

# Welcome to Winter

Speech Tournament  
December 6, 2020

Dear MMSSL Member Schools,

We are overjoyed to announce the Welcome to Winter Speech Tournament hosted by Milton Academy Middle School, which will be held on Sunday, December 6th, 2020. As with all MMSSL speech tournaments during the 2020-2021 season, this tournament will be a synchronous virtual event. Since we will be using a few new technologies and tools this year, **we recommend ALL judges (new and returning) read the [MMSSL 2020-2021 Judging Guide](#).**

The competition is open to veteran and novice competitors in grades 6 through 8. The tournament will be hosted via the National Speech and Debate Association's Campus platform. There will be three rounds of competition, followed by an awards ceremony. Any student who received at least one 1st place rank in their round will be acknowledged and will receive a virtual award. We are offering all 10 regular events. There is no limit to the number of students that any one school may enter, and no entry fee. However, each school must provide **one judge per five entries**.

All entries must be submitted via [Tabroom.com](#) by **Monday, November 30 at 9:00pm**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

The MMSSL Board

## REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Registration for the December 6th Welcome to Winter tournament is due **Monday, November 30th at 9:00pm.**

Students AND judges will need to create a free account on [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) to participate. More information about Tabroom.com and the connected video platform, NSDA Campus, is available in the [MMSSL 2020 Judging Guide at https://docs.google.com/document/d/19KGh0YWylkibgIOBO2bO1DZRWtcu5oExftfPop6IqjU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19KGh0YWylkibgIOBO2bO1DZRWtcu5oExftfPop6IqjU/edit)

### Key registration details:

- This tournament is single-entry. All 10 regular events will be offered.
- Competition is open to novice and veteran competitors in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- We are requesting that each team provide 1 judge for every 5 competitors.
- Please note that there is **NO ENTRY FEE** for this event.

## SPEECH EVENTS

All 10 regular competition events will be offered at the virtual tournament. To see a complete list and descriptions for each event, please consult the [MMSSL 2020 Judging Guide](#) or [our website at mmssl.weebly.com](http://mmssl.weebly.com).

Please note that, due to the digital format of the tournament, the following events have had slight protocol changes:

- Judges will be sent a list of Impromptu topics via email, with a set of 3 topics for each competitor. During an Impromptu round, the judge will copy and paste a different set of 3 topics into the chat for each competitor when it is their turn to speak. Judges should ***send topics to each competitor privately***, and not to the entire group.
- In order to conform to social distancing guidelines, Duo performers must join each round separately and perform separately. (This rule also applies to Duo pairs who may be quarantining together.) In Duo rounds, any students not performing should mute themselves and turn off their video so that the current performers are the only ones visible. (If the judge needs to give time signals, they can leave their video on as well.) Duo competitors will need to assume that their video windows may not be positioned near each other in the video chat screen, and that simultaneous speaking may not be



## VIDEO PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

We expect that there may be some hiccups as we all adjust to this new competition format, and we ask that everyone be patient with themselves and each other.

Here are a few useful tips for students as they prepare for online speech competitions:

- Students should check in with other members of their household, to prevent any interruptions or WiFi issues.
- Your filming location should be relatively quiet, and with few distracting decorations or pieces of furniture.
- Students should make sure that the camera remains as still as possible while filming, and that the camera is positioned so that as much of the student is able to be seen as possible.
- **There is no dress code for this tournament.** However, costumes and props (except for those usually allowed in competition) are still not permitted. We also recommend that no distracting or inappropriate clothing be worn during the tournament rounds.

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

May be subject to change, depending on the number of entries:

9:00am-9:30am - Opening Ceremony. Judges and competitors will be invited to a Zoom meeting, hosted by a member of the MMSSL Board.

9:30am-10:45am - Round 1

10:45am-12:00pm - Round 2

12:00pm-1:15pm - Round 3

1:15pm-2:00 - Lunch Break

2:00pm-2:30pm - Awards Ceremony. Any student who earns at least 1 first-place ranking in their round will be acknowledged and will receive a virtual award.

If any competitor or judge runs into trouble on the day of the tournament, they should contact the Tournament Support Team at 617-990-6213 or [mmsslcontact@gmail.com](mailto:mmsslcontact@gmail.com).