PARKWAY WEST SPEECH & DEBATE

Frequently Asked Questions

DO I HAVE TO ENROLL IN A CLASS TO COMPETE ON THE TEAM?

No. One is curricular and the other is extracurricular. However, taking the courses gives you class time to learn and practice the skills we use in competition, rather than solely using time outside of class to do so.

HOW DO I JOIN SPEECH & DEBATE?

Sign up for a tournament! You can do this in Borgsmiller's room (1511) on the chalkboard. You can see the season schedule on the WEBSITE. There are no auditions and no requirements for the number of tournaments to attend. ANYONE can try it out (so long as you are MSHSAA eligible).

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Read the posted rules and then fill out the proper forms. You only need to turn in forms once for the year!

WHEN CAN I JOIN? IS IT TOO LATE!?

Any time before December 1st. Our tournament schedule is posted all year. Check out the dates you want and sign up three weeks in advance. The registration deadline for new members is December 1st since our open competitions end mid-February.

WHAT EVENT SHOULD I DO?

Contact the event captain, check out the NSDA events page, and come to Monday Meetings to talk to others working on different events. We offer debates, public speaking events, and acting events. There's something for all types of performers.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

Once you sign up, get in touch with your captain. They will tell you how to get started and set up practices for you. The main requirement is that you practice once for a formal audience before you compete. You plan practices by checking our team CALENDAR!

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Whatever you want it to be! You can go to one tournament or ten! However, once you sign up to attend a tournament, you are committing to that entire weekend. Know that you will be unable to leave early that Friday or Saturday, so don't plan other events. We also have late nights and early mornings. Preparing for and competing in tournaments is a time commitment, but you can choose how many you do.

CAN I JUST COME WATCH A TOURNAMENT BEFORE I COMPETE?

No. You can come to our Monday workshop days to learn about the event or attend team practices on Wednesday and/or Thursday to see what performances look like. You can also review the NSDA website to watch examples. However, if you are traveling with us, you are actively competing!

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT THE TEAM IS DOING?

Follow us on any of our social media pages. Join our team Discord to get weekly updates. Once you fill out team registration, you will be added to our team's Google Chat. Join our Google Classroom (afj7uf6) for assignments and resources. Most of what you need to know is on this website! But if you are not sure of something, CONTACT US!