



December 13, 2020

Dear coaches and competitors,

The Ridge High School Speech and Debate Team would like to invite you to the eighteenth annual “Ridge Invitational.” We welcomed sixty-one schools in 2020, and we look forward to making 2021, virtually (pun intended), the best event yet! Registration will open on December 14th at 3:00pm at [www.Speechwire.com](http://www.Speechwire.com). See <https://njsdl.live/ridge> for more details. We will be using a combination of Speechwire, NSDA Campus, Zoom, with some elimination rounds being livestreamed (via unlisted links) in YouTube. Awards will be livestreamed either by Zoom webinar or Youtube. By signing your students up for the tournament, we are assuming that you have obtained the necessary parental permissions to participate in these platforms.

The 2021 Ridge Invitational will be comprised of asynchronous and synchronous events. To promote equity and access, we are currently planning a unique opportunity which will provide students a selection of asynchronous and synchronous preliminary events while conducting all semi-final and final rounds synchronously.

We are offering all New Jersey speech events, Public Forum (3 divisions), Lincoln-Douglas Debate (3 divisions), two-person Parliamentary Debate (2 divisions), and Congressional Debate. In addition, we will be featuring Radio Broadcasting and Children’s Literature among the other speech events.

Students in speech events may double-enter in synchronous events and may double-enter in asynchronous events (for a total of four); however, if they break in all four, please note, they will be VERY busy during elimination rounds!

We will preliminarily have caps at 6 entries per event; however, as we ascertain how many teams will be attending, students will be removed from waitlists as space remains available. We plan on making the first waitlist releases on January 9th.

Awards will be presented to all elimination round participants. In events where the entry numbers warrant, we will award the top-three non-advancing to elims “novice” students. The top schools will be receiving Sweepstakes awards. Awards will be mailed the week following the event, pending entry payment. Please feel free to contact us regarding any clarification of rules or procedure.

Congress bills may be sent to [dyastremski@bernardsboe.com](mailto:dyastremski@bernardsboe.com) by 3:00pm on Friday, January 15th. We will have legislation posted by the end of day on Monday, January 18th. Please see the invitation for information on add/drop deadlines, nuisance fees, and other tournament logistics.

Hope to see you in January!  
David Yastremski  
Director of Forensics - Ridge High School

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

12/14/2020 @ 3:00pm - Registration Opens.

1/8/2021 @ 11:59pm - All TBAs and blank entries will be deleted.

1/9/2021 – If space allows, first wave of waitlisted entries released (for schools with more than 6 in an event).

1/15/2021 @ 11:59pm – Legislation Due for Congressional Debate.

1/25/2021 @ 11:59pm - Entries Due AND Fees Frozen. \$5 Nuisance Fees Begin for Adds. Any drops after this point will still be charged the initial entry fee. All Asynchronous Judges are due. Any missing asynchronous judges will be invoiced at the tournament hire rate. I

1/26/2021 @ 6:00pm – ALL ASYNCHRONOUS VIDEOS ARE DUE. Please make sure videos can be viewed by anyone. Youtube unlisted links are encouraged; however, Google drive videos are accepted with the proper authorizations. Any asynchronous judge drops will be fined \$50 in addition to the hired judge fee. Name/Email changes will be invoiced an additional \$25 nuisance fee after 6:00PM. No asynchronous entries will be accepted after 6:00PM.

1/27/2021 @ 11:59pm - \$5 Nuisance Fee Begins for synchronous tournament drops (in addition to entry fee). \$10 Nuisance Fee Begins for synchronous tournament adds (in addition to entry fee). All Judges and Emails are due. \$20 Nuisance Fee for Dropped Judge Begins (in addition to hired judging fees).

1/29/2021 @ 11:59pm - \$10 Nuisance Fee Begins for Drops (in addition to entry fee).

1/30/2021 @ 9:30am - Any adds/drops after this point (after registration closes) results in a \$20 nuisance fee in addition to original entry fees. \$50 for dropped judges in addition to hired judge free. \$25.00 fine for each judge missing/late for judge call.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

David Yastremski – Tournament Director – [dyastremski@bernardsboe.com](mailto:dyastremski@bernardsboe.com)

Kristin Thorpe – Financial Manager – [RidgeForensicsFinance@bernardsboe.com](mailto:RidgeForensicsFinance@bernardsboe.com)

Checks and Purchase Orders should be made payable to “RHS Student Activities-Forensics”

School Mailing Address:

Ridge High School-Forensics, c/o David Yastremski,  
268 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

**ENTRY FEES & REQUIREMENTS:**

**School Registration Fee \$20.**

**Speech Entries: \$15 per entry (\$30 for duo interpretation)**

**Public Forum & Parliamentary Debate Entries: \$30 each**

**Lincoln-Douglas Entries: \$20 each      Congressional Debate: \$15**

Checks should be made payable to “**RHS STUDENT ACTIVITIES-FORENSICS.**”

Unfortunately, at this time, we are prohibited by our school district from taking online payments.

Our district W-9 can be downloaded from the Speechwire site.

## EVENTS

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (3 divisions, novice, JV, Varsity)

Public Forum Debate (3 divisions, novice, JV, Varsity)

Congressional Debate (1 open division with top novice competitors recognized)

Parliamentary Debate (1 open division (Novice division may be offered if entry numbers warrant)).

### **Synchronous Speech Events (All rounds (3 prelims + 2 elims) occurring Saturday, January 30)**

Extemporaneous Speaking (NSDA rules)

Improvisational Acting (NJSDL rules)

Impromptu Speaking (NJSDL rules)

**Radio Broadcasting (Ridge rules – see website)**

**Extemporaneous Interp (Ridge rules – see website)**

**Asynchronous Speech Events (All prelim rounds + quarterfinals (if applicable) will be asynchronously judged in the weekdays/nights preceding & including the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>. No defined schedule.**

**Videos must be uploaded by Tuesday,**

Dramatic Interpretation (NSDA rules)

Oral Interpretation of Literature (CFL rules)

Humorous Interpretation (NSDA rules)

Declamation (CFL rules)

Original Oratory (NSDA rules)

Informative Speaking (NSDA rules)

Duo Interpretation (NSDA rules)

Programmed Oral Interpretation (NSDA rules)

**\*\*\* CHILDREN'S LITERATURE – JUDGED BY CHILDREN AGED 5-10!!!\*\*\*** ([Ridge rules – see website](#))

**Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** - If a need exists for a quarterfinal speech round, the round will occur asynchronously, on Saturday morning. Semifinal and final rounds will happen 'live' on the afternoon of Saturday.

**ALL PAIRED EVENTS (DUO, PF, PARLI)** must compete on separate screens. Students who compete on the same screen will be judged and automatically ranked last in speech events and awarded a loss in debate events.

**MAVERICK/HYBRID PF or Duo teams** are not allowed in the tournament. All teams must have two students from the same school. If ABSOLUTELY necessary (like a dropped partner on the day of the tournament), mavericks will be allowed to participate in Parliamentary Debate (however, they will be ineligible for awards/sweepstakes points)

### **NOVICE, JUNIOR VARSITY, AND VARSITY DIVISIONS**

Novices are designated as students in their FIRST academic year of any debate/speech activity (not a specific event) and in grades 8-10. 8th grade students may compete in the appropriate division with the approval of their school districts; however, they will be ineligible for state qualifications. Junior Varsity competitors are any students (grades 9-12) in their second academic year of speech/debate activities (not a specific event). Any student in their third academic year of the activity should be entered in Varsity.

### **INDEPENDENT ENTRIES:**

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES ARE NOT ALLOWED. All students must have the explicit permission of their Board of Education, Headmaster, and/or any recognized and appropriate institutional authority. Teams cannot be affiliated with debate camps, teams, or organizations that are not explicitly authorized and insured by their schools, Board of Education, or appropriate institutional authority.

**VIRTUAL CHAPERONE REQUIREMENT:** Every school must have a school-sanctioned, adult chaperone available online for the ENTIRETY of the tournament. This chaperone should be able to answer

questions, contact students, handle protests, or be potentially present if the tab room needs to communicate with their student(s).

**JUDGE REQUIREMENTS:**

Lincoln-Douglas: One qualified judge per two entered debaters (or fraction thereof)

Public Forum: One qualified judge per two Public Forum teams (or fraction thereof)

Parliamentary Debate: One qualified judge per two Parliamentary Debate entries or fraction thereof).

Synchronous Speech & Congress Judges: One qualified judge per five entries (or fraction thereof)

Synchronous Speech & Congress judges will only be scheduled on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Asynchronous Speech Judges: One qualified judge per five entries (or fraction thereof). Asynchronous Speech judges will need to judge the preliminary rounds between Wednesday morning (27<sup>th</sup>) and Friday night (29<sup>th</sup>) and select quarterfinals, semis, and finals on the 30<sup>th</sup>. While it may be possible to judge in both the asynchronous and synchronous pools, please note that there will be no breaks for the judge throughout the day (judging as many as 7 rounds in one day)!

Junior/Senior Debaters with established experience (2+ years)/records may be used as 'novice' judges only in PF and LD. However, junior/senior debaters may only cover entries in novice categories. You cannot cover your open division obligations with student judges.

**AWARDS**

Awards will be given to any elimination round participant. Team Sweepstakes Awards will be given to the top performing schools. Awards will be mailed to the school address on file in Speechwire.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: Schedule will be finalized once the entry deadline passes and we will take time zones into consideration.**

**JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY NIGHT JUDGE MEETING & TECH OVERVIEW – 30 MIN. – 7:30PM**

**JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>- EARLY SCHOOL REGISTRATION @ 8:00PM-8:30PM**

**JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> – LATE REGISTRATION @ 8AM.**

**JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY MORNING JUDGE MEETING & TECH OVERVIEW (FOR THOSE WHO COULDN'T ATTEND FRIDAY) – 8:30AM**

9:15 AM – Round 1 Extemp Prep

JVLD, NLD, VLD, JVPF, NPF, VPF, PAR

9:30 AM - Round 1 Debate

JVLD, NLD, VLD, JVPF, NPF, VPF, PAR

2:30 – LIVE Semifinal – Asynchronous Events.

These will be judged LIVE & IN-PERSON.

DEC, DI, DUO, HI, INF, OI, OO, POI (EXC. CL)

9:45 AM - Round 1 Speech

Round 1: CON, EXT, IMP, IPV, RS

Asynchronous Quarters (if needed). This will be judged via video submissions.

3:00 – Extemp/Radio/Extemp Interp Prep

3:30– Semifinal Synchronous Events

EXT, IMP, IPV, RS,

11:00 - Round 2 Debate

JVLD, NLD, VLD, JVPF, NPF, VPF, PAR

4:30 PM – Debate Elimination Rounds SF

JVLD, NLD, VLD, JVPF, NPF, VPF, PAR

11:30AM - Round 2 Speech

Round 2: EXT, IMP, IPV, RS

4:30PM – Finals Asynchronous

These will be judged LIVE & IN-PERSON.

DEC, DI, DUO, HI, INF, OI, OO, POI, (EXC. CL)

1:00PM - Round 3 Debate, Round 2 Congress

JVLD, NLD, VLD, JVPF, NPF, VPF, PAR

5:00PM – Extemp/Radio/Extemp Interp Prep

5:30 PM – Finals Synchronous

EXT, IMP, IPV, RS

1:30PM - Round 3 Speech

Round 2: EXT, IMP, IPV, RS

2:30PM – Round 4 Debate:

**AWARDS APPROXIMATELY AT 8:00PM**