



28TH ANNUAL

JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL
FORENSICS SPEECH & DEBATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INVITATIONAL **2019**

James Logan Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational Tournament Invite

Coaches & Competitors,

Welcome to the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational. We are excited to once again host this wonderful opportunity for top caliber speech & debate competition! We host this tournament to value the diversity of this activity in hopes to empower voices' of our youth to engage in social change in their community and the world. In honor of Dr. King, we hope to provide a brave and inclusive space for competition where competitors can bring performances and researched cases to continue to fight for social justice.

The tournament will take place from Friday, January 18th – Sunday, January 20th, 2019 at James Logan High School, 1800 H Street, Union City, CA 94587. In this invitation letter you will find important information regarding registration, logistics, and changes to our tournament.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or recommendations to help us improve the tournament, please feel free to contact us. If you have questions regarding any of the information we are always available. We are excited you have chosen to compete at our tournament and wish you and your team the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Jesse D. Garrett
Co-Director of Forensics
Tournament Director for Debate
Contact: jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us
Phone: 510-593-8522

Justin Kurup
Co-Director of Forensics
Tournament Director for Individual Events
Contact: jkurup@nhusd.k12.ca.us
Phone: 510-449-9538

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IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

TABROOM

The tournament has moved online platforms to be entirely run on Tabroom.com (www.mlkinvite.tabroom.com). This change is based on feedback given by tournament participants and coaches over the last few years. We hope that this will help improve tournament logistics, be in line with the digital era, and help keep the tournament running on time. This will significantly impact the way we run judges. Please read the information regarding judges in this letter to update your judges and ensure you meet your school's judging obligation.

DINING OPTIONS

We have plans on improving our student dining experience. We are working with our local community and Bay Area food trucks to provide diverse food service for the entire weekend. We will have more details and logistics as the tournament draws near. As always, we encourage you to stay on campus for food. Complimentary judges' food will be made available to judges/coaches ONLY.

PUBLIC FORM & PARLI EVENT CAPS

In order to ensure that all 4-1 teams will clear, a per program entry of 6 teams will be implemented for fairness and balance of the overall entry. Per program entries beyond the 6 team cap will be waitlisted for the tournament and cleared into the tournament as space becomes available. You will be notified if your waitlisted teams have cleared by Monday, January 14, 2019.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

We will be following CHSSA guidelines for Congressional Debate for the most part, with the exception of Presiding Officers participating as competitors when not presiding. Please see these [guidelines on Student Congress at MLK](#).

*Voting for Semi-Final & Final Round legislation will take place one month before the tournament.

CIRCUIT POLICY DEBATE

We are offering the opportunity to participate in a separate circuit style policy debate tournament again this year. This tournament will be completely independent of the traditional MLK tournament, however, still hosted on campus at James Logan High. It is important to note that circuit policy will not factor into team sweepstakes and we will continue to offer "lay" policy debate at the MLK Invitational. This is designed to provide an exceptional circuit policy debate tournament option for programs interested in this style of debate. We will be offering two divisions this year - Novice and Varsity.

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To sign up, please visit Tabroom.com at "MLK Circuit Policy Debate Tournament" or visit the link www.mlkcircuitcx.tabroom.com for the separate registration. Registration for this tournament will open by November 15, 2018.

JUDGING REQUIREMENT CHANGES

All judge names must be entered into Tabroom.com to cover entries. We are planning on pre-paneling rounds and distributing judging cards to coaches at registration. With the move to Tabroom we will be using the electronic ballot system. **ALL judges will need an electronic device that is capable of connecting to WiFi to be a judge.** Uncovered round fines will be strictly enforced this year, so please make sure that your judging commitments are fulfilled throughout the entire tournament schedule. We will do our best to accommodate the Judging Pool preferences that you indicate for each judge, but feel that it is important to note that judges are not guaranteed to receive ballots for the pools that are indicated. We reserve the right to use any and all judges for any event offered at the tournament, in order to ensure that we stay on schedule.

Some Judging reminders:

- Please have judges create their own Tabroom account using their own email accounts. We will only accept real names of each judge.
- Please have judges enter their CELL PHONE number on their tabroom accounts as we will use this number to send text reminders throughout the tournament.
- We especially need judges committed to the back to back debate outrounds on Saturday night to ensure that they go smoothly and the tournament stays on time.

REGISTRATION PAYMENT

Teams registering to compete at the tournament must certify mail (require a signature upon delivery) a cashier's check, money order, or check from their school district. **ABSOLUTELY NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Make Checks Payable to: **Friends of Forensics**

Mail to:

**James Logan High School
ATTN: Jesse D. Garrett, Room 408
1800 H Street
Union City, CA 94587**

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Wednesday, January 9, 2019** - All registration checks must be RECEIVED no later than this date. If your registration is not received by this deadline, all of your team's entries will be immediately dropped.
- **Friday, January 11, 2019** - The DROP DEADLINE for this year's tournament. Any drops made after this deadline will incur the full registration fee penalty for that event. *ALL FEES WILL BE FROZEN ON THIS DATE.* Drops after this date will not be refunded.
- **Monday, January 14, 2019** - Waitlisted entries to the tournament will be cleared by this date and coaches will be contacted. Cash payment, cashier's check, money order, or check from your school district will be accepted at registration for any waitlisted entry fees for competitors that are admitted into the tournament after registration has closed.

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REMINDERS & LOGISTICS

Registration

On Friday, January 18th, 2019 registration will be open from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM, in the foyer of the [Pavilion](#) located in the center of the campus on H Street. Competitors will not be able to enter campus until 3:30 PM on Friday. The first rounds of Debate will start at 4:30 PM. Additional registration will be held for schools competing only in speech events on Saturday, January 19th, 2019 starting at 7:00 AM at the Information Desk/Judges Table in the Pavilion.

Debate Topics

We will be using the January Topic for Public Forum and the January/February topic for LD. Congress legislation will be made available one month before the start of the tournament.

Locations

A digital map can be found online: <http://www.jameslogan.org/map/>. We encourage all coaches share this with their competitors and judges before the start of the tournament.

- Students will report to the **Student Union/Cafeteria**.
- Coaches/Judges on Friday, January 18 & Sunday, January 20 will be reporting to the **Al Rodrigues Old Gym**, and on Saturday, January 19 to the **Pavilion**.
- Available **bathrooms** during the tournament are as follows:
 - Student restrooms
 - Girls/Boys Locker Room (near Judges room, Al Rodriguez Gym)
 - 500's & 200's clusters
 - Adult restrooms
 - Staff Lounge bathroom (in Senior Patio adjacent to Pavilion)
 - Restrooms in main hallway (adjacent to rooms 60 and 63)
 - All Gendered Restrooms
 - Restrooms in main hallway (adjacent to rooms 61 and 62)

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Tournament of Champions Bids

We are pleased that the MLK Invitational is a bid tournament for the 2019 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions ([NIETOC](#)). Students making it to outrounds in Original Oratory, Duo Interp, Humorous Interp, Dramatic Interp, Program Oral Interp, and Expository will earn one bid toward competing at the NIETOC.

We are pleased to that the MLK Invitational is a bid tournament for **Public Forum** debate to the Tournament of Champions ([TOC](#)) at the University of Kentucky. Students advancing to octo-finals will receive one Silver Bid and students advancing to quarter-finals will receive one Gold Bid.

Information Desk

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the information desk, which will also serve as the Judge House table. Any issues that arise with the tournament can be directed to the information desk. Head coaches will be the only people allowed in the tab room.

Awards

The award ceremonies will be held on Sunday evening immediately following the Duo Final Round in the [JLHS Center for the Performing Arts](#) (large blue building located across from the Swim Complex).

Awards will be given on stage for all Speech & Congress finalists and all Debate quarter-finalists, semi-finalists, and finalists.

All other non-advancing outround trophies will be available for pick up on Sunday, January 20, 2019 starting at 3:00 P.M in the foyer of the Performing Arts Center. Awards will be available for the following competitors:

- Non-advancing *quarterfinalists & semifinalists* in Individual Events
- Non-advancing *Octofinalists* in Debate Events will be given (based on entry counts)
- Awards will be given for non-advancing *semifinalists* in Congress.

Please make arrangements to pick up your trophies that day. If you would like to request that your trophies be mailed to you, a request needs to be sent by January 14, 2019 along with a separate \$25.00 check to help offset the cost of shipping.

Classroom Supervision

Please remind competitors that they are not allowed to be in rooms without a judge present. Any student in violation of this rule will be immediately disqualified.