BEST FOUNDATION HOSTS FIRST TOURNAMENT OF THE 2024-2025 SEASON

On November 9, and 10, 2024, The BEST Foundation will hold its annual Fall West Speech and Debate Tournament for students from Western regional schools. Students will compete in five events: World Schools Style debate, poetry and prose interpretation, duo interpretation, and original oratory.

BEST is happy to welcome all of its hundreds of students, teachers and other members of the BEST community to its first tournament for the season. This weekend is sure to be one of not only great performances and fun, but also of sportsmanship and communal respect.

This year's regional tournaments continue to be sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Sofia.

BEST is proud to have maintained a strong group of judges who are an essential part of the success of our tournaments. Without their help, our students would not have this invaluable means of improving their critical thinking skills and speech delivery. Among our judges for last semester were Ms. Angela Rodel, Executive Director at the Fulbright Commission; Dimiter Kenarov, Bulgarian Journalist, and many other professionals and BEST alumni.

Krasi Shapkarova, a BEST tournament judge and a career coach at Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University, said about her experience last year: "This is my first time volunteering as a judge and I must say: fantastic performers! This is such a great opportunity for students!"

The 2024 Fall West tournament will kick off a full season of competition – BEST will be holding another regional competition this semester for students from Eastern regional schools, with four more competitions following in the spring semester.

About The BEST Foundation

BEST stands for Bulgarian English Speech and Debate Tournaments. Established in 2013, BEST provides the English-language learners of Bulgaria an opportunity to come together and pursue personal growth through English language speech and debate. BEST aims to empower students to think critically, express themselves creatively, and create a dynamic community that truly cares about the success and the future of Bulgaria. BEST is proud to provide a platform for English-language speech and debate for students across the country.

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