



William Tennent High School

333 Centennial Road, Warminster, PA 18974-5400 (EOE)

September 6, 2019

Dear Coaches:

On behalf of Dr. David Baugh, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Dennis Best, Principal, William Tennent High School's Speech and Debate Team is pleased to invite you to the 2019 William Tennent Invitational on **Saturday, November 2, 2019**, at William Tennent High School in Warminster, PA. We are very conveniently located to major transportation routes (76, 95, 276, and 476), and we anticipate a strong regional draw from a two-hour radius.

About the 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, and we have hosted the Valley Forge District National Qualifier Tournament for the National Speech and Debate Association.

Tournament Staff

Mr. Jeff Kahn from Strath Haven High School will serve as the Tournament Director. Mr. Chris Berdnik, Tennent's former Director of Debate who founded the William Tennent Invitational, will assist with tournament operations.

Registration

Tournament registration will be through www.tabroom.com. Registration will close and the names of all judges are due on **Tuesday, October 29th at 5:00 PM**, with fees frozen on **Wednesday, October 30th at 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 a very, very small pool of judges available for hire. Additional information regarding lunch arrangements will be posted at a later date.

Schedule

On-site registration will open promptly outside our library at 7:45 AM and will close at 8:15 AM on November 2nd. 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 Debate, 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 Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate, breaking to quarterfinals (likely semifinals for JV); and four rounds of Policy Debate. Additional elimination rounds will be held should numbers warrant.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM.

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 Debate (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 Speaking
- Program Oral Interpretation

Students in speech events may double enter. There is no double entry in debate.

Debate events will use the national NSDA topics for November. The Lincoln-Douglas Debate novice topic will **not** be used. Congress will use the PCFL legislation packet plus any legislation submitted to moonco@centennialsd.org by Monday, October 21st at 5:00 PM.

Big Questions Debate

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

Balloting

We will use electronic ballots in all speech and debate events. Please be sure that your judges bring their own devices and have linked Tabroom accounts!

Questions

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you in November!

Dr. Colleen Mooney
Speech and Debate Coach

moonco@centennialsd.org
(215) 441 – 6181, ext. 11499 (work)
(215) 605 – 5396 (cell)

Tentative Tournament Schedule

7:45 AM	Registration (Outside the Library)
8:15 AM	Registration Closes
8:25 AM	Opening Assembly (Cafeteria)
8:45 AM	Policy Round 1
9:00 AM	Speech Round 1 Congress Session 1 PF and LD Round 1
9:45 AM	PF and LD Round 2
10:15 AM	Policy Round 2
10:30 AM	Speech Round 2
11:15 AM	PF and LD Round 3
12:00 PM	Speech Round 3
12:30 PM	Policy Round 3 Congress Session 2
1:00 PM	PF and LD Round 4
2:30 PM	PF and LD Quarterfinals
2:45 PM	Speech Finals (DEC, INF, JVDP, JVPoe, JVPro)
3:15 PM	BQ Round 1
3:30 PM	Congress Session 3 Policy Round 4
4:00 PM	PF and LD Semifinals
4:15 PM	BQ Round 2
4:30 PM	Speech Finals (DUO, JVEX, OO, POI, VDP, VEX, VOI)
5:15 PM	BQ Round 3
5:30 PM	PF and LD Finals
6:30 PM	Awards Ceremony