

PRESS RELEASE

January 30, 2022

The Jackson Hole High School Speech and Debate Team added to their successful season, earning 2nd place in 4A at the Mustang Classic, held at Natrona County High School in Casper January 28-29. This meet attracted 19 schools with close to 500 total entries. While Cheyenne East captured the 1st place finish, Jackson edged out Rock Springs and Evanston who finished in 3rd and 4th place respectively. This meet is one of the largest of the year, finding many Wyoming programs competing in Casper along with several South Dakota schools. The team is coached by Londe and Peggy Gagnon.

Senior and team captain Carter Worcester teamed with senior Sarah Schweitzer to bring home the championship in Public Forum Debate. The team explored the issue of whether or not the US federal government should legalize all illicit drugs. Senior and team captain Will Aepli joined partner Alexis Hernandez to place 10th in the event, narrowly missing the quarterfinals due to a tie breaker.

Worcester went on to become the champion in Congressional Debate as well. As the sole JHHS competitor to make it to the finals round of the event, Worcester bested the 2nd place competitor from Cheyenne East by a whopping 15 points. Sophomore Jackson Neishabouri and freshman Ben Moffett finished in fifth in their preliminary chambers and missed advancing to the finals of the event by one place. Junior Ventura Garcia Perez finished in 6th place in his preliminary chamber.

Schweitzer went on to win the Triple Threat Award in the tournament. Adding to her 1st place in PF Debate, she finished in 4th in Impromptu Speaking and earned 3rd place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Aepli reached semi-finals in Extemporaneous Speaking while Hernandez and freshman Oscar Andersen reached the quarter finals of the event.

Julieta Anaya found great success in Impromptu with a 5th place finish. Aepli reached the semi finals of the same event. Anaya went on to reach semi finals in Poetry Interpretation and joined junior Blanca Sartillo in Duo Interpretation where they reached semi finals of the event.

Hernandez placed 3rd in Original Oratory with his presentation on diversity and first generation Americans. Junior Ary Jimenez Garcia found great success in Informative Speaking where she reached semi finals.

Coach Londe Gagnon commented on the weekend, saying “Students needed to be near perfect in preliminary rounds to advance. The scores many of our team earned would have advanced them to culminating rounds at any other tournament of the season.”

The team next travels to Hot Springs in two weeks. In addition, they will be hosting their own invitational tournament this weekend on Feb 4-5. For the home tournament, the Speech Team is in need of **135 more volunteers** to judge for approximately an hour and a half each. Judging guidelines will be provided and a practice judging session will be offered on Tuesday Feb 1. Judging experience is not required.

Events include Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Big Questions, Extemporaneous and Cross Examination Debate, Student Congress, Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Humor, Drama, Poetry, Program Oral Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Impromptu, and Duet. Judging these talented high school competitors is an entertaining and rewarding experience. Refreshments and free babysitting will be provided.

If you would be able to volunteer anytime from 2:30pm Friday afternoon until 9:30 Friday evening, or from 8 AM Saturday until 5:00 PM Saturday, please sign up [here](#), email coach Londe Gagnon at lgagnon@tcsd.org or call her at 307-699-0537.

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