



29TH ANNUAL

JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL
FORENSICS SPEECH & DEBATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INVITATIONAL 2020

James Logan Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational **Tournament Invite**

Coaches & Competitors,

Welcome to the 2020 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 17th - Sunday, January 19, 2020** 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

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

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IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

***NEW* PROTEST & EQUITY COMMITTEE**

This year we have decided to implement two critical aspects of tournament administration in hopes to improve the experience of competitors at large national-scale competition. We have created two separate committees; a Protest Committee and an Equity Committee. The protest committee will be able to adjudicate any protests that arise throughout the competition. The Equity Committee will serve students and coaches to ensure our diverse populations concerns are heard and uphold the standards of inclusion that this activity promises to have.

***NEW* BIG QUESTIONS CONSOLATION EVENT**

We are excited to offer Big Questions Debate as a consolation event this year. Competition for Big Questions debate will begin after the first elimination rounds in speech and debate events. Any students who do not advance in main event categories will be eligible to compete in Big Questions. There will be a \$10 entry fee and registration will continue through Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 11:59 PM. We will guarantee awards for the top three in the competition. As a consolation event, Big Questions will not factor into school Sweepstakes. For topics and resources visit the [Big Questions Resource page](#).

***NEW* TOURNAMENT HOTEL**

We have a new tournament hotel located near shopping, dining, and a short 4 miles from James Logan High campus. Courtyard Newark Silicon Valley located at 34905 Newark Blvd Newark, California 94560. There are limited rooms at a great rate of \$99 per night.

You can [BOOK YOUR GROUP RATE HERE!](#)

TABROOM

We will continue to run the tournament on Tabroom.com (www.mlkinvite.tabroom.com) this year. We hope that we have worked out the kinks and hosting the tournament entirely online 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.

PUBLIC FORM & PARLI EVENT CAPS

In order to ensure that all 4-1 teams will clear, a 6 team per program cap 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 13, 2020.

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EVENT RULES

We will be following [CHSSA guidelines](#) for all Individual Events and Parliamentary Debate. Congressional Debate will also follow CHSSA rules 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.

We will adhere to [NSDA rules](#) for Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy. If there are questions or concerns that arise regarding the rules during rounds, please have a coach with a written statement approach tab room before the conclusion for the next round.

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.

To sign up, please visit Tabroom.com at "**MLK Circuit Policy Debate Tournament**" or visit the link www.mlkcircuitcx.tabroom.com for separate registration. Registration for this tournament will open by November 22, 2019.

JUDGING REQUIREMENT

All judge names must be entered into Tabroom.com to cover entries. We are planning on pre-paneling rounds and posting judge obligations by registration. We will be using the electronic ballot system for all events. **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.

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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.
- Please ensure that your judges can stay for their entire commitment. We do not allow judges to judge under any name but their own.
- If a judge does not get an assignment for two rounds in a row, please have them check in with a tournament official or judge help desk for support.
- 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: Forensics, Room 408
1800 H Street
Union City, CA 94587**

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IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

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 10, 2020

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. Any outstanding fees owed will need to be taken care of at registration.

Monday, January 13, 2020

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 3:00 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 2020 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 by December 17, 2019.

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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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 also provide a low-cost snack bar option with hot food in the cafeteria. More specific details will be available on the tournament page the week of the event. As always, complimentary judges' food will be made available to judges/coaches ONLY so we encourage everyone to stay on campus throughout the weekend. We request that everyone remains on campus throughout the tournament in order to make sure the tournament runs smoothly.

***NEW* Be the Change Art Gallery & Cultural Fair**

To celebrate the work of Dr. King and those who came before us, we are continuing the tradition of showcasing our community throughout the tournament. On Friday evening, there will be a Cultural Fair in the Colt Court courtyard where different cultural-based clubs on campus will be able to showcase the work they do. This is also an opportunity for the clubs to raise funds toward social change campaigns and missions that they are invested in. Competitors will have a chance to visit the tables and purchase food and snack items from the clubs.

Additionally, on Sunday we will host our social justice-inspired Art Gallery in the foyer of the Center for the Performing Arts. Everyone is welcome to walk through and enjoy the gallery as well as encouraged to purchase any of the student-made pieces. All proceeds will go directly back to the artists.

Tournament of Champions Bids

We are pleased that the MLK Invitational is a bid tournament for the 2020 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 (also known as Informative) will earn one bid toward competing at the NIETOC.

We are pleased 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 the 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. We will keep a closed Tab Room and head coaches will be the only people permitted in tab.

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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 13, 2020 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.