You are cordially invited to the 2026
Park Hill South High School
Varsity Speech and Debate Tournament
THE CATRICK MAHOMES INVITATIONAL 

Park Hill South High School
Speech and Debate

4500 River Park Drive

Riverside, MO 64150

Dear Coach or Sponsor,

On behalf of Park Hill South Speech and Debate, we cordially invite you and your students to compete in the 26th annual Park Hill South Speech and Debate Tournament at Park Hill South High School on November 20th and 21st, 2026.

Park Hill South High School will host the varsity division of the tournament this year, offering the following debate events: Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate. In addition, we will host the following speech events: United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Storytelling, and Student Congress. For the varsity division tournament, hosted at North Kansas City High School, contact Amanda Dolinger.

Please reserve your entries on speechwire by Wednesday, November 11th by 3:00pm. In addition, please review the following important information for our 2026 tournament.

We will guarantee two entries per event and the rest will go on a waitlist. We foresee taking all entries and as we proceed will try to take entries off the waitlist as quickly as possible. We just want to make sure we have the staff and judging to accommodate. Please email or call with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hannah Newton - Head Coach of Park Hill South Speech and Debate

townsendH@parkhill.k12.mo.us // (660) 254-4002

Mrs. Laura Luty - Assistant Coach of Park Hill South Speech and Debate

lutyL@parkhill.k12.mo.us

1. Entry fees will be $8 per entry. Schools are financially responsible for entries upon confirmation.

2. Students may enter two individual events and one debate event. Students may not double enter in debate events. Students may not enter both divisions of extemp. Students may not be triple entered in any individual events.

3. One coach needs to be available throughout the tournament.
4. **Please provide at least one individual who can judge throughout the tournament.**

5. WiFi information will be provided to you and your students the week of the tournament.

6. IE tiebreakers will be:
    - Total Cumulative Ranks
    - Judge's Preference
    - Reciprocals
    - Speakers

7. Debate tiebreakers will be
    - Total W/L
    - Opp Loss
    - Opp Record
    - Ranks/Speaks

8. Overall Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top three schools

9. Sweepstakes will be determined using the following criteria:
    - 5 points per win for the best two debate entries per event
    - 10 points per quarter finals debate entry
    - 10 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

10. MSHSAA rules will always be followed. If MSHSAA has no rule, NSDA rules will be followed.

General Tournament Information

- **Arrive between 2-2:30PM. DO NOT arrive before 2PM or after 2:30PM. Our dismissal traffic will hinder you from entering after 2:30PM. (If you have any concerns about this, please reach out to me.)**
- **We will keep you in the commons until after dismissal. More information to come!**
- **Concessions will be available to students.**
- **Hospitality will be available to judges and coaches.**
- **Please have students sit in the commons/lunch area between rounds.**
- **Tab will be located in the library.**
- **Registration will be located in the library.**
- **Extemp draw will be located in the auditorium.**

Schedule

Friday, November 21st, 2024
2:30PM: Arrival/Registration

3:30PM: Extemp Draw Round 1
4:00PM: Round 1 of Speech

5:15PM: Extemp Draw Round 2
5:45PM: Round 2 of Speech

7:00PM: Round 1 of Debate
8:30PM: Round 2 of Debate

Saturday, November 22nd, 2024
7:30AM: Extemp Draw Semifinals
8:00AM: Semifinals Speech

9:30AM: Round 3 of Debate
11:00AM: Round 4 of Debate

12:30PM: Extemp Draw for Finals
1:00PM: Finals Speech

2:30PM: Quarterfinals of Debate

ASAP Awards

ASAP Semifinals Debate
ASAP Finals of Debate

Debate Event Rules

Policy Debate

The resolution will be the NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic for the 2025-2026 season.

- Time limits will be 8-3-5. Each team will be allowed a total of 8 minutes of prep time.
- Ties will be broken by looking at win-loss, opposition loss, opposition record, and cumulative speaker points.
- No maverick teams. Team personnel must remain constant throughout the tournament.
- A team more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit unless it is the fault of the tournament.
- Debaters are allowed to use laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA guidelines.

Lincoln Douglas Debate

The resolution will be the current NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic for **NOVEMBER.**

- Time limits for Lincoln Douglas debate will be: 6-3-7-3-4-6-3.
- Each debater will be allowed a total of 4 minutes of prep time.
- Ties will be broken by looking at win-loss, opposition loss, opposition record, and cumulative speaker points.
- Debaters are allowed to use laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA guidelines.
- *A debater more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit unless it is the fault of the tournament.*

Public Forum Debate

The resolution will be the current NSDA/MSHSAA approved topic for **NOVEMBER.**

- Time limits for Public Forum debate will be: 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-3-2-2.
- Each team will be allowed a total of 3 minutes of prep time.
- Sides will be determined by a coin flip at the start of each round.
- Ties will be broken by looking at win-loss, opposition loss, opposition record, and cumulative speaker points.
- No maverick teams will be allowed to debate.
- Team personnel must remain constant throughout the tournament.
- Debaters are allowed to use laptops in rounds but must follow MSHSAA guidelines.
- *A team more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit unless it is the fault of the tournament.*

Speech Events Rules

Special Note: Ties will be broken by looking at cumulative ranks, judge's preference, and reciprocals. Also, per NSDA guidelines, there will be a 30 second grace period for each speech event. If contestants exceed the grace period, they may not receive the 1 rank.

- **United States and International Extemporaneous Speaking:** Topics will be taken from current events. A total of thirty minutes for prepping speeches will be allowed. Students should not consult with other competitors or coaches during prep time. Speeches may not exceed seven minutes. Students may not enter both divisions of extemp. Topic areas will be provided prior to the tournament, and notecards may be used but judges will use their discretion when ranking.
- **Original Oratory:** Speeches must be the original work of the contestant. No more than 150 words may be directly quoted. Speeches must be memorized, delivered from memory, and may not exceed ten minutes. Competitors are prohibited from performing oratories used in the previous year of competition.
- **Informative Speaking:** The informative speech must be the original work of the contestant. No more than 150 words may be in the form of a direct quotation. The contestant may not use a speech he/she performed in the previous year of competition. Visual aids may be used, but they cannot be live or electronic. The speech must be memorized. Performances may not exceed 10 minutes.
- **Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation:** Selections must be taken from published literature (i.e., play, novel, short story, etc.). NSDA guidelines apply. Selections should possess literary merit and must be appropriate for a high school performance. The performance, including the introduction, must be memorized. Performances may not exceed ten minutes.
- **Duo Interpretation:** Selections must be taken from published literature (i.e., play, novel, short story, etc.). NSDA guidelines apply. Selections should possess literary merit and must be appropriate for a high school performance. The performance, including the introduction, must be memorized. Team personnel must remain constant throughout the tournament. Performances may not exceed ten minutes.
- **Storytelling:** Students will perform a memorized selection from a children's storybook. The piece should be 6-8 minutes in length.
- **Program Oral Interpretation**
- **Student Congress:** Congressional Debate is a mock legislative assembly competition where students debate resolutions/bills and vote to pass into law and then take action on by voting for or against the legislation. A Presiding Officer will aid in the fluidity of the round. The docket will be set at the PHS tournament with the OCTOBER legislation. Students will give 3 minute speeches in the affirmative or negative followed by a short questioning period of 1-2 minutes depending on the speech. More details will be provided as we get closer to the tournament.

If you choose to attend, please remember…

- Please have a talk with your students about respecting the building so teachers and admin continue to be supportive of our tournament.
    - Students are not to be moving furniture from one room to another (we are making sure that every room has enough seats for debaters and judges).
    - For debate rooms: Instruct your students to set up materials on student desks only. Do not use teacher desks. Judges are being told to RANK DOWN any student who touches a teacher's desk or personal property (yes, this means your debaters need to bring their own pens).
    - And for all rooms: Please instruct your students absolutely: Do Not write on the Smart Boards! Contestants are not to use campus computers or other electronic equipment. Please advise your students not to open the windows in classrooms.
    - For Debate/Extemp/Congress contestants: Students should be sure to have sufficient battery power/charge their devices in common areas between rounds—it is unlikely that four empty electrical outlets will be available in every contest room. Contestants tampering with/unplugging existing equipment will be disqualified. Contestants are not to unplug any device or equipment already in use in the contest rooms. Contestants found tampering with Park Hill South's or PHS teachers' equipment and/or property will be disqualified from the tournament.
    - A concession stand will be provided. Please restrict food and drink to the common areas you are assigned. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the PAC.
    - Bring no stereos, radios, etc. not equipped with individual headphones.
    - Contestants are advised to bring their own timekeeping device. Many of our judges are completely new to the activity and want to do a great job of judging—they want to focus on the arguments and ideas presented. I encourage students to keep time for themselves and for their opponents; very few rounds will have a timekeeper.
    - There are campus regulations against the use of tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in elimination from competition.