Clayton Fall Classic

November 20 & 21, 2026

Dear Coaches,

The Clayton Speech and Debate Team is pleased to invite your team to “Game Night” at the Clayton Fall Classic on the weekend of November 20 & 21, 2026. **We are pleased to again host a novice level tournament at Wydown Middle School, with the varsity tournament taking place at Clayton High School.** (Special thanks to Lou Kraxberger from Hickman High School, who has graciously agreed to be the Speechwire-master at Wydown for us!) **Please read this invitation *carefully* for all of the pertinent details**. Pay close attention to the schedule and locations for each round. All teams are welcome to enter up to **THREE** per event. Additional entries will be granted depending on our judging and building availability. You may add to the waitlist and these will be released as space allows. However, you **must** associate an entry with a name to claim those spots in the waitlist line.

While we hope and plan to provide a sufficient number of judges from the Clayton community, we may need to supplement with judges from your schools. We ask that local schools note the judging obligations for each school later in the invitation. Fill out our ONLINE JUDGING FORM for ANY of your school judges, including coaches. We will try our best to avoid placing coaches/assistant coaches in rounds, but it may become necessary at times in order to keep the tournament moving.

Please register through Speechwire by **Monday, November 9 at 4 pm**. *No additional entries will be accepted after this time*. Adjustments can be made to existing entries after this date only if room allows. Drops can be made without penalty by **Wednesday, November 18 at 4 pm**.

We hope to see you in November!

Your hosts,

Kim Zustiak
Speech & Debate Director
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Chris Holmes
Assistant Coach

LaMont Hammonds
Assistant Coach

Luciano Perman, Nina Satorius, Henry Dong, Olivia Lin, Izzy DiPersio and Emilio Lowder
Clayton High School Speech & Debate Executive Board Members

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 THREE in each division and FOUR in Congress.
Waitlist will be implemented on a first come, first serve basis. Charge is $8/entry.

Varsity Tournament @ Clayton H.S.	**Novice Tournament @ Wydown**
Congress US Extemporaneous Speaking International Extemporaneous Speaking Humorous Interpretation Dramatic Interpretation Duo Interpretation POI Informative Speaking Original Oratory Storytelling Radio Speaking Champion Policy Champion Lincoln Douglas Champion Public Forum Varsity Policy Varsity Lincoln Douglas Varsity Public Forum	Combined Extemporaneous Speaking Combined Interpretation (HI/DI) Duo Interpretation Combined Prose/Poetry Reading Informative Speaking Original Oratory Radio Speaking Congress Novice Policy Novice Lincoln Douglas Novice Public Forum

Schedule

All should plan to arrive at their assigned room 15 minutes before the start time so we can check rooms.

Varsity Tournament @ Clayton H.S.	**Novice Tournament @ Wydown**
Friday, November 20, 2026 3:00 pm Check-in 4:00 pm Debate Round 1 5:30 pm Extemp Draw 1 6:00 pm Events, Congress Round 1 7:30 pm Debate Round 2 **Saturday, November 21, 2026** 7:00 am Check-in 7:30 am Extemp Draw Round 2 8:00 am Events, Congress Round 2, 9:30 am Debate Round 3 11:00 am Extemp Draw Round 3 11:30 am Events Round 3, Congress Supersession Round 1* 1:00 pm Debate Round 4 2:30 pm Extemp Draw Finals 3:00 pm Event Finals, Congress Supersession Round 2 4:30 pm Policy Semifinals, PF & LD Quarterfinals 6:00 pm Awards (at CHS) ASAP All Policy Finals, Varsity PF/LD Semi-Finals Novice PF/LD Finals ASAP Varsity PF/LD Finals	**Friday, November 20, 2026** 4:00 pm Check-in 4:15 pm Debate Round 1 5:45 pm Extemp Draw 1 6:15 pm Events, Congress Round 1 7:45 pm Debate Round 2 **Saturday, November 21, 2026** 7:00 am Check-in 7:30 am Extemp Draw Round 2 8:00 am Events, Congress Round 2, 9:30 am Debate Round 3 11:00 am Debate Round 4 12:30 pm Extemp Draw Finals 1:00 pm Event Finals 3:00 pm Policy Semifinals, PF & LD Quarterfinals 4:30 pm PF & LD Semi-finals ***At this time, the novice tournament will move to Clayton High School for awards and out-rounds of debate.*** 6:00 pm Awards ASAP All Policy Finals, Varsity PF/LD Semi-Finals Novice PF/LD Finals ASAP Varsity PF/LD Finals

*Scheduling Notes:

- *This year, we are holding 3 rounds of competition in all speech and interp events in the varsity tournament. We reserved the right to change the 3rd round to a semi-final round in events with entry numbers over 30 if our judge pool allows.*
- *Congress will run in 2 sessions, with an extended supersession that will occur in rounds 3 and during the final round.*
- *Debate: Rounds 1 & 2 will be randomly set. Rounds 3 & 4 will be High-Low power matched, based off of the previously tabbed rounds.*

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by **Monday, Nov. 9 @ 4 pm** *No Schools may enter after this time.* *(You can include named waitlist entries, and we will accommodate as space allows.)*	Drops / changes are due in Speechwire by **Wednesday, Nov. 18 @ 4 pm** *Any drops after this time will be charged an entry fee.*

Judge Submissions
All obligated judging assignments must be entered on THIS FORM by Monday, Nov. 16 @ 4 pm *Any obligation not met could result in the dropping of entries.*

Judging Requirements and Expectations

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals at each tournament site. Schools will be expected to withdraw entries to meet expectations if necessary. Judge obligations are:

- 1 judge for every 12 event entries at each tournament site
- 1 judge for every 6 debate entries at each tournament site

Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible. Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach will be considered on STANDBY for ALL rounds. It will help us if you tell us who that is and when.
- Any alumni are eligible to judge.
    - Please note that all balloting will be done on paper, rather than electronically.

All judges (including coaches) should sign up HERE.
Coaches should fill out this form to let us know who will be supervising their team throughout the tournament, as well as which location they will be at. (We will do our best to avoid using coaches to judge.)

Judge Expectations:

- 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 it.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor's performance in the round - not on their clothing/attire, if they are masked, etc.
- For more information please see our Judge training recommendations. Please note this site will be updated as we draw closer to our tournament dates.

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to log in 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 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.

General Rules

- ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH (PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS) PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT as well as the number of judges required by the entry. **If you have students at both CHS and Wydown, you must have a supervising coach at BOTH locations at all times.**
- All attendees are expected to adhere to school rules (ie. no smoking, etc.) and be respectful of the space.
- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- A student may enter up to two events OR student congress.
- Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.
- Extempers may not enter more than one division: International or US
- Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned
- In Extemp, speaking order will take precedence for those double-entered. Extemp speeches will be given FIRST.
- Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament). DOUBLE-ENTERED STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BOTH PERFORMANCES IN THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH ROUND. Double-entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of the round.
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the MSHSAA rules regarding this issue. While the internet will be attempted, reliable access is not guaranteed. Students should prepare accordingly. There will be no access to printers on site.
- All rounds will allow for spectators. All individuals in the room are expected to adhere to community health norms and reasonable requests. If these cannot be followed, the tournament reserves the right to remove spectator access.
- We will follow all MSHSAA rules and use the MSHSAA ballots for MSHSAA events. For POI and Congress, we will follow NSDA rules and use NSDA ballots.

Community Health Considerations

- Any attendee can choose to mask however it will not be required. This includes during performances. No judge can rank someone down for the use of a mask.
- Please practice universal precautions such as hand washing.
- Any refusal to adhere to guest requests or universal precautions will result in removal from the premises.

Event Specific Rules

DEBATE RULES:

- We will default to MSHSAA Rules for all MSHSAA Events.
- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- Advancing 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

- Per MSHSAA guidelines, debate prep time is as follows.
    - Policy: 8 minutes per side
    - Lincoln Douglas: 4 minutes per side
    - Public Forum: 3 minutes per side
    - Students who attempt to "steal prep time" can and should be redirected. Judges have the discretion to keep the round moving.

Policy Debate—Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: ***Resolved: The United States federal government should establish national health insurance in the United States.*** 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. No mavericks.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate—Individuals will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic: ***Resolved: De-extinction is unethical.*** 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the Nov/Dec topic.

Public Forum Debate—Two-person teams will debate the November/December NSDA/MSHSAA topic: ***Resolved: European members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*** 3 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. 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.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES:

- We will default to MSHSAA Rules for all MSHSAA Events. Non-MSHSAA events will use NSDA rules.
- Advancing 6 to finals will be determined by:
    - lowest total cumulative ranks
    - Reciprocals from the round
    - Total speaker ratings from the round
- Final placings will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
    - Judges' preference (2 way ties)
    - Reciprocals from the round
    - Total speaker ranking from the round

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. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking— An original informative speech is written by the contestant. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are allowed. Please read the RULES Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Extemporaneous Speaking—

- Contestants must report to draw 15 minutes before draw is scheduled to begin (if possible). Students will be shown three topics and will tell the draw chair what they select. They will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech. They must remain in the draw room for prep. They will be dismissed.
- Speech time limit—7 minutes maximum, no minimum.
- Please note the shift in draw time compared to other tournaments.

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.

Duo Interpretation—A memorized selection of any published source of literary merit is performed by two students. Performers may stand in any arrangement suitable. Offstage focus should be used. 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

Storytelling – Students narrate a published story originally intended of children using a combination of their own words and original essential phrases. The story will be presented using bodily movement and characterization. The contestant must keep her/his derriere in contact with the seat of the chair or stool, throughout the entire performance, using the stationary chair or stool provided by the tournament host/site. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit–8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Radio Speaking – Students prepare and present a script with international, national and local news, weather and sports. Copy should be no more than 24 hours old as of the tournament's first round. There should be NO commercials and students are not to portray multiple characters. Electronic devices are permitted for reading copy and/or as timing devices so long as they are on silent. Judges should not face presenters. Time limit – 5 minutes. (Presenters should aim for this precise time.)

Congress—We will be running an NSDA-style Congressional Debate. There will be three preliminary sessions in which judges will rank their top 8 competitors after scoring the complete session. There will be one super session with 12 – 15 students. Depending on the number of entries, we will advance between the top 2 – 5 students in each chamber if they receive the lowest cumulative rank across the three sessions.

- Advancing to supersession will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative ranks within chambers
    - Total preliminary reciprocals
    - Total preliminary speech scores
- Final placings will be determined by:
    - Lowest total cumulative ranks within the chamber
    - Judges' preference
    - Final round reciprocals
    - Speech score totals in finals
    - Speech score totals from preliminary rounds
- For legislation, we will use the Eastern Missouri docket. (We will limit legislation–please check the uploaded files in Speechwire for specific information.) Chambers will default to AUTHORSHIP speeches but will allow SPONSORSHIP speeches if there is no authoring school in the room.

Awards and Sweepstakes

We will recognize the top-six competitors in each event as well as quarter-finalists/semi-finalists in debate. We will recognize the top 5 teams in sweeps.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top entries as follows:

Any entry……1 point
Event Semifinals…… 5 points
Event Finals……10 points
Event Third Place…….....5 points
Event Second Place……..10 points
Event First Place…… 15 points
Advancing to Debate Outrounds……..15 points