



Welcome to the 2026 Eastview Lightning Classic Speech Tournament!

Thank you for attending this year's Eastview Lightning Classic. On behalf of the EVHS coaches, we welcome you to a great day of competition! We are proud that the 2026 Eastview Lightning Classic is a Bid Tournament for the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions (NIETOC).

A special thank you to our families & businesses who have sponsored categories:

The Schurr Family

The Nelsen Family

Spiegelberg Family

Rambachan Family

Kumon Math and Reading Center of Apple Valley

Dick Benson & Family

This document contains everything you need to have a successful day, whether you be a judge, contestant, or coach; it is your one-stop shopping for all things Eastview tournament related. If there are any issues throughout the tournament that aren't easily resolved via this document or a Help Desk and you need a fast response, please email zachary.prax@district196.org. We hope you have a great experience.

Tournament Locations and Information

BUILDING ASSIGNMENTS

Eastview High School: All Championship Events

Valley Middle School: All Open Events

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS / HELP DESK

Each site will have a tournament headquarters/help desk for any issues throughout the day. Tournament logistics, equity concerns, general information, and everything in between...the Help Desk will be the first stop for any coach or student needing assistance. At Eastview High School, the tournament headquarters/help desk will be at/near Room C241, and will be staffed by Rusty Fifield (EVHS) and Sarah Holmstadt (EVHS). At Valley Middle School, the tournament help desk will be near Room 118, and will be staffed by Jonah Jackson (VMS). Tournament tab room for the open division will be located in room 309.

JUDGES INFORMATION

ALL JUDGES SHOULD ATTEND THE JUDGE MEETING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JUDGE LOUNGE AT 8:00 A.M. (Valley Middle - Open Divisions) and 8:15 A.M. (Eastview High - Championship Divisions). The tournament utilizes electronic judge ballots; judges should bring technology (preferably a laptop or chromebook) in order to judge rounds. Judges should hit the **“Start”** button in Speechwire upon arriving at their round. Once this happens, they will be able to see which students have double-entered, and tournament staff will know that the round is in progress. The judges lounge at Eastview is in Room C137. The judges lounge at Valley Middle is in Room 511.

At the scheduled start of the round, **please begin even if you are missing students (with the exception of Discussion).** Many students are double or even triple entered and may not be present at the beginning of your round. Judges may change the speaking order on the ballot to accommodate double-entered students - please make sure your appropriate ranks go to the appropriate entries. Students are NOT to be penalized for arriving late to a round.

In Extemp. Reading, there is no “qualifying time.” Please do not penalize students if they do not speak for the full seven minutes.

DRAW/PREP ROOMS

Extemp. Reading + Storytelling Prep Room (Championship): EVHS Performing Arts Center

Extemp. Speaking Prep Room (Championship): EVHS Learning Commons

Extemp. Reading + Storytelling Prep Room (Open): VMS Media Center

Extemp. Speaking Prep Room (Open): VMS Room 299/Commons A

All draw competitors should be in their assigned prep room fifteen minutes prior to the first draw of the day (8:00 a.m. Open events, 8:15 a.m. Championship events) for a draw meeting.

In addition, entries must be in the prep/draw room at their assigned draw time for draws to be made available to them on Speechwire, and are expected to remain in the draw room until released by their draw supervisor. Draw times will not be adjusted to accommodate double entries. Speakers are expected to change order in non-draw events in order to accommodate their published draw time.

AWARDS INFORMATION

For both divisions: honor final, merit, and consolation awards will be handed out in the room by tab room staff after the round is completed. Open speakers will be shuttled to Eastview High School at the conclusion of the Open awards ceremony.

Advancement Protocol

Final and Honor Final rounds will be held in all events in both Championship and Open. In events with 40 or more entries, an additional merit final round will be held. In events with 55 or more entries, both merit and consolation final rounds will be held. In addition, we will continue to maximize the recognition of speakers by offering honorable mention ribbons in both Championship and Open events.

No preliminary round section will feature more than seven entries, but we will work to maintain six entries or fewer as much as possible. The goal size of each final round is 6. Preliminary round results order will be determined by (1) Total Adjusted Rank (adjusted to a 5), (2) Head to Head competition, (3) Average Opponent Rank, and (4) Reciprocals. Speaker points will not be recorded or used in any round.

The Final Round of each event in both the Championship and Open divisions will have a panel of at least three judges. If and when possible, Championship Final Rounds will have a panel of five judges. All Honor Final, Merit, and Consolation Rounds in both divisions will have one judge.

Final tournament placement will be decided on (1) Actual Ranks in the Final Round, (2) Judge Preference, (3) Reciprocals in the Final Round. If entries are still tied following these tiebreakers, preliminary round seed will be used to determine placement.

Final Round Breaks

Events will break the following final rounds based on number of entries...this will be updated as registration numbers change throughout the week. No event will have fewer than the number of final rounds established under our Advancement Protocol, but a few events will have an extra final round if they are close to reaching the threshold. We prioritize giving another opportunity for students in those close rounds to compete.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Creative - Finals, Honors
Discussion - Finals, Honors, Merit
Drama - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Duo - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Extemp. Reading - Finals, Honors, Merit
Great Speeches - Finals, Honors
Humor - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Impromptu - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Info - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
International Extemp. Speaking - Finals, Honors, Merit
Oratory - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
POI - Finals, Honors
Poetry - Finals, Honors
Prose - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Storytelling - Finals, Honors, Merit
US Extemp. Speaking - Finals, Honors, Merit

OPEN

Creative - Finals, Honors
Discussion - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
Drama - Finals, Honors
Duo - Finals
Extemp. Reading - Finals, Honors, Merit
Great Speeches - Finals, Honors
Humor - Finals, Honors
Impromptu - Finals
Info - Finals, Honors, Merit, Consolation
International Extemp. Speaking - Finals, Honors
Oratory - Finals, Honors, Merit
Poetry - Finals, Honors
Prose - Finals, Honors
Storytelling - Finals, Honors
US Extemp. Speaking - Finals, Honors

Discussion/Draw Topics and Procedures

Discussion:

All tasks will come from the Areas III and IV of the MSHSL Discussion Outline (Area III: Political & Ideological Fragmentation / Area IV: Global Fragmentation). Tasks will not be released early; paper tasks will be delivered to the judge in each competition room shortly before the round start time.

Extemporaneous Reading:

Poetry: All Poems from the MSHSL's Extemp. Reading Poetry Selections (taken from The Name She Gave Me by Betty Culley)

Prose: All Chapters from the MSHSL's Extemp. Reading Prose Selections (taken from The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart, Henry Holt and Company).

Extemporaneous Speaking:

We are trying something new this year with round themes; the format for both IX and USX will be the same.

Round 1: Cause or Effect Questions

Round 2: Solutions Questions (How? and What Steps?)

Round 3: Prediction Questions

Round 4: This Week's News

Storytelling:

All stories (1-15) from the Minnesota State High School League's 2025-2026 Speech Storytelling Selections (taken from The Gutenberg Project), based on the theme of WISDOM.

All draws in Extemp. Reading, Extemp. Speaking, and Storytelling will be conducted electronically using Speechwire. All entries in these events must have a linked account and access to suitable technology in order to do their draw.

Impromptu Procedures

Round 1: One Minnesota - Phrases, proverbs, and quotes from Minnesota's diverse communities and icons.

Round 2: Grammy Winners 2026 - Song lyrics from 2026's best.

Round 3: Coming of Age Movies - Quotes from coming of age movies.

Round 4: Brain Rot - The best (and worst) of internet slang.

Impromptu is designed to challenge competitors to create an interpretation of the prompt and use it to create an argument or thesis that the speech will support.

Impromptu Format:

- Time – Competitors are provided seven minutes to make their selection, prepare their speech, and deliver it. When they receive their prompt, the judge and student should begin their timers.
- Draws - Students choose three draws from the draw envelope; after choosing their selection, the two unchosen draws are returned to the envelope and are drawable by future speakers.

Judging Criteria:

- Comprehension – The judge should evaluate whether the contestant understood and was able to explain the meaning of the given quotation.
- Content – The judge should evaluate the competitors on their use of logic, reasoning, and examples to support their analyses of the quotations.
- Creativity – The judge should evaluate the competitors' creativity and originality as they explore the quotations.

Impromptu will have paper draws from each competition location; draws will be delivered to each judge in their competition room at the beginning of each round.

Equity Procedures

Judges, please read and thoughtfully consider the National Speech and Debate Association's Statement on Implicit Bias:

We are all influenced by implicit bias, or the stereotypes that unconsciously affect our decisions. When judging, our implicit biases negatively impact traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised students. Before writing comments or making a decision, please take a moment to reflect on any biases that may impact your decision making.

In addition, judges are encouraged to review the [National Speech and Debate Association's Guide to Culturally Competent Judging](#).

Any participant at the Lightning Classic may visit the Tournament Headquarters / Help Desk at each site for assistance with any equity-related concern.

Accommodations Requests

If you have any type of accessibility or accommodations questions or requests for any visitor from your team (coach, student, judge, observer, etc.), please email zachary.prax@district196.org by Tuesday, February 24 so we can develop a plan that will best support everyone and anyone who attends our tournament. Of course, we will work to meet requests at any point throughout the tournament! But, proactive and early conversations can help our tournament be as inclusive as possible.

Other Information

All Gender Restrooms can be found in the Career Center (1st Floor) AND Administration (2nd floor) at Eastview High School, and in the cafeteria at Valley Middle School.

Tournament Schedule

All Events in Central Standard Time (C.S.T.)

By 8:00 a.m., all drops should be made in Speechwire and all schools should be checked via email (zachary.prax@district196.org) or TEXT (952-201-0201).

Eastview High School:

<u>8:15</u>	<u>Judge Meeting in Judges' Lounge</u>
<u>8:30</u>	<u>Draws for Round I</u>
<u>8:45</u> <u>9:00</u>	<u>Discussion Round I</u> <u>Round I (all other events)</u>
<u>10:00</u>	<u>Draws for Round II</u>
<u>10:15</u> <u>10:30</u>	<u>Discussion Round II</u> <u>Round II (all other events)</u>
<u>11:30</u>	<u>Draws for Round III</u>
<u>11:45</u> <u>12:00</u>	<u>Discussion Round III</u> <u>Round III (all other events)</u>
<u>1:30</u>	<u>Draws for Final Round</u>
<u>2:00</u>	<u>Finals Begin (Discussion Begins at 1:45)</u>

<u>3:30 (approx)</u>	<u>Awards in the Performing Arts Center</u>
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Valley Middle School:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>Judge meeting in Judges' Lounge</u>
<u>8:15</u>	<u>Draws for Round I</u>
<u>8:30</u>	<u>Discussion Round I</u>
<u>8:45</u>	<u>Round I (all other events)</u>
<u>9:45</u>	<u>Draws for Round II</u>
<u>10:00</u>	<u>Discussion Round II</u>
<u>10:15</u>	<u>Round II (all other events)</u>
<u>11:15</u>	<u>Draws for Round 3</u>
<u>11:30</u>	<u>Discussion Round III</u>
<u>11:45</u>	<u>Round III (all other events)</u>
<u>1:15 p.m.</u>	<u>Draws for Final Round</u>
<u>1:45 p.m.</u>	<u>Finals Begin (Discussion begins at 1:30)</u>
<u>3:15 (approx)</u>	<u>Awards at VMS Cafeteria</u>
<u>3:45</u>	<u>First Shuttles Depart to EVHS</u>

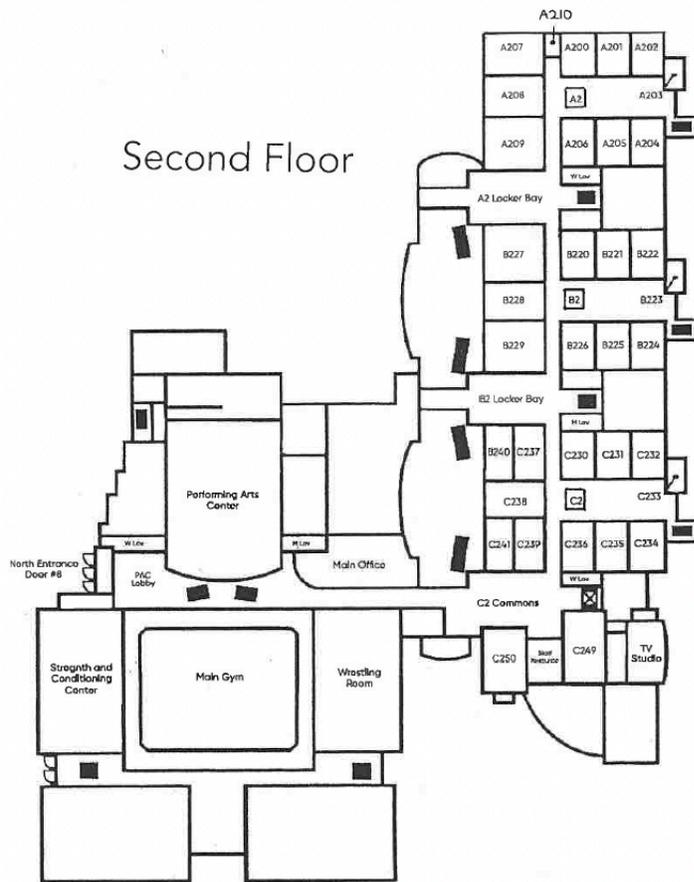
Eastview High School



Found in Student Services (1st Floor)

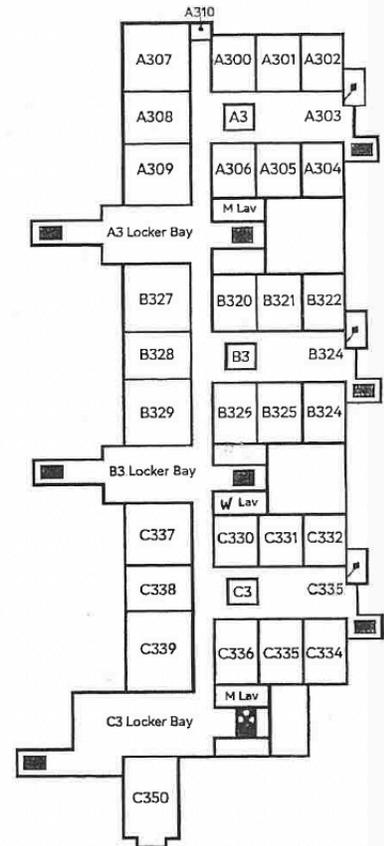
Career Center
 East Conference All Gender Restrooms
 West Conference

*Practice Rooms 1-8 can be found near Music Studios (1st Floor).



Second Floor

Third Floor



Found in Main Office (2nd Floor)

- MO - CONFERENCE
- MO - COPY
- MO - MAIL
- All Gender Restrooms

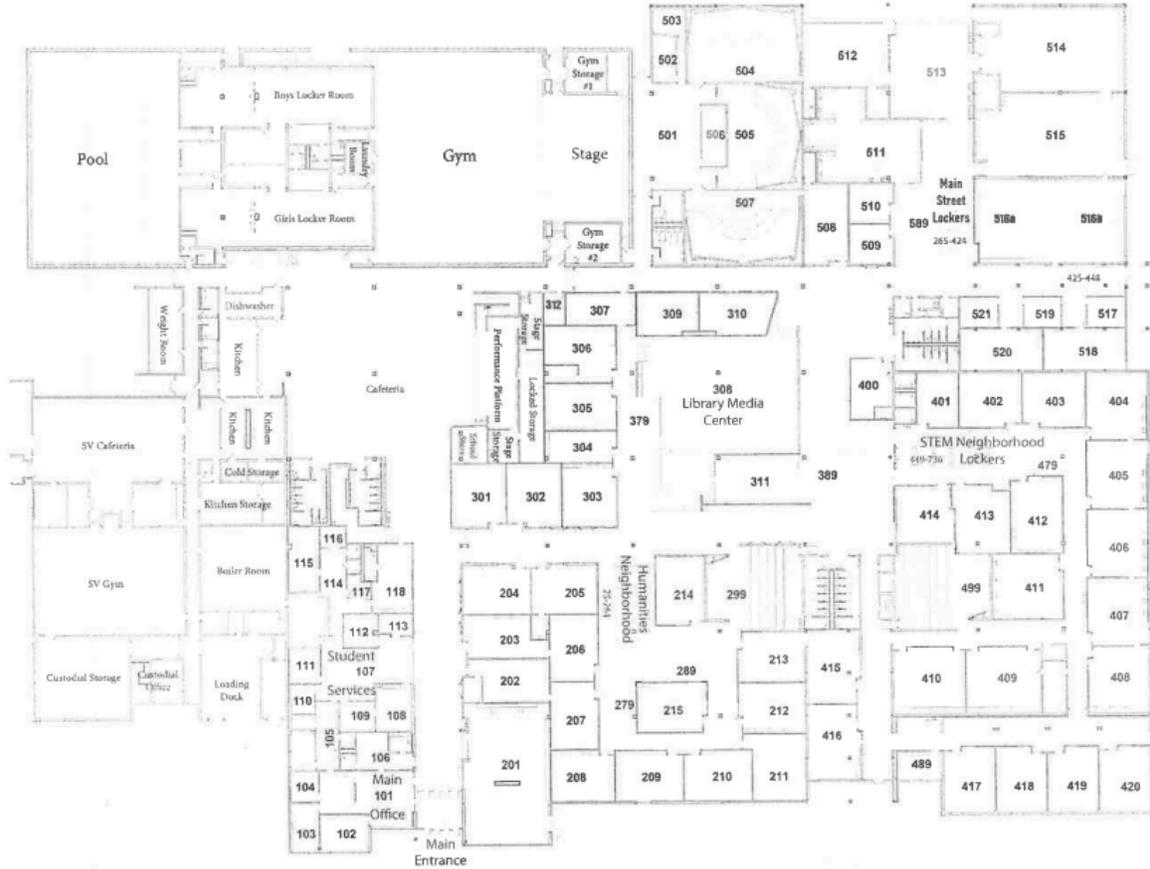
A quiet space for prayer or reflection
 Can be found in the Band Storage Room.

*TV Control Room can be found
 near the TV Studio (2nd Floor).

*PAC Control Room is inside of the
 Performing Arts Center (2nd Floor).

Valley Middle School Map:

Valley Middle School of STEM



Valley Middle Room Information:

Tab room: 309

Extemp Reading/Storytelling Draws: 308 (Media Center)

Extemp Speaking Draws: Room 299/Commons A

Judge Lounge: 511 and 513

Prayer room: 489