Speech and Debate is an activity that benefits participants in all aspects of life. It allows students to hone essential communication skills and to improve mental organization capabilities. While it is a challenging pursuit, the rewards are life-long.

TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE

Students representing Germantown High School in Speech and Debate activities are expected to adhere to all of the guidelines in the Madison County School District High School Handbook. In addition, the following guidelines should clarify any outstanding questions regarding student conduct at tournaments.

Behavior

Students are expected to carry themselves gracefully and formally while they represent GHS in Speech and Debate events. No student should make a public spectacle of him or herself, and students are expected to obey without contest or complaint all rules set verbally or in writing by any chaperone or coach.

Students are expected to respect themselves and their peers. The possession and/or use of drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco is strictly forbidden. Parents of students found in the possession or under the influence of such items will be notified immediately and the students will be sent home. Students are expected to support their teammates between rounds and at awards ceremonies. Students should also respond with grace whether they win or lose an event and should celebrate teammates' successes appropriately.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own belongings. This includes both competition materials and personal items. When tournaments require students to stay somewhere overnight, students should treat hotel rooms respectfully. Any student found disregarding this expectation will not be allowed to compete for the remainder of the school year.

Students are expected to treat tournaments as formal events, judges as superiors, and tournament sites as significant spaces. Students may ask kindly to leave a round only if they are cross-entered, and they will wait patiently for judges to finish writing instead of interrupting. Students will respect the campus of the tournament host. One simple way to show this respect is by discarding all trash in appropriate containers.

Students are expected to maintain their coursework. Missing school because a tournament consumed much of the weekend is unacceptable; no student may use a weekend tournament as an excuse for a Monday absence. Students may not use speech and debate as an excuse to fall behind in other classes. GHS Speech and Debate students are expected to maintain a minimum of A’s and B’s in all classes. Students should notify a coach if they are struggling in a particular subject area and feel that their grades will fall due to competition.

Speech and Debate in a Nutshell
**Attire**

Students are expected to dress in business formal attire. Quality business formal attire can be acquired inexpensively at vendors like TJ Max, Stein Mart, and Marshall’s; or secondhand at places like The Salvation Army, Goodwill, or The Thrift Store at St. Luke’s Church in Jackson. Suits are not expected to be expensive, but they must be clean, neatly pressed, and well-fitting.

Gentlemen are expected to wear a tailored suit in black, navy, charcoal, or grey. Men's suits should be solid. Socks, shoes, and any accessories should coordinate with the suit.

Ladies are expected to wear a tailored skirt suit in black, navy, charcoal, or grey. Ladies’ suits should be solid. Pantyhose must be worn with skirt suits. Accessories should coordinate and should not overwhelm either the student or the suit. Ladies are expected to wear pumps or heels but may carry a pair of black ballet flats to wear between events. Ladies’ hair is expected to look professional and be out of students’ eyes.

Students competing in Duo Interpretation are expected to coordinate their attire.

Students with specific questions regarding competition attire should have their suits approved prior to leaving for the first tournament. Conflicts with the dress code will be handled on an individual basis.

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**INVESTMENT**

**Financial**

Students are expected to pay for their tournament attire, their meals while travelling with the team, and their portion of any necessary hotel and bus fares. Students are expected to help with team fundraising, which will pay for league and tournament fees, and will help alleviate the cost of tournament travel. Students willing to invest their time but unable to meet the financial requirements should speak with the coach about financial aid.

**Time**

Speech and Debate is a time-consuming activity, and students who plan to participate should expect to spend time in preparation both independently and as a team, and at weekend tournaments.

**Parental Support**

Parents will be needed to help with fundraising, to support their students by encouraging practice and preparation, and to participate in various roles at tournaments.
**Speech and Debate in a Nutshell**

**Speech Individual Events (IEs)**

**Dramatic Interpretation (DI)**
A 10-minute interpretation of a cutting from a published work (novel, short story, play or poetry) that is serious in tone and memorized

**Humorous Interpretation (HI)**
A 10-minute interpretation of a cutting from a published work (novel, short story, play or poetry) that is humorous in tone and memorized

**Poetry Interpretation (Poetry)**
A 10-minute cutting from a published poem (or poems) that uses a manuscript

**Prose Interpretation (Prose)**
A 10-minute interpretation of a cutting from a published work of prose fiction (short stories, novels) and/or nonfiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies) that uses a manuscript

**Duet Acting (Duet)**
A memorized 10-minute cutting from a published play involving two people that may use two chairs

**Duo Interpretation (DUO)**
A 10-minute interpretation of a published text (a play, a fictional or nonfictional work, or a poem) involving two people that is memorized and does not allow direct focus or contact between students

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**Speech Limited Preparation Events**

**Extemporaneous Speaking (Extemp)**
A 7-minute speech prepared in 30 minutes using a file containing published books, magazines, newspapers, and journals or articles on the student’s choice of one of three topics provided by the tournament director

**Impromptu Speaking (Impromptu)**
A speech prepared and delivered in 7 minutes using no external sources or pre-prepared material on a topic provided by the tournament director

**TV Commentary (TV Com)**
A 3-minute presentation prepared in 20 minutes on a variety of news topics (including international, national, state, weather, sports, and human interest) that uses a script written during the preparation period
**Speech Oratorical Events**

**Original Oratory (OO)**
A memorized 10-minute speech on any appropriate subject that is the original work of the student (11th and 12th grade recommended)

**Declamation (Dec)**
A memorized 6-10 minute speech given by someone else at an earlier point in history (9th and 10th grade only)

**Debate Events**

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD)**
A one-on-one debate in which students argue the relative merits of a value proposition that changes every two months during the school year

**Public Forum Debate (PF)**
A debate in which two-member teams of students present dueling extemporaneous speeches on a topic that changes monthly with limited amount of direct conflict and refutation among speakers