

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Londe Gagnon Coach

Jackson Hole Speech and Debate Team

699-0537

lgagnon@tcsd.org

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The Jackson Hole High School Speech and Debate Team maintained their successful virtual season, earning fourth place in 4A at the Bison Stampede, held by Cheyenne South High School December 4-5. This meet attracted 18 schools with over 250 total entries. Jackson's top five finish was achieved with only two-thirds of the team in attendance. The team is coached by Londe and Peggy Gagnon.

Sophomore Sophie Lamb dominated novice Congressional Debate with her 1st place finish in the event. In the varsity division of the event, Jackson continued their success with senior and team captain Josh Hansen finishing in 2nd place, junior William Aepli taking home 3rd place, junior Carter Worcester placing 4th and junior Lily Briggs securing 6th place.

Worcester partnered with senior and team captain Preston Harmon to bring home a 2nd place award in varsity Public Forum Debate. Aepli and Briggs partnered in the event and followed closely behind finishing in 3rd. The Jackson team also saw some good growth in Lincoln Douglas Debate with Hansen placing 7th in the varsity division. In the novice category, Lamb finished in 4th, barely missing the semi final round based on a tie breaker.

In Extemporaneous Speaking, Harmon placed 3rd in the varsity division of the event. This marks his 3rd top three finish in as many tournaments this season. In the novice division, freshman Jackson Neishabouri brought home 4th place.

The Jackson squad saw great success in Interpretation Events this weekend as well. Sophomore Julieta Anaya partnered with sophomore Blanca Sartillo to bring home 4th in Duo Interpretation. Anaya went on to place 6th in Humorous Interpretation while Sartillo went on to bring home 4th in Program Oral Interpretation. Sophomore Ventura Garcia Perez placed 7th in novice Dramatic Interpretation with his rendition of *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles.

Coach Londe Gagnon commented on the weekend, saying "The team continues to thrive and grow and we are thrilled to see their progress in this virtual format." The team competes this coming weekend at a tournament hosted by the University of Wyoming.

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