 15th, 2021

ALL competitors should arrive 15 minutes before start time so we can check rooms.

Wednesday -Friday

All Events Rounds Judged asynchronously
4pm Wednesday, January 12th - Asynchronous Rounds pushed to Judges
12pm Friday, January 14th - Asynchronous Rounds judging due

Saturday

Registration-7am
Debate Round 1 - 8am
Debate Round 2 - 10am
Debate Round 3 - 12pm
LUNCH BREAK -- 1pm
Debate Round 4 - 1:30pm
Debate Round 5 - 3:00pm
Live Awards via Zoom - 5:00-5:15pm

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by Thursday, Jan. 7th @ 4pm. <i>No schools may enter after this time.</i>	Changes due by Monday, Jan. 10th @ 4pm. <i>Any drops after this time cannot be filled and will be charged an entry fee.</i>

Asynchronous Speech Recordings

Links must be submitted via Speechwire by Wednesday, Jan. 12th @ 12pm
Any entries not uploaded will be considered a drop and will forfeit the entry fee.

Judge Submissions

All obligated judging assignments must be entered on [THIS FORM](#)
by Monday, Jan. 11th @ 4pm.
Any obligation not met will result in the dropping of entries.

Judging Requirements and Expectations

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals. Schools will be expected to withdraw entries to meet expectations if necessary. Since this is our 1st tournament, we are opening this up to five entries per event, and we are a small school, we are asking you to help provide a few more judges than other, larger tournaments. Judge obligations are:

- 1 judge for every 8 event entries
- 1 judge for every 4 debate entries

Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible
- All judges must have access to the internet to able to judge

All judges, including coaches and current students, should sign up [HERE](#).

Judge Expectations:

- All judging assignments will be posted in Speechwire. Accounts will be connected by the host.
- Please sign up knowing you should arrive in your “room” 15 minutes prior to start time. Any rounds you sign up to judge will likely be assigned to you. Do not sign up for a time you cannot make.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor’s performance in the round - not on their clothing, competition space, etc. Please remember you are a “virtual guest” in their homes.

General Virtual Rules

● **ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT.**

- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their virtual rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- All students should enter the room MUTED in case of other's speaking.
- Every effort should be made to keep your camera turned on during debate rounds (including the judge). The exception will be if it is necessary to improve connectivity.
- A student may enter up to two events.
- Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Congress, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.
- Any student more than fifteen minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament).
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the [MSHSAA rules](#) regarding this issue. Please note that **ALL MSHSAA** guidelines in this document will be followed.
- If internet connections drop out mid performance, judges or contestants should inform the tournament staff. We will wait up to 10 minutes for contact to be made. Contestants may pick up where they left off to complete their performance. They should not be penalized. If the contestant or judge is unreachable after 10 minutes, they will forfeit/take last and/or the judge will be replaced and previous contestants will need to perform again.

Debate Rules

Event Specific Rules

- All debate rounds will be done synchronously.
- On Saturday, all 5 debate rounds will take place on Zoom via Speechwire. Zoom links will be posted in student accounts at live.speechwire.com.
- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- Awards will be determined by:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Head to head
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions' opposition record
 - Total speaker points if needed
- All debates will have extended prep time while virtual per MSHSAA guidelines.
 - Policy: 8 minutes per side
 - Lincoln Douglas: 5 minutes per side
 - Public Forum: 4 minutes per side

Policy Debate — (8-3-5 time limits): Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: ***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.*** NSDA rules will be followed. 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. The top eight teams will be recognized at awards. No mavericks. Novices cannot use Counter Plans or Kritiks. They must use a case from the following novice case areas: Wetlands, Agricultural Runoff, Lead, Fracking.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate – (6-3-7-3-4-6-3 time limits): Individuals will debate the January/February NSDA/MSHSAA topic to be released on December 1st. NSDA rules will be followed. 5 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. The top eight debaters will be recognized at awards. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the varsity topic.

Public Forum Debate – (4-3-4-3-2-3-2 time limits) Two-person teams will debate the January/February NSDA/MSHSAA topic to be released on December 1st. The NSDA rules will be followed EXCEPT for speech times. 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. The judge must flip the coin. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) OR the speaker position (first or last). The coin toss loser has the other choice. The top eight teams will be recognized at awards.

Individual Events Rules

- All preliminary event rounds will be done asynchronously via Speechwire. Balloting will take place between Wednesday evening and 12pm on Friday.
 - Judges should take note of the time on each performance. Individuals that speak more than 30 seconds beyond the allotted time should rank them down one rank. Otherwise, you may consider time in all rankings or not.
 - Videos must be done in one take. Edited videos will be disqualified. **Videos must be recorded in a format that any judge can open.** We realize many schools do not allow certain platforms. Just make sure that whatever link is submitted is public. If you have concerns about this, please contact the host.
 - **We will NOT be contacting coaches to share videos with individual judges. Judges will be instructed to rank those competitors last in the room and give them lower speaker points.**
 - The top 6 in all events will place.

Original Oratory – An original persuasive speech is written by the contestant, containing no more than 150 words of quoted material. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. NSDA rules will be used. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking – An original informative speech is written by the contestant and must be memorized. Students present information which the student believes important for the audience. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. NSDA rules will be used, thus visual aids are allowed. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation—Memorized selections from published material of literary merit are presented. Movement below the waist should be limited. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI) – Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from at least two of the following: prose, poetry, and/or drama. A manuscript must be used and the pieces must be properly introduced. NSDA rules will be used. Time limit – 10 minutes

Radio Speaking -- The contestant is to present a five (5) minute broadcast of international, national, and local news. The broadcast must include a sports update, a weather update, and a thirty-second (30 second) original commercial (sponsor), which will advertise a product/service. Students should make sure that they are NOT in the radio recording. IF that is not possible, ONLY the back of the student should be present. Time infractions will be weighted heavily. Time Limit-5 minutes

Storytelling -- Contestants will prepare a story geared for an audience of five (5) to ten (10) year old children. Contestants will present their stories from a seated position. No notes may be used. Time limit-Eight (8) minutes

Duo -- Two students shall adequately introduce their selection and then portray one or more characters in a scene from published and copyrighted material, emphasizing off-stage focus, no direct or intentional interaction between performers. Roles should be completely memorized and there should be no props or costumes used. Time limit: 10 minutes, including introductions.

Awards & Sweepstakes Rules

A livestream ceremony will be presented. We will recognize the TOP SIX competitors in each event as well as the top EIGHT teams in debate. In terms of team awards, we will recognize the top 5 teams. Each school's BEST TWO ENTRIES in each event/division will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards. We will keep track of trophies & awards earned and will designate a time later to distribute to coaches.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top two entries from each school as follows:

Any Entry.....	one point
Event Finals.....	ten points
Event Third Place.....	five points
Event Second Place.....	ten points
Event First Place.....	fifteen points
Debate Win	five points

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to login to Speechwire.com to accept the tournament invitation.
2. You will register your team as usual. You will also need to register each student's account.
 - a. Log into Speechwire and click the team roster.
 - b. For students already listed on your roster, click the student you want to send an activation email to. Use the email field to add their email address, and when that is saved, the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - c. For students not listed on your roster, use the fields at the top of the page to add students. If an email address is included, then the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - d. Make sure that students can access their account BEFORE the tournament.

3. You will NOT input judges into Speechwire. Please sign up [HERE](#). The tournament host will create these accounts.
4. You will need to upload your links for events.
 - a. You must use a recording platform that is easily opened by judges & is public to anyone with the link, such as YouTube or Loom. If this does not work for you, please contact the tournament host.
 - b. Please ensure the link is PUBLIC.
5. All balloting will be done via Speechwire.

Virtual Suggestions

1. All teams should have their own Zoom room. Check in with your students here between rounds. Consider requiring them to meet here to “ride the bus” to the event and “ride the bus” home so you can make sure they are present and debrief. If a coach is not judging they must remain in their team room so the tournament can find them.
2. Team GroupMe for quick communication with coaches if there’s an issue finding a room, a judge is missing, etc.
3. Set up a method of communication with debate partners. You may want to be on a call on a phone separate from the video call. Make sure each is muted at appropriate times.
4. Maximize your internet by removing as many connected devices as possible and closing out as many programs on your call device as you can.
5. Familiarize yourself with the video conferencing software. Look for shortcuts and hotkeys. Use gallery mode to see all participants.
6. Do several practice recordings and/or zoom performances for events and practice rounds for debate a. Have someone else watch and give you feedback on the recording or be present on zoom calls to test connections.
 - a. Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
 - b. Everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder than you think it does
 - c. Look into using an external microphone to improve sound. Listen back to recordings to s-ee how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
 - d. Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
 - e. Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.