



ROCKHURST

HIGH SCHOOL

October 8, 2025

Dear Coach or Sponsor,

The **Rockhurst High School Speech & Debate Team** proudly invites you and your students to the **11th Annual Don Ramsey Invitational** on **Friday, November 14** and **Saturday, November 15**.

Our tournament honors **Mr. Don Ramsey** who taught and coached at Rockhurst High School from 1975 to 2014. During his four decade tenure, Mr. Ramsey mentored **67 national qualifiers** and **17 state champions**.

This will be a **Varsity Tournament**, welcoming you to send two entries in each event. Additional entries will be determined on room availability. This year, we will offer the following debate events: **Lincoln-Douglas Debate**, **Policy Debate**, and **Public Forum Debate**. In addition, we will host the following speech events: **Student Congress**, **Original Oratory**, **Informative Speaking**, **International Extemporaneous Speaking**, **United States Extemporaneous Speaking**, **Dramatic Interpretation**, **Humorous Interpretation**, **Duo Interpretation**, **Program Oral Interpretation**, **Storytelling**, and **LIVE Radio Speaking**.

We are also excited to announce that we are a designated **NIETOC bid tournament** for the **National Individual Events Tournament of Champions** held May 8-10, 2026, at Shakopee High School in Shakopee, MN.

Our tournament will award trophies to *all* speech finalists and *all* debate out-round participants. We will also present the **Overall Team Sweepstakes Awards**, the **Quality Team Award**, and the **Individual Sweepstakes Award**.

Please [submit your entries to SpeechWire](#) by **Thursday, November 6 at 3:00 PM**.

We look forward to seeing you at *the Rock!*

Sincerely,

Mr. Phil Helt
Speech & Debate Coach
Cell: (816) 686-9392

Andrew Hayes
Team Captain

Eli Short
Team Captain



Rockhurst High School Speech & Debate
Don Ramsey Invitational
November 14 - 15, 2025

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, November 14

- 3:00 - 3:30 PM Registration
- 3:30 PM Extemp Draw for Round I
- 4:00 PM Round I of Speech Events and Student Congress
- 5:00 PM Extemp Draw for Round II
- 5:30 PM Round II of Speech Events and Student Congress
- 7:00 PM Round I of Debate
- 8:30 PM Round II of Debate

Saturday, November 15

- 8:00 AM Extemp Draw for Semifinals
- 8:30 AM Semifinals of Speech Events and Student Congress Super Session I
- 10:00 AM Round III of Debate
- 11:30 PM Round IV of Debate
- 1:00 PM Extemp Draw for Finals
- 1:30 PM Finals of Speech Events and Student Congress Super Session II
- 3:00 PM Quarterfinals of Debate
- 5:00 PM Awards Assembly
- ASAP Semifinals of Debate
- ASAP Finals of Debate



Rockhurst High School Speech & Debate

Don Ramsey Invitational

November 14 - 15, 2025

TOURNAMENT RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Students may enter two (2) individual events and one (1) debate event.
2. Students may not double-enter in debate events.
3. Students may not enter both divisions of Extemporaneous Speaking.
4. Students may not double-enter in Student Congress and any other speech event.
5. Students may not be triple-entered in any individual events.
6. **All entries are \$8 each.**
7. At least one adult sponsor must be on campus with your team at all times.
8. The **Student Gathering Area** will be the **Performance Gymnasium** (1st Floor).
9. **Judge and Coach Hospitality** will be in the **McGee Hall** (2nd Floor).
10. **Judge Check-In and Ballot Table** will again be on the bridge to the **McGee Hall** (2nd Floor).
11. **Tab Room** will be located in the **Learning Commons** (2nd Floor), and will be open to coaches and sponsors.
12. **Extemp Draw** will be held in the **Dining Commons** (2nd Floor).
13. The South Restroom on the 2nd Floor will be converted into a Women's Restroom. There is also a Women's Restroom in the Barry Commons (1st Floor) and in the McGee Hall (2nd Floor).
14. NO food or drink in the classrooms, please.
15. A qualified judge must be available both days. This can be the coach or sponsor.
16. Coaches may be asked to serve as Parliamentarians in each round of Student Congress.
17. Fees are due for any cancellations or additions made after confirmation.
18. **NO school team should arrive before 3:00 PM on Friday.**
19. Trophies will be awarded to the top eight entries in Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum Debates. All speech finalists will receive a trophy.
20. Sweepstakes trophies will be awarded to the top three overall schools. The overall sweepstakes champion will be presented the **Don Ramsey Traveling Sweepstakes Trophy**. Sweepstakes will be determined using the following criteria:
 - 10 points per quarterfinalist debate entry
 - 15 points per semifinalist debate entry
 - 5 points per semifinalist speech entry
 - 5 points per finalist speech entry
 - 5 points for 3rd place speech entry
 - 10 points for 2nd place speech entry
 - 15 points for 1st place speech entry
21. An **Individual Sweepstakes Trophy** will be awarded to the student who earns the most sweepstakes points for their team. The **Quality Team Award** will be presented to the school that earns the highest average of sweepstakes points per entry at the tournament.
22. MSHSAA rules will be followed at all times. If MSHSAA has no rule, NSDA rules will be considered.
23. **Interpretation selections should possess literary merit and be appropriate for a high school performance.**
24. **Debaters more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit, unless it is the fault of the tournament.**
25. No "maverick" or one person teams will be allowed in Policy Debate or Public Forum Debate. Team personnel must remain constant throughout the tournament in order to place.
26. **WiFi will be made available to all coaches and competitors.**

EVENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

1. The resolution will be the current NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic, **“Resolved: The United States ought to rewild substantial tracts of land.”**
2. Time limits will be: 6-3-7-3-4-6-3. Each debater will be allowed **4 minutes prep time**.
3. Debaters are allowed laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA rules. **WiFi will be made available.**

POLICY DEBATE

1. The resolution will be the NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic, **“Resolved: The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.”**
2. Time limits will be 8-3-5. Each team will be allowed **8 minutes of prep time**.
3. Debaters are allowed laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA rules. **WiFi will be made available.**

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1. The resolution will be the current NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic, **“Resolved: The United States federal government should require technology companies to provide lawful access to encrypted communications.”**
2. Time limits will be: 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2-2. Each team will be allowed **3 minutes of prep time**.
3. Sides will be determined by the flip of a coin at the start of the round.
4. Debaters are allowed laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA rules. **WiFi will be made available.**

Debate Events: Ties will be broken by looking at win-loss, opposition loss, opposition record, and cumulative speaker points/ ranks.

STUDENT CONGRESS

1. We will use the [**October 2025 NSDA Congressional Debate Legislation Packet**](#). The preset order for debate will be as follows:
 - a. Round 1: **Legislation #5, #2, #6**
 - b. Round 2: **Legislation #4, #7, #3**
 - c. Super Session 1: **Legislation #9, #1**
 - d. Super Session 2: **Legislation #10, #8**
2. Presiding officers will be elected by simple majority after a five minute trial period each session.
3. Top students will be ranked 1-8 by the judge, with the rest of the chamber receiving a rank of 9.
4. Laptops will be allowed in Congress. **WiFi will be made available to all Congressional competitors.**

ORIGINAL ORATORY

1. This persuasive speech must be the original work of the contestant. The speech must be memorized.
2. No more than 150 words may be in the form of a direct quotation.
3. Students may not repeat an oratory they used in any previous year of competition.
4. Speech Time Limit: 10 minutes maximum.

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

1. This informative speech must be the original work of the contestant. The speech must be memorized.
2. No more than 150 words may be in the form of a direct quotation.
3. Visual aids may or may not be used. Visual aids must follow NSDA guidelines.
4. Speech Time Limit: 10 minutes maximum.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING (United States *and* International)

1. Topics will be taken from current events.
2. Contestants will draw three questions, select one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech. Drawing will be conducted at seven minute intervals. No consultation is allowed during prep time.
3. Laptops will be allowed in the Prep Room. **NSDA rules for evidence retrieval will be used. WiFi will be made available to all extemporaneous competitors.**
4. Students are NOT allowed the use of notes when speaking.
5. Speech Time Limit: 7 minutes maximum.

HUMOROUS *and* DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

1. Selections must be taken from published works (play, novel, or short story). MSHSAA guidelines will apply. No make-up, props, or costumes.
2. The performance, including introduction, must be memorized.
3. Performance Time Limit: 10 minutes maximum.

DUO INTERPRETATION

1. Selections must be taken from published works (play, novel, or short story). MSHSAA guidelines will apply. No make-up, props, or costumes.
2. The performance, including introduction, must be memorized.
3. Performance Time Limit: 10 minutes maximum.

PROGRAM ORAL INTERPRETATION

1. Programs should consist of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). NSDA guidelines will apply. No make-up, props, or costumes.
2. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. The performance should include an introduction.
3. Performance Time Limit: 10 minutes maximum.

STORYTELLING

1. Selection must be taken from a published and copyrighted story, originally for children. MSHSAA guidelines will apply. The contestant shall narrate the story in a combination of their own words and original essential phrases. No make-up, props, or costumes.
2. The performance will be from a seated position on a chair or stool. Student will prepare an introduction to the selection, which may be given in a standing or seated position.
3. Performance Time Limit: 8 minutes maximum.

RADIO SPEAKING

1. Prepared script must contain news, weather, and sports. **Script can be no more than 24 hours old as of the tournament's first round.**
2. Performance should feature no commercials. Students will not portray multiple characters.
3. Each presentation shall be read without the use of a microphone. The judge shall turn their back to the speaker while hearing the presentation.
4. Performance Time Limit: 5 minutes maximum.

Speech Events: Ties will be broken by looking at cumulative ranks, judge's preference, reciprocals, and speaker points.