



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chief Financial Officer

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Christopher M. Berdnik, PRSBA

September 19, 2018

RE: William Tennent Invitational
November 3, 2018

Dear Coaches:

On behalf of Superintendent David Baugh, Principal Dennis Best, #TennentDebate, and assistant coach Colleen Mooney, it is my pleasure to invite you to the 2018 William Tennent Invitational held November 3, 2018 at William Tennent High School in Warminster, PA. We are very conveniently located to major transportation routes (76, 95, 276, and 476) and anticipate a strong regional draw from a two-hour radius.

About Centennial School District and William Tennent High School

Our region boasts a rich history of education and innovation. In 1727, Mr. William Tennent founded Log College in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Log College was Pennsylvania's first college and one of the oldest in America. Its first graduates founded Princeton University and 130 other colleges and universities. Tennent led "The Great Awakening", an educational enlightenment that occurred and spread throughout the colonies. John Fitch invented the steamboat in Warminster, with the first successful trial run on the Delaware River in 1787. The American Space Program began at the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, which housed the Centrifuge where astronauts John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Scott Carpenter trained.

William Tennent High School was completely renovated in 2011. We served as a competition site for preliminary policy debate rounds of the National Catholic Forensic League's 2013 Grand National Tournament.

Tournament Staff

Mr. Jeff Kahn from Strath Haven High School will direct our tabulation room.

Registration

Tournament registration will be through www.tabroom.com. Registration will close October 30th at 5:00 PM, with fees frozen on October 31st 5:00 PM. Fees are \$10 per student entry (e.g., a policy debate team is \$20).

Because we seek to single flight all rounds of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, I do not anticipate having anything but very, very small pool of judges available for hire.

Additional information about lunch arrangements will be posted at a later date.

Schedule

On-site registration will open promptly outside of our library at 7:45 AM and close at 8:15 AM on November 3rd. Students and judges should gather in our cafeteria, which will serve as the tournament hub for announcements. Round one (1) will start at 9:00 AM for all events except policy, which will begin at 8:45 AM.

There will be three rounds of Speech, breaking to finals; three sessions of Congress (or two and a final session); four rounds of PF and LD, breaking to quarterfinals (likely semifinals for JV); and four rounds of Policy. Additional elimination rounds will be held should numbers warrant.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM. We started the awards ceremony 20 minutes early in 2016 and just seven (7) minutes late in 2017.

Events

The following events will follow NCFL rules:

- Declamation (9th and 10th grade only)
- Dramatic Performance (JV and Varsity)
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking (JV and Varsity)
- Lincoln-Douglas (JV and Varsity)
- Oral Interpretation (Varsity only; Prose and Poetry separately for JV)
- Original Oratory (JV and Varsity)
- Policy Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Public Forum (JV and Varsity)

The following events will follow NSDA rules:

- Congressional Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Informative
- Program Oral Interpretation

Students in speech events may double enter (no double entry in debate).

Debate events will use the national NSDA topics for November. The Lincoln-Douglas novice topic will not be used. Congress will use the PCFL legislation packet plus any legislation submitted to cberdnik3@gmail.com by October 22nd at 5pm.

Big Questions

Big Questions debate will be offered as a supplemental event in the afternoon for those students not advancing in speech, Lincoln-Douglas, or Public Forum. Kindly pre-register students via Tabroom. Judges will be drawn from all available pools. Registration may be capped.

New for 2018

We will likely break varsity Lincoln-Douglas and varsity Public Forum to quarterfinals. **We will use electronic ballots in all speech and debate events. Make sure your judges bring their own device and have linked tabroom accounts!**

Questions

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 441-6000, x11010 (work), (412) 992-8472 (cell), berdch@centennialsd.org (work), or cberdnik3@gmail.com (personal).

s/Christopher M. Berdnik
Director of Debate

s/Colleen Mooney
Assistant Coach

s/Ethan Knox
Captain