



Dear Forensics Family:

Welcome to the first ever Murray and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School **Better Together** Invitational Speech Tournament! We look forward to having you join us ONLINE asynchronously on Sunday November 8 - Thursday November 12 and synchronously Saturday, November 14th. Our tournaments usually take place separately on opposite ends of the state, however our teams discovered that the current events have provided us with not only challenges but also opportunities to work in combined and unique ways. Out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our participants because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, our swing tournament will be held online through NSDA Campus. We look forward to welcoming you back to our campuses in the fall of 2021.

PLATFORM

We will be using NSDA Campus for competition. Speech preliminary rounds will be prerecorded and speech event finals for both parts of the swing tournament will be **LIVE**. All competitors and judges will need to have registered Tabroom.com, NSDA accounts, and have technology available to effectively compete in or judge rounds. Competitors AND judges must have access to a camera and microphone in order to participate in the tournament. It is recommended that students are prepared to enter their competition/prep room half an hour before the round begins. More information about NSDA Campus will be shared as it is made available. Watch this space for more details!

EVENTS

The tournaments will host the following fourteen Forensics events and four Debate events will following the Kentucky High School Speech League (KHSSL) rules for competition:

Speech Events

Speech Events including Limited Prep will be judged in two formats. Preliminary rounds will be judged asynchronously using pre recorded performances November 8-12 and live synchronous finals performances will take place on November 14. Recordings are due in Tabroom by Monday, November 9th at 8pm EST. Students recordings should include the entire view of the student with good sound and lighting in the performance. The recording device should be stationary for the entire performance. The link can be shared by pasting the link in the 'Link' section of their entry when you register them in Tabroom.

- [Declamation](#)
- [Dramatic Interpretation](#)
- [Duo Interpretation](#)
- [Humorous Interpretation](#)
- [Informative Speaking](#)
- [Oratory](#)
- [Poetry](#)
- [Program Oral Interpretation](#)
- [Prose](#)
- [Storytelling](#)

Limited Prep

Limited Prep prompts released to coaches on Sunday, November 8th at noon EST. Registration and performances are due by Monday, November 9th at 8pm EST. Students and coaches should respect the integrity and prep time rules for this event. Performances should be recorded once and utilize only the amount of prep time reserved per event rules. Impromptu and Improv prep must be recorded. Broadcasting will be competing using a prepared script rounds 1 & 2 (two rounds for each tournament) and then will follow normal final round procedures (with prep as noted in the Broadcasting ballot linked below). Students recordings should include the entire view of the student with good sound and lighting in the performance. The recording device should be stationary for the entire performance. The link can be shared by pasting the link in the 'Link' section of their entry when you register them in Tabroom.

- [Extemporaneous Speaking](#)

- [Impromptu Speaking](#)
- [Improvisational Duo](#)
- [Broadcasting](#)

Debate

Will be done synchronously online November 14. Entries are due Monday November 9 @8:00pm EST. We will be utilizing the KHSSL Invitational Legislation Treasury (KILT) as the primary source of legislation for this tournament. Schools may submit 1 additional bill utilizing the KILT format/template for consideration. Please click [here](#) for additional information on KILT. Bills must be sent to neomia.hagans@uky.edu by Friday November 6 @8:00pm EST.

- [Congressional Debate](#)
- [Lincoln Douglas Debate](#)
- [Policy Debate](#)
- [Public Forum Debate](#)

Click on the event name for a ballot that explains competition rules. More information about competition guidelines can be found in the [Kentucky High School Speech League handbook](#) and at [the official KHSSL website](#). Also, please take time to review the [KHSSL ratings guidelines](#) as you prepare both your students and judges for competition.

Entries

Speech preliminary rounds will be pre recorded (due Monday, November 9th at 8pm) and speech event finals for both parts of the swing tournament will be LIVE. The entire debate competition will be live. Please see the schedule for details. As such, teams may have unlimited entries, but a speech student may enter up to three events in the 14 KHSSL categories per tournament. Debaters may enter 2 speech events per tournament as well as 1 debate event. Only 1 of the two speech events for debaters should be a limited prep event. All students are expected to be prompt and on-time for all rounds. All rounds including final rounds **will not** be held for late competitors. Students who are excessively late (not arriving to the round in enough time to perform before the round ending time) or that do not show up for competition prior to the close of the round will be marked as a “no show” and may be dropped from competition and fined as appropriate (see DROP FEES below). We will work together to keep the tournament running smoothly and on time.

STUDENT ENTRY FEES

Noting how the COVID-19 global pandemic has affected many programs, we have decided to adjust entry fees this year to help our fellow Forensics families. Each school will be charged the lesser of these two options for speech events and debate events separately per portion of the tournament (Dunbar or Murray):

Speech (Dunbar or Murray)- A school fee of \$100 **OR** individual entry fees. The cost for students to participate in individual events is \$6, with Duo Interpretation and Improvisational Duo charging \$12. Teams must meet judging obligations in order to qualify for the \$100.00 entry cap. Teams not meeting their judging quota will be charged for individual entries.

Debate- A school fee of \$100 **OR** individual entry fees. The cost for students to participate in Congress and LD is \$6, with PF and Policy charging \$12. Teams must meet judging obligations in order to qualify for the \$100.00 entry cap. Teams not meeting their judging quota will be charged for individual entries.

STUDENT DROP FEES

Teams will be assessed per entry per as follows:

Speech:

Adds - Entry fee plus \$10 per entry before Nov 8 @ 8pm EST. No adds permitted after this time.

Drops- Entry fee plus \$10 per entry before Nov 8 @ 8pm EST and entry fee plus \$20 per entry after.

Substitutions not allowed

Debate:

Adds - Entry fee plus \$10 per entry before Nov 12 @ 6pm. No adds permitted after this time.

Drops-Entry fee plus \$10 per entry before Nov 13 @ 8pm and \$20 per anytime after.

Substitutions are free

JUDGES ENTRY

All judges should be familiar with KHSSL rules and ballots, and are expected to be in the judge pool during rounds where they are not explicitly scheduled. **ALL JUDGES MUST HAVE A TABROOM.COM ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO BE PLACED ON YOUR JUDGING**

ROSTER. *All judges will be considered for all events and all rounds in the pool in which they are registered (speech or debate) and should be prepared for competition accordingly. Due to live speech event finals taking place on Friday judges may not be cross entered in speech and debate events except congress.*

Speech Prelim rounds will be held asynchronously and judges may complete them anytime between November 10 - 12. Prelims ballots for rounds 1 & 2 for BOTH TOURNAMENTS should be completed by 6:00pm EST on Thursday, November 12. Finals for speech events will be announced on Friday evening via Tabroom. All judges are asked to be present at the judge roll call Saturday morning.

Teams are required to provide 1 judge for every 6 entries into the competition. 6 entries = one judge, 7 entries = 2 judges, etc. Remember that Duo Interpretation and Improvisational Duo count as 1 entry here. Debate events must provide 1 judge for every 2 entries or fraction thereof. **Schools must provide at least one judge in speech if their students are competing in speech events and 1 judge in debate events if their students are competing in debate.**

We want your judges! In the event you cannot provide the required number of judges, you may hire judges for \$30 each. Please also be reminded that schools may only qualify for the \$100.00 entry fee cap in debate or in speech if you have met your judging requirements. Once again, **schools must provide at least one judge in speech if their students are competing in speech events and 1 judge in debate events if their students are competing in debate.**

Please email Michael Robinson at michael.robinson@murray.kyschools.us if you have judges with special concerns. This will help with overall flow of the tournament.

JUDGES DROP FEES

Any judging drops occurring prior to will be charged \$50 each. Judging substitutions are free.

AWARDS

During a traditional in-person tournament, our schools would give students medals and/or trophies as awards for placing in the top six. Taking into consideration the cost for shipping and how the pandemic has affected many facets of our daily lives, we will be awarding **virtual certificates** for the top six performers in each event. The top three Speech schools in the Dunbar and Murray portion proportion of the will be recognized in overall sweepstakes competition and receive plaques via mail. The top 3 Debate schools will also be recognized in overall sweepstakes competition and receive plaques via mail.

The awards ceremony will be held in the evening to accommodate students and parents so they may have time to eat dinner and share in the awards experience together. Get everyone around the computer to watch awards! Make some popcorn! Celebrate as a speech community and with your family in the safety of your home!

SCHEDULE

We will be hosting a hybrid multi-day virtual event with both asynchronous pre recorded speech rounds and synchronous live debate rounds and speech finals. Please note that this schedule is tentative and may change based upon entries.

SPEECH EVENTS		DEBATE EVENTS	
Pre Tournament & Asynchronous Judging		Pre Tournament	
Sunday Nov 8 at 12:00pm EST - Limited Prep prompts released to coaches Monday Nov 9 at 8:00pm EST -All Entries with video recordings due Tuesday November 10 @ 6:00pm EST - Round 1-2 Judging BOTH tournaments begins Thursday November 12 @ 6:pm EST Round 1-2 Judging BOTH tournaments concludes Friday November 13 @ 6:00pm ET - Speech Finals Announcement		Friday November 6 at 8:00pm EST- Congress Legislation due. Monday Nov 9 at 8:00pm EST- Entries Due	
Synchronous Finals Debate		Debate Rounds	

Saturday November 14	Saturday November 14
8:30 Registration/Check In	8:30 Registration/Check In
9:00 EST Opening Meeting	9:00- EST Opening Meeting
10:00 Speech Judges Roll Call (All Judges should be present)	9:30 - Debate Judges Roll Call (All Judges should be present)
10:30 Flight A Finals Dunbar Portion (IMP, IVD, PO, OO, HI, DI, STORY)	10:00- Rd 1 Debate & Congress 1
12:00 BR & Extem Draw Dunbar Portion	11:30 Rd 2 Debate & Congress 2
12:30 Flight B Finals Dunbar Portion (EX, BR, PR, POI, DEC, INFO, DUO)	1:00 Break
2:30 BR & Extem Draw Murray Portion(EX, BR, PR, POI, DEC, INFO, DUO)	1:30 Judge Roll Call (All Judges should be present)
3:00 Flight A Finals Murray Portion	2:00 Rd 3 Debate & Congress
4:30 Flight B Finals Murray Portion (IMP, IVD, PO, OO, HI, DI, STORY)	4:00 Round 4/Semi Finals Debate & Congress Finals
8:00 Awards	5:30 Round 5/FinalsDebate
	8:00 Awards

HOW TO ENTER

All ALL TEAMS ARE TO REGISTER ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

Dunbar - <http://bettertogethersedunbar.tabroom.com/>

Murray - <http://bettertogethersedmurray.tabroom.com/>

Please note that this is a swing tournament and that you should register for both the Murray and Dunbar portions of the tournament. The Murray registration will only include speech events. The Dunbar portion will include speech and debate events. The tentative schedule for the day is listed above. The schedule is subject to change. After all, this is 2020...

If you have any questions regarding the process, the plans, or the please let me know. Hope to see you on November 14th!

Payment

Invoices will be sent by email by the close of or shortly after the close of the invitational. Although you will have separate invoices in tabroom, you will be billed jointly for both tournaments and should send checks as follows:

Make Check payable to : PLD Speech and Debate

Mail to: ATTN: Neomia Hagans Flores

PLD Speech & Debate
1600 Man O War BLVD
Lexington, KY 40513

We look forward to being together with you and your students soon. Despite the fact that we are separated by time and space, these tournaments will provide a unique opportunity for us to overcome these obstacles and bring out the best experience possible for our kids. We are always **BETTER TOGETHER.**

Thanks,

Neomia Hagans Flores & Michael Robinson

Neomia Hagans Flores

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