Dear Colleagues,

St. James Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas invite you to attend the CATHOLIC CLASSIC speech and drama tournament. This year’s event will be held live and in person at St. Thomas Aquinas (11411 Pflumm, Overland Park) on January 28 and January 29.

On Friday afternoon, we will offer Congressional debate on the NSDA January legislation as well as PFD debate on the February topic (Turkey/NATO) and LD debate on the J/F topic (Space Cap) if there is interest. Saturday competition events include IX, USX, OO, INFO10, DI, HI, DUO, DUET, PRO, POE, POI, and IMP. We are proud to be an NIETOC qualifying tournament in the relevant events.

This event will be run using tabroom.com and sponsors will need to be able to access the program to see results, postings and other relevant info. Post your entries at [**http://catholicclassic.tabroom.com**](http://catholicclassic.tabroom.com/).

The two host schools have fewer than fifteen competitors combined, so we will ask large schools and teams with PFD/LD entries to assist with the judge burden. Details can be found below.

We hope to see you in January!

-Joe Walberg, St. James Academy

-Steve DuBois, St. Thomas Aquinas

FRIDAY
3:30 LD/PFD/Congress 1
4:45 LD/PFD 2
5:15 Congress 2

6:00 LD/PFD 3
Awards in commons ASAP

SATURDAY

8:00 Round 1
9:30 Round 2

11:00 Round 3

1:30 Finals
Awards in auditorium ASAP

JUDGING BURDENS

The host squads are miniscule and we have very few in-town program alumni. We are unable to meet the judging burden that the usual level of interest in this tournament would justify. We appreciate your understanding and assistance.

On Friday, schools may enter as many Congress competitors as they wish with no judge obligation. PFD and LD will require schools to provide one judge for every two entries or portion thereof; the judge will need to be present for all three prelims. Judges should be posted to tabroom.com as part of the entry and we have configured the system to allow you to designate rounds for which a given judge is unavailable.

On Saturday, schools may enter twelve competitors with no judging burden. For each increment of six competitors beyond the first twelve, or portion thereof, you will need one judge capable of covering all three prelims and finals. Thus, 13 entries=1 judge, 19 entries=2 judges, and so on. There is no entry ceiling Saturday, but if you want hundreds of kids you’ll need to bring an army of adults as well.

We will use paper ballots in all events so your judges will not need to be tabroom-trained.

Sponsors will be on standby to judge as well but we hope very much to avoid using them.

FRIDAY PROCEDURES:

Please post day-of drops directly to tabroom. Report to STA Commons for check-in; expect postings circa 3:10. Masks and social distancing encouraged but not required. We will have a table for ballot distribution and collection; sponsors and competitors will want to consult tabroom for pairings. Concessions is likely to be near-nonexistent so plan on ordering in a pizza or something. Awards in Commons ASAP.

SATURDAY PROCEDURES
Please post day-of drops directly to tabroom. Report to STA Commons for check-in; expect schedules to be up circa 7:30. Masks and social distancing encouraged but not required. We will try to start extemp draw at 7:40 and these competitors will be expected to perform in schedule order. Competitors should pick up their prelim ballots from the relevant tables in the commons and give them to the judges prior to performing, and will want to check tabroom.com for their room assignments. All prelim judges should report to the judges table prior to heading to rooms; this is just a double-check to make sure everybody’s here. Concessions and lunch are a work in progress; we will keep you posted but at present it looks likely like you’ll want to order in or take your kids to College Blvd during our long scheduled lunch break. Postings will be online only. Finals judge should check in at the table as always and ballots will be given out there. Awards in auditorium ASAP.

EVENTS:

Congress: NSDA January packet will be debated; default docket is legislation in numeric order, subject to suspension of the rules (which is permitted). Closed chamber; entry/exit at PO’s discretion. Dilatory behavior including PO impeachment shenanigans strongly discouraged. Internet use permitted. Outlets in competition rooms will be limited. Three hours of debate; PO time to be divided equally between all nominees who accept, with one score per hour or fraction thereof. Scorers will be advised that POs are ballot-eligible. Precedence resets at the break. No super session; each chamber will receive separate awards following session two. Medals will be decided by scorers’ ranks rather than by in-chamber balloting. Tiebreakers are reciprocals, PO service, speech scores, distance travelled to the event.

 IX and USX: Extemp prep is in the STA learning commons. Net connection permitted but no promises where our school’s wireless is concerned. Assuming functional internet, you may use it in any way for speech prep. Outlets are limited so charge up when you get the opportunity. Competitors may not double enter in the two extemp events, and should prioritize their extemp draw when scheduling. These are NIETOC qualifying events; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

OO: KSHSAA rules. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

INFO10: KSHSAA rules. VAs are permitted but not required. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

DI: KSHSAA rules. You can’t use a chair. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

HI: KSHSAA rules. You can’t use a chair. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

PRO: KSHSAA rules. 7 minutes max. People who whine about the use of the folder/ereader as a prop will be killed and eaten.

POE: KSHSAA rules. 7 minutes max. People who whine about the use of the folder/ereader as a prop will be killed and eaten.

POI: KSHSAA rules. In this specific event we will NOT prohibit the inclusion of material that duplicates that which you are performing in other events, or have performed in previous years—yes, your prose can be included in your POI. FolderWhineKillEat. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

DUO: KSHSAA rules. This is a NIETOC qualifying event; specific number of bids depends on # of entries.

IMP2: KSHSAA rules. Round categories are: Cynical Quotes, Pseudo-Celebrities, Events That Should Not Be, #Hashtags. Draw in competition rooms under judge supervision.

STUFF TO KNOW

1. Be nice.
2. Get to rounds quickly and perform early.
3. Sweeps based on 12 Saturday entries and inverted ranks; I would tell you more, but all I did was click some buttons in tabroom, so if it says you win, you win, I guess.
4. Final results based on 1. Cumulative ranks, 2. Finals ranks, 3. JPref in finals.
5. You can’t double enter IX and DX or two Friday events. Outside of that, enter any given kid in as many events as you like; you accept the risk of them not getting their performances in within 90 minutes.
6. The host coaches are the grievance committee. Trivial grievances are my least favorite thing about this activity, and will get you mocked to your face. Win by building your students up, not by tearing other students down.