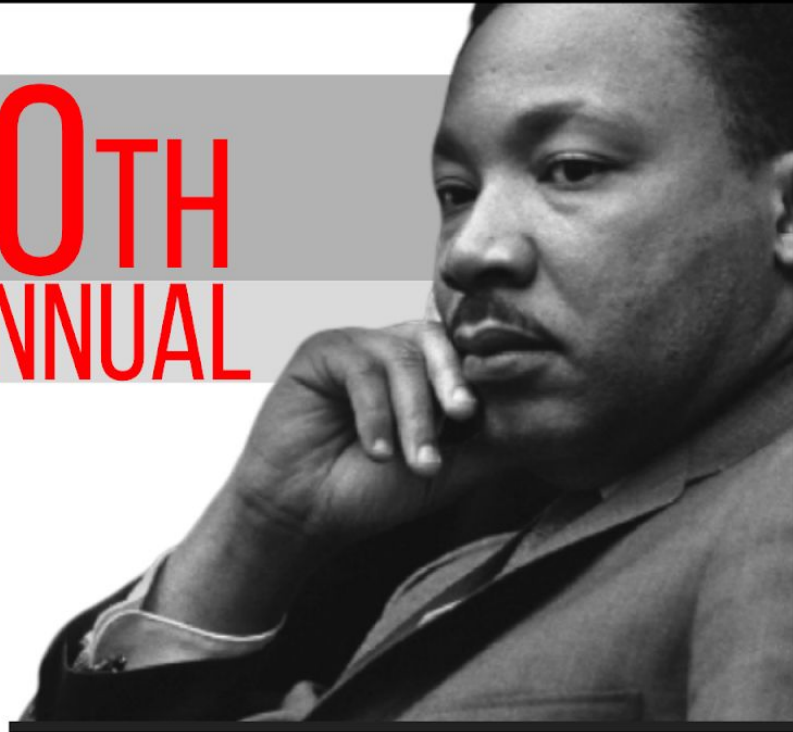


30TH
ANNUAL



JAMES LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL
FORENSICS SPEECH & DEBATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INVITATIONAL **2021**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. INVITATIONAL JAMES LOGAN SPEECH & DEBATE



Coaches & Competitors,

Welcome to the 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational. We knew that the 30th year would be special, but didn't anticipate such drastic changes. In a world that seems to be on pause, we take pride in being able to offer an activity that continues to honor Dr. King's legacy of empowering young voices.

We are excited to once again host this wonderful opportunity for top caliber speech & debate competition! We host this tournament to further support the diversity of this activity in hopes that our youth will be inspired to engage in social change in their community and the world. Our hope is 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 15th - Sunday, January 17th, 2021** virtually in Pacific Standard Time (PST). 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 pleased 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 Speech
Contact: jkurup@nhusd.k12.ca.us

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLATFORM

We will be hosting the tournament virtually on **NSDA Campus**. Competitors and judges can familiarize themselves with the software on the [NSDA Campus test website](#).

All events will be run synchronously, including speech. This means that all competitors will be performing and competing live. As equity is our focus, we understand that access is difficult for some students. We will allow an asynchronous video performance option in speech events prelims only on a case by case basis. Students who need to elect this option should have their coach contact the Speech Tournament Director, Justin Kurup for details. All competitors will still be expected to attend their rounds.

We will continue to run the tournament on Tabroom.com (www.mlk.tabroom.com) this year. All students must be linked to their school via Tabroom.com prior to the competition. Students will not be able to access their rounds without it. Coaches can review the [Linking Students to Tabroom](#) document for assistance.

SCHEDULE

The schedule for all events will be posted on www.mlk.tabroom.com. As a reminder **all times are posted in Pacific Standard Time (PST)**. This year we are pleased to announce the addition of rounds in speech events; a 4th preliminary round and octofinals for all events with more than 150 entries.

EVENTS

Debate

Lincoln Douglas (LD)
Public Forum (PF) *TOC BID*
Parliamentary Debate (PARLI)
Policy (CX)

Speech

Dramatic Interp (DI)
Duo Interp (DUO)*
Humorous Interp (HI)
Impromptu (IMP)
Informative (INFO)
International Extemp (IX)
National Extemp (NX)
Oratorical Interp (OI)
Original Advocacy (OA)
Original Oratory (OO)
Original Prose & Poetry (OPP)
Program Oral Interp (POI)

Congress

National Circuit *TOC BID*

** Duo Interp will be the only event that will be run asynchronously. More details will be sent to schools with Duo entries.*

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CROSS ENTRY

The tournament allows cross-entry in one (1) Debate event and up to three (3) speech events. Cross-entry between Speech & Debate events are allowed, however, **students entering in Congress may not cross-enter to compete in any other event.**

Triathlete competitors, or students who have entered in 3 events, are eligible for the annual competition awarded to the top 3 performers in the entire tournament. **A donation will be made on behalf of the 3 triathlete award winners who will get to elect a social justice nonprofit organization for a donation in their name.**

DIVISION

The MLK tournament is a **varsity only** competition in all events. Coaches must only enter students who are competing at the varsity level in their events. We cannot accept any Middle School or independent entries at this time. All competing students must represent a registered high school. ***Any student competitors found in violation of this will be immediately disqualified from the competition.***

REGISTRATION EVENT CAPS

In order to uphold the integrity of competition to ensure a fair break, we have implemented entry caps in all events to balance the overall entry.

Debate events - 7 entries per program

Speech events - 10 entries per program

Congress - 15 entries per program

Coaches can claim "TBA" slots in Tabroom. All entries will be waitlisted and cleared once names are registered. **Competitor names must be added by December 18, 2020.** Waitlisted entries beyond this date will be cleared once space becomes available. Coaches will be notified if waitlisted entries have cleared up until Monday, January 11, 2021.

EVENT RULES

We will adhere to [NSDA rules](#) (section 2 of High School Manual) for all national circuit events: this includes Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Policy, DI, Duo, HI, Info, IX, NX, OO, and POI.

We will be following [CHSSA rules & regulations](#) for all California state events which include Parliamentary Debate, IMP, OI, OA, and OPP.

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Congressional Debate rules and regulations are posted in the [Congress packet](#) available on Tabroom.

If there are questions or concerns that arise regarding the rules during rounds, please have a coach write a written statement to approach the Equity Committee within ninety (90) minutes of the conclusion of the round, or prior to the conclusion of the next round - whichever comes first.

DATES & DEADLINES

Friday, December 18, 2020

- Registration deadline for all events is due by 5:00 PM PST.
- Please input competitors names into Tabroom by this date to be cleared off the waitlist.
- TBA slots will be dropped beyond this point.
- This is also the deadline to request hired judges.

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

- All registration payments must be RECEIVED no later than this date.
- If your registration is not received by this deadline, your team's entries will be immediately dropped.
- This is also the deadline for entering judges.

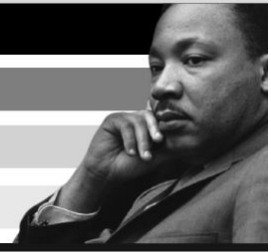
Friday, January 8, 2021

- The DROP DEADLINE for this year's tournament by 5:00 PM PST.
- 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 prior to the start of the tournament.

Monday, January 11, 2021

- Waitlisted entries to the tournament will be cleared by this date and coaches will be contacted. Teams not cleared by this date will have little to no chance of being entered into the tournament.

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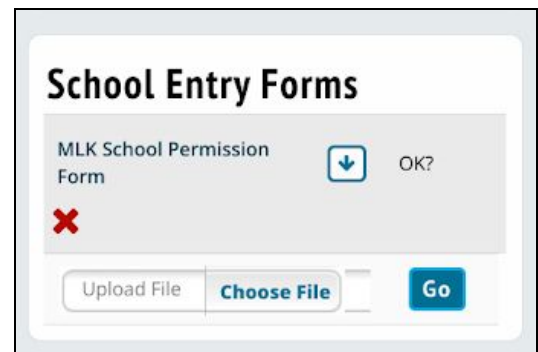


TOURNAMENT LOGISTICS

PERMISSION FORMS

Each school will be responsible for submitting a school permission form signed by their school administrator in order to complete registration. As we are going to be live streaming elimination rounds in all events, each individual competitor will need to have a liability & video release waiver in order to participate. Documents are available for download on Tabroom and will be due by December 18, 2020.

1. **MLK School Participation Permission Form** → Signed by school-approved chaperone and school administrator. *When registering in Tabroom you can download, sign, and upload the PDF on the right side panel.*
2. **Student Liability Release Form (page 1)** → Signed by individual competitors and guardians.
3. **Photo/Video Release Waiver (page 2)** → Signed by individual competitors and guardians.



Coaches can find student forms when registering individuals in Tabroom. The forms will need to be signed and uploaded for each individual competitor.

TOC BIDS

We are pleased that the MLK Invitational is a bid tournament for the 2021 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions ([NIETOC](#)) and the Tournament of Champions ([TOC](#)) at the University of Kentucky.

Octofinals Bid

Public Forum (Sliver)
Dramatic Interp
Original Oratory

Quarterfinals Bid

Public Forum (Gold)
Duo Interp
Humorous Interp
Informative
International Extemp
National Extemp
Program Oral Interp

Finals Bid

Congress (Top 16)

Note: Bid rounds for speech events are based on entry sizes and are subject to change.

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We have also applied for NPD L points for Parliamentary Debate.

REGISTRATION PAYMENT

We request that all payments be made electronically via our website:

www.jamesloganforensics.org/mlk. Credit card payments will be processed through Squarespace. Once payment is submitted you will receive a confirmation email. Tournament Directors will update the Fees tab in your Tabroom account with confirmed payment or remaining balance.

All payments are made as a donation to the James Logan Forensics nonprofit, **Friends of Forensics (Tax ID: 94-3228131)**. If requested by your school administration, please download the [Friends of Forensics W-9 Form](#).

Please contact Tournament Directors if your school is only able to make payment via check. *Absolutely no personal checks will be accepted.*

FEE WAIVERS

As a Title I public school, we understand that fundraising efforts this year has been difficult. As always, we want to support competitors and their programs as best we can. For information regarding fee waivers and/or financial assistance please contact Tournament Directors **by January 1, 2021**.

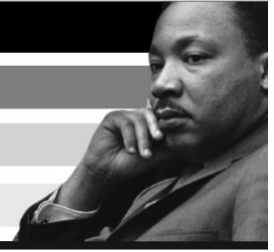
ONLINE REGISTRATION

On Friday, January 15, 2021 electronic registration will be automated for schools who do not have outstanding fees or necessary drops. For those schools with outstanding fees and/or late drops, registration will take place between 9:00-11:00 AM PST via the Tab Room. We request that schools competing in only speech events still register during this time slot.

JUDGING REQUIREMENT

All judge names must be entered and linked in Tabroom.com to cover entries. We are planning on pre-paneling rounds and posting judge obligations the week of the tournament. 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, however 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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We are asking that all parent and community judges complete the [free Cultural Competency Judge Training](#) offered by the NSDA to better the experience for all competitors.

As always, we request coaches nominate **Elimination judges in all events**. This can be done when entering judges in Tabroom or by contacting tournament officials. We strongly encourage coaches to judge on behalf of their programs for all Sunday elimination rounds. Inexperienced judges may not be used on Sunday at the discretion of the tournament.

Due to the online platform, **hiring judges may be extremely limited this year**. We hope that all schools will be able to meet their judge burden.

Some Judging reminders:

- Please have judges create their own Tabroom account using their own email accounts. We will only accept the 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 the judge lounge for support.
- We especially need judges committed to the back-to-back debate outrounds starting on Saturday night to ensure that they go smoothly and the tournament stays on time.

TOURNAMENT COMMITMENT

TAB STAFF

Debate Tournament Director

Jesse Garrett
jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us

Speech Tournament Director

Justin Kurup
jkurup@nhusd.k12.ca.us

Debate Tab Lead

Bryon Arthur
The Arthur School

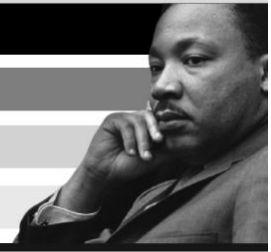
Speech Tab Lead

Benjamin Cruz
Archbishop Mitty

Congress Tab Lead

Quest Sandel
Logan & John F. Kennedy

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EQUITY STATEMENT

As a community of educators, we commit ourselves to the advancement of equity, social justice, and educational opportunity for our people. Amidst the recent events that have put our country in turmoil, we also commit to act and show up for BIPOC communities across the nation. Our commitment is such because we know that as all forms of oppression are connected, the liberation of all our communities is also connected. We stand in solidarity for Black lives. We understand that we have the privilege to stand on the shoulders of such great leaders of equally great movements, like the namesake of the tournament, and because of this, our commitment to solidarity perseveres.

Tournament officials are committed to the safety and well-being of all it's participants -- students, coaches, and judges. Equity Officers will be available to address concerns that challenge safety and fairness of the competition. We have Zero Tolerance of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination of any kind. We expect all competitors, coaches, judges, and staff to make a commitment to providing a safe environment for all students to compete.

The Equity Committee will be able to assist in adjudication of any protests that arise. This 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.

The Equity Committee is honored to be led by:

Chair

Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr.
Vice President of NSDA Board
Director Emeritus, James Logan

Vice Chair

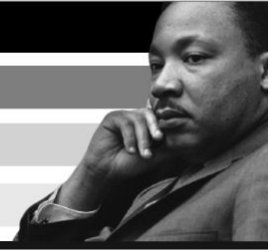
Angelique Ronald
CHSSA Vice President of Activities
State Tournament Director

Dr. Lindsey's equity statement:

"As we move into unprecedented times it is important for our program to be at the forefront to initiate the ways in which the world should change. Speech and Debate students contribute a diverse, intellectual, and promising narrative for our future. Incorporating equity into our mission as an organization is putting action to the words that often just live on paper. We are committed to equity for all. This core value will allow opportunity to exist for all students.

James Logan Forensics prides itself as a team that champions one of the most culturally diverse communities in the nation. It is incumbent on our organization to represent students in a fair and just way. Having an equity committee at the MLK tournament ensures we are holding ourselves

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and the community accountable so that, regardless of existing issues of access or resources, all of your voices will be heard.”

AWARDS

The award ceremonies will be held immediately following speech event final rounds. **Names will be recognized “on stage” during the Awards Ceremony for all Speech & Congress finalists and all Debate quarter-finalists and up.** Competitors advancing to this round will be notified of what Zoom room to enter to be recognized. All other coaches, competitors, and community supporters will be encouraged to watch the Awards Ceremony via the livestream.

All trophies will be shipped the week of January 18, 2021. Awards will be grouped by and shipped to schools. We cannot ship to individuals. Coaches will be asked to confirm their trophy total at the conclusion of the tournament. Awards will be available for the following competitors starting at:

- *Octofinalists* in Debate Events
- *Quarterfinalists* in Individual Events
- *Semifinalists* in Congress

BE THE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

Included in the registration fees this year is an opportunity for students and coaches to participate in interactive workshops and discussions about issues within the Speech and Debate activity. This is to give folks a platform to come together to address ongoing injustices in our community, and discuss an advocacy plan for productive change.

Workshops we are currently hoping to offer include:

- Identity-based student caucuses
- Legendary Coaches panel of NSDA Hall of Fame winners
- Successful Womxn of Speech & Debate panel

Pre-registration will be required. More information about Be the Change Workshops will be available at www.mlk.tabroom.com as the event date draws near.