



Parkway West Virtual Invitational

October 8th & 9th, 2021

Dear Coaches,

The Parkway West Chapter of the National Speech & Debate Association is pleased to invite your team to the Parkway West Fall Classic - VIRTUALLY!! We will be using Speechwire and Zoom to bring you this event. We are offering an array of events and debates for both varsity and novice competitors. Please read this full invitation carefully to ensure your students are well prepared for this experience. All teams are welcome to enter up to **FOUR** in each event. Additional entries will be granted depending on our judging availability. You may add to the waitlist and these will be released on a first-come, first-served basis. **HOWEVER, you must associate an entry with a name to claim those spots in the waitlist line.**

Please note the judging obligations for each school. Please fill out our [ONLINE JUDGING FORM](#) for ANY of your school judges, including student judges. Of course, if varsity members do not advance they are also welcome to contact us during the tournament to be added to the pool. *Please remember that students must be in their second year of competition with at least 150 NSDA points to judge.*

Each year, we put forward philanthropic efforts to raise money for causes that matter to our team and our community. *TW* Four years ago, we lost a graduate to suicide. Just prior to Haran Kumar's passing, he told his mother that he wanted to donate "a zillion dollars" to the organization he was working with to heal. This organization is called [Every Child's Hope](#). While the organization was "founded in 1858 as an orphanage for children whose immigrant parents had died from cholera outbreaks," ECH now works toward "preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing aftercare and follow-up services." We will be collecting donations and donating the cost of our trophies to the organization. Please consider helping make a dent a Haran's wish.

Please register through Speechwire by **Wednesday, September 29th at 4 pm.** *No additional entries will be accepted after this time.* Adjustments can be made to existing entries after this date only if room allows. Drops can be made without penalty by **Wednesday, October 6th at 3 pm.**

We hope to see you in October!

Your hosts,

Cara Borgsmiller
Forensics & Debate Director
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cborgsmiller@parkwayschools.net

Megan Hornsby
Assistant Coach

Nancy Israel
Assistant Coach

Santi Lugo, Paige Matthys-Pearce, Kayvon Rezaei, Noah Schell
Parkway West NSDA Elected Executive Board Members

Events Offered

*(we reserve the right to collapse divisions and/or events if numbers are low)
Each school may enter up to but no more than FOUR in each division. Charge is \$8/entry.*

Events

Open Domestic Extemp
Open International Extemp
Open Oratory
Open Informative
Open HI
Open DI
Open POI
Open Duo
Open Asynchronous Split-Screen Duo

Novice Extemp
Novice Oratory
Novice Informative
Novice Interp (HI/DI)
Novice Prose OR Poetry
Novice Duo

Debate

Open Public Forum
Open Lincoln Douglas
Open Policy

JV Public Forum
JV Lincoln Douglas
JV Policy

Novice Public Forum
Novice Lincoln Douglas
Novice Policy

Divisions

- Novice - First-year competitors without NSDA membership (the equivalent of 25 points)
- JV - First or second-year competitors (novice or post-novice). No third or fourth-year competitors are allowed.
- Open - In Debate, this is meant for third and fourth-year competitors. In Events, this is intended for all but novices. First-year competitors CAN enter here. Second-year competitors WILL enter here for events.

Schedule

*ALL should arrive 15 minutes before start time so we can check rooms

Wednesday -Friday

Async Duo Rounds 1, 2, and FINALS Judged

Friday

Registration - 3 pm
Debate Round 1 - 3:30 pm
Debate Round 2 - 5:30 pm
Debate Round 3 - 7:30pm

Saturday

Registration (events only) - 7am
Extemp Draw - 7:30am
Events Round 1 - 8am
Extemp Draw - 9:30am
Events Round 2 - 10am
Debate Semifinals - 11:30am
(Quarters if needed)
Extemp Draw - 1:30pm
Event Finals - 2pm
Debate Semis/Finals - 3:30pm
Awards - 5:30pm

Deadlines

Initial Entries	Finalized Entries
Due in Speechwire by Wednesday, Sept. 29th @ 4 pm <i>No Schools may enter after this time</i>	Changes due by Wednesday, Oct. 6th @ 3 pm <i>Any drops after this time cannot be filled and will be charged an entry fee</i>

Asynchronous Duo/Back-up Recordings
Links must be submitted via Speechwire by Wednesday, Oct. 6th @ 3 pm <i>Any entries not uploaded will be considered a drop and will forfeit the entry fee.</i> <i>All entries found to have inaccessible links will be given last in the room. It is your duty to check this before submission.</i>

Judge Submissions
All obligated judging assignments must be entered on THIS FORM by Monday, Oct. 4th @ 4pm <i>Any obligation not met will result in the dropping of entries.</i>

Judging Requirements and Expectations

Schools will be obligated to provide rounds for judging based on entry totals. Schools will be expected to withdraw entries to meet expectations if necessary. Judge obligations are:

- 1 judge for every 12 event entries
- 1 judge for every 8 debate entries

Eligible Judges include:

- Coaches should mark as much availability as possible. Your MSHSAA-required supervisory coach will be considered on STANDBY for ALL rounds. It will help us if you tell us who that is and when.
- Current Varsity students who have earned 150 or more NSDA points can judge novices
- Any alumni can judge both varsity and novice rounds
- All judges must have access to the internet to be able to judge

All judges, including coaches and current students, should sign up [HERE](#).

Judge Expectations:

- All judging assignments will be posted in Speechwire. Accounts will be connected by the host.
- Please sign up knowing you should arrive in your “room” 15 minutes prior to start time. Any rounds you sign up to judge will likely be assigned to you. Do not sign up for a time you cannot make.
- All judge comments should focus on the competitor’s performance in the round - not on their clothing, competition space, if they are masked, etc. Please remember you are a “virtual guest” in their space.
- For more information please see our [Judge training recommendations](#).

General Virtual Rules

- ALL SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A SUPERVISING COACH PER MSHSAA REQUIREMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT. You will fill out an information form with contact information so I know who will be available and when.
- All students and judges are expected to arrive in their virtual rooms 15 minutes prior to the start of the round.
- All students should enter the room MUTED in case of others speaking.
- Every effort should be made to keep your camera turned on during rounds (including the judge). The exception will be if it is necessary to improve connectivity.
- In all rounds, viewers are encouraged to use the SPEAKER VIEW so you can see the performer more clearly.
- A student may enter up to two events. Students may not double enter in both divisions of extemp.
- Debaters may not enter more than one debate event: Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.
- In Extemp, speaking order will take precedence for those double-entered. You must report this to the draw chair to access the privilege.
- Any student more than ten minutes late to a round will forfeit participation in that round (provided the delay is not the fault of the tournament). DOUBLE ENTERED STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE BOTH PERFORMANCES IN THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH ROUND. Double entered students are expected to inform their judges that they may be late prior to the start of the round. This means arriving at the Zoom and alerting the tournament staff.
- Except for a change necessitated by a double entry, contestants are expected to speak in the order assigned
- The use of the internet during rounds WILL be permitted. Please review the [MSHSAA rules](#) (p. 62) regarding this issue. Please note that ALL MSHSAA guidelines in this document will be followed.
- Debaters and Duo may perform in the same room together but do not have to. Judges will be instructed to expect different scenarios and not use deductions based on the setting or masking.
- Asynchronous Duo will be required to be SPLIT-SCREEN. Entries in this division are solely for teams not able to be together in person. [MSHSAA Rules](#) (p. 63) will be followed regarding use of the frame.
- All backup recordings will also follow [MSHSAA Rules](#) (p. 63) disallowing editing and movement beyond the frame.
- **ALL EVENTS and COMPETITORS must REMAIN FULLY VISIBLE IN THE FRAME FOR THE DURATION OF ALL PERFORMANCES whether synchronous or asynchronous.**
- If internet connections drop out mid-performance, judges or contestants should inform the tournament staff. We will wait up to 10 minutes **total** for each person for contact to be made. Contestants may pick up where they left off to complete their performance. They should not be penalized. If the contestant or judge is unreachable or exceeds the 10-minute window collectively, they will forfeit/take last, and/or the judge will be replaced and previous contestants will need to perform again.
- All rounds will allow for spectators. However, those viewing a round must remain muted and off-screen. Those not adhering to these rules will be removed from the room.

Event Specific Rules

DEBATE RULES:

- Email chains should be set up and offered to all competitors and judges before the round begins.
- Advancing will be determined by:
 - Win/Loss record
 - Head to head
 - Record of opponent lost to
 - Total opposition record
 - Oppositions' opposition record
 - Total speaker points if needed
- Per [MSHSAA guidelines](#) (p. 62), prep time is as follows.
 - Policy: 8 minutes per side

- Lincoln Douglas: 4 minutes per side
- Public Forum: 3 minutes per side

Policy Debate—(8-3-5 time limits): Two-person teams will debate the NSDA/MSHSAA topic: [Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity.](#) NSDA rules will be followed. 8 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. The top four teams will advance to semifinals if the numbers allow. No mavericks. Novices cannot use Kritiks. They must use a case from the following [novice case areas](#): AI: Restrict Autonomous Lethal Weapons; Biotech: Ban germline genetic engineering in humans; Biotech: Increase vaccine research funding; Cyber: Ban offensive cyber operations.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate—(6-3-7-3-4-6-3 time limits): Individuals will debate the September/October NSDA/MSHSAA topic: [Resolved: The United States ought to implement a single-payer universal healthcare system.](#) NSDA rules will be followed. 4 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per speaker. The top four debaters will advance to semifinals unless there are more than four undefeated entries in which case we will advance to quarterfinals. Per MSHSAA rules, we will NOT be using the Novice LD topic. All students should prepare the Sept/Oct topic.

Public Forum Debate—(4-3-4-3-3-2 time limits) Two-person teams will debate the September/October NSDA/MSHSAA topic: [Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase its investment in high-speed rail.](#) The NSDA rules will be followed EXCEPT for speech times. 3 minutes of preparation time will be allowed per team. Teams will flip each round even if they have met before. The judge must flip the coin. The winner of the coin toss can choose either side (pro or con) OR the speaker position (first or last). The coin toss loser has the other choice. The top four teams will advance to semifinals unless there are more than four undefeated entries in which case we will advance to quarterfinals.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES:

- All rounds will be done synchronously via Zoom except for asynchronous split-screen duo. All competitors aside from Extemp can provide a backup recording if desired.
- All recordings must be submitted via Speechwire by Wednesday, October 6th at 3 pm. No recordings will be accepted after that time.
- Videos must be done in one take. Edited videos will be disqualified. Back-up videos will only be used after 10 minutes of attempted reconnection. The school host will then show the recording.
- We will default to [MSHSAA Rules](#) for all MSHSAA Events.
- Advancing 6 to finals will be determined by:
 - Lowest total cumulative speaker ranks
 - Total preliminary reciprocals
 - Total speaker ratings
- Final placings will be determined by:
 - Judges' preference
 - Reciprocals from the round
 - Total speaker ranking from the round

Original Oratory—An original persuasive speech is written by the contestant, containing no more than 150 words of quoted material. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Informative Speaking— An original informative speech is written by the contestant. Memorized delivery is required in the varsity division. Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. The goal is to educate, not to advocate. . Novices may use scripts but are encouraged not to. Visual aids are allowed. Please read the [RULES](#) (p. 39) Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Extemporaneous Speaking—

- Contestants must report to draw 15 minutes before draw is scheduled to begin (if possible). Students will be shown three topics and will tell the draw chair what they select. They will have thirty minutes to prepare a speech. They must remain in the Zoom draw for prep.
- For either presentation, contestants are allowed the use of one note card during delivery but risk the reduction of points for doing so. Speech time limit—7 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation—Memorized selections from published material of literary merit are presented. Movement below the waist should be limited. Selections are to be properly introduced. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Duo Interpretation—A memorized selection of any published source of literary merit is performed by two students. Performers may stand in any arrangement suitable. Offstage focus should be used. Time limit—10 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Prose/Poetry Reading—Selections taken from a published source of literary merit are read from a script or a tablet/e-reader. Both should be properly introduced. Prose selections may contain no more than 50% dialogue. Poetry can be a singular poem or come from multiple sources connected either by an author or theme. It must be written in verse. Competitors will choose ONLY ONE to perform but will compete in sections of students doing both. Time limit—8 minutes maximum, no minimum.

Program of Oral Interpretation (POI) – Students create a theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. They draw on selections from at least two of the following: prose, poetry, and/or drama. A manuscript must be used and the pieces must be properly introduced. [NSDA rules](#) will be used (p. 45). Time limit – 10 minutes

AWARDS & SWEEPSTAKES RULES:

An awards ceremony will be presented via Zoom. We will recognize the TOP SIX competitors in each event as well as semi-finalists and finalists in debate. In terms of team awards, we will recognize the top 5 teams. Each school's BEST TWO ENTRIES in each event/division will be tabulated for sweepstakes awards. While it is not traditional, we will not be planning to provide the normal "trophies" as a reward. To honor Haran, we will be giving out seed packets and awards our top five teams with trees planted in their name. As an individual who championed the arguments and loathed the tangible rewards, we want to pass on Haran's belief that what we do has value far beyond a piece of shiny plastic. We will be donating the cost of the trophies we would have purchased to ECH.

Points in Events & Debate will be awarded to the top two entries from each school as follows:

Any Entry.....	one point
Event Semi-Finals.....	five points
Event Finals.....	ten points
Event Third Place.....	five points
Event Second Place.....	ten points
Event First Place.....	fifteen points
Debate Win	five points
Debate Quarterfinals	five points
Debate Semifinals	ten points
Debate Finals	fifteen points

How to Register

1. Coaches will need to login to Speechwire.com to accept the tournament invitation.
2. You will register your team as usual. You will also need to [register each student's account](#).
 - a. Log into Speechwire and click team roster
 - b. For students already listed on your roster, click the student you want to send an activation email to. Use the email field to add their email address, and when that is saved, the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - c. For students not listed on your roster, use the fields at the top of the page to add students. If an email address is included, then the student will immediately receive an email with an activation link to activate their account.
 - d. Make sure that students can access their account BEFORE the tournament.
3. You will NOT input judges into Speechwire. Please sign up [HERE](#). The tournament host will create these accounts.
4. You will need to upload your links for events. It is your responsibility to ensure the links work and are public-facing. If the links do not work for judges, they will be instructed to rank that speaker last.
5. All [balloting](#) will be done via Speechwire. Here are [EVENTS](#) and [DEBATE](#) instructions.

Virtual Suggestions

1. Consider creating a space either virtually or at your school for students to gather. Consider requiring them to meet here to “ride the bus” to the event and “ride the bus” home so you can make sure they are present and debrief.
2. Please speak with your administration before choosing to compete as a team at school. You may have different masking rules and may need to reserve your building to spread your students out.
3. Team GroupMe for quick communication with coaches if there’s an issue finding a room, the judge is missing, etc.
4. Set up a method of communication with debate partners. You may want to be on a call on a phone separate from the video call. Make sure each is muted at appropriate times.
5. Maximize your internet by removing as many connected devices as possible and closing out as many programs on your call device as you can.
6. Familiarize yourself with the video conferencing software. Look for shortcuts and hotkeys. Use gallery mode to see all participants.
7. Do several practice recordings and/or zoom performances for events and practice rounds for debate
 - a. Have someone else watch and give you feedback on the recording or be present on zoom calls to test connections
 - a. Consider neutral backgrounds and think about the lighting in the space.
 - b. Everything in a recording needs to be bigger and louder than you think it does
 - c. Look into using an external microphone to improve the sound. Listen back to recordings to see how the acoustics are and adjust accordingly.
 - d. Clarify with those in the house that during recordings/rounds they need to be as quiet as possible.
 - e. Think about camera angle and frame so you are capturing your full performance effectively.

Every Child's Hope Fundraiser

ECH is an organization that works to support a vast and growing population of St. Louis youth. Beyond providing mental health and trauma services, ECH provides a Head Start program and K-12 alternative schooling. They offer family and crisis support, foster care management, and parenting programs. They support homeless youth as well as pregnant and parenting teenagers. What's more, ECH only receives 55% of its necessary funding through the government. Donations are the primary engine of this impressive operation.

We will have more details soon about how we will collect donations.