

Dear Principal/Teacher:

This letter is being sent to formally invite your students to participate in the CYO Speech Tournament to be held Sunday, April 30, 2023 at Notre Dame High School. This tournament will be open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Allentown Diocese who wish to participate.

We encourage 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who may be interested in finding out more about this exciting activity to participate in this tournament.

A study conducted by Yale University has strongly indicated that students who participate in speech and debate have a better chance of being accepted into the college of their choice and greatly improve their chances of success in the academic and business world. It is our greatest hope that by participating in this tournament, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may learn how personally rewarding their involvement in speech and debate can be.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a description of the six scheduled events. Students may choose to participate individually or – in the case of Duo Interpretation – as half of a two-person team. Students may participate in up to two of the listed events but may not use the same piece for both events. Each school is limited to four students per event.

There will be two preliminary rounds for each event and finals where needed. The top three finishers in each event will receive awards.

Schools may enter online via the Tabroom website, [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com). Each school needs to click on Create Your Account and list the names of their team members so they can register for this tournament and all future CYO Speech Tournaments. The tournament is under the Allentown CYO League. If your program wishes to take part in, your entry must be received on tabroom no later than 5pm on Wednesday, April 26. All entry adds or drops may be made online by Thursday, April 27 at 5pm. All changes afterwards must be called in or emailed to [srizzo@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:srizzo@ndcrusaders.org). We hope that your students will choose to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the exciting world of speech and debate. If you any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Sal Rizzo  
Speech Tournament Director  
(484) 541-8810 (EVENINGS ONLY)  
[srizzo@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:srizzo@ndcrusaders.org)

## Scheduled Events For the CYO Speech Tournament

### 1. Original Oratory

◆ The student is required to write and present an original speech on any topic of his or her choosing. The speech can be informative, persuasive, humorous, etc. Memorization required. (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

### 2. Declamation

◆ The student is required to present a speech that was previously given by another person. It must include a brief written introduction that names the title, author, and the circumstances under which the speech was given. Memorization required. (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

### 3. Prose

◆ The student is required to read a published short story or prose excerpt. Even though the student is reading the piece, judges will be looking for how the student interprets it dramatically in terms of their vocal and facial expressions, and the use of their body language and hand gestures. Students must remain center stage when reading. The student must also include a brief memorized written introduction including the title and author of the piece with binder closed as part of his or her presentation. Binder for script required. (8 ½" x 5" recommended). (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

### 4. Poetry

◆ The student is required to read either: a) a single published poem, b) a collection of published poems by the same writer, or c) a collection of published poems that are somehow thematically related. Even though the student is reading the piece, judges will be looking for how the student interprets it dramatically in terms of their vocal and facial expressions, and the use of their body language and hand gestures. Students must remain center stage when reading. The student must also include a brief memorized written introduction with binder closed as part of his or her presentation. Binder for script required. (8 ½" x 5" recommended). (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

### 5. Duo Interpretation

◆ This category requires teams of two students each. Each student will take on the role of a character(s) from a published play, movie script, prose, or poetry. **Judges will be looking for how the student interprets it dramatically in terms of their vocal and facial expressions, and the use of their body language and hand gestures.** They must include a brief written introduction to the piece including the title and author of the piece as part of their presentation. The students will be standing side by side, but must not make any physical contact or eye contact with one another except during the introduction. Memorization required. (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

### 6. Dramatic Performance

◆ Each student will take on the role of a character(s) from a published play, movie script, or prose. **Judges will be looking for how the student interprets it dramatically in terms of their vocal and facial expressions, and the use of their body language and hand gestures.** The student must also include a brief written introduction including the title and author of the piece. Memorization required. (Time limit: 5-7 min. with a 30-second grace period)

**30-second grace period:** While the time limit is 5-7 min. for all events, each presentation is permitted to go at most 30 seconds over the maximum (7:30) or under the minimum (4:30). Any presentation that goes more than 30 seconds over the maximum cannot be ranked higher than second for that given round.

**Judges:** Each team must provide one judge for every 5 entries or fraction thereof. Each pair in Duo Interpretation counts as one entry.

## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 12:00-12:30 | Registration     |
| 12:30       | Opening Ceremony |
| 12:45       | Round I          |
| 1:45        | Round II         |
| 2:45        | Refreshments     |
| 3:15        | Finals if needed |
| 4:45        | Awards Ceremony  |