

# *Gracia Burkill Memorial Speech Tournament*

*November 12, 2022*



***Gracia Burkill was a gifted English literature teacher from 1935 until her retirement in 1987. In 1968 she began a speech program at David Prouty High School with 4 students; in no time, she was bringing a bus full of students to every tournament. A former member at-large and secretary of the Massachusetts Forensic League, she is now a member of the Hall of Fame.***

Dear Speech Coach,

The Natick High School Speech and Debate Team invites you and your team to the Gracia Burkill Memorial Speech Tournament to be held at Natick High School on **Saturday, November 12, 2022**.

The following events will be offered: Novice Public Forum Debate, Varsity Public Forum Debate, Dramatic Performance, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Declamation, Duo Interpretation, Impromptu, Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Play Reading, Children's Literature Reading, POI, Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking, Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, Radio Broadcasting, Group Discussion, Congress, and Multiple. Students may register for two events, with the exception of those in Varsity or Novice Public Forum Debate, Varsity or Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, Radio Broadcasting, Group Discussion and Congress. Multiple Reading is counted as an event for double entry purposes. This is a state-qualifying tournament for the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League.

Please note that due to space limitations, we do expect to use caps on the size of the tournament, which may affect all events. All entries will initially be placed on a waiting list and will be accepted as space allows. We encourage you to register your team early, but ask that you do not enter TBAs.

Trophies will be presented to the top students in each event and Novice Oral Interpretation. As Gracia Burkill believed in rewarding students for their individual accomplishments, all competitors who earn a first-place rank or a win in any round will be recognized. In keeping with Ms. Burkill's philosophy of recognizing individual effort, sweepstakes awards will not be given.

All students and judges should plan to be in attendance for the duration of the tournament. Coaches should provide speaker and judge code numbers to all students and judges prior to the beginning of the tournament.

**We will be using online posting and ballots for this tournament.** All students should have an electronic device so that they can receive notifications when they have a round. All judges need to create a Tabroom account (if they have not already done so) prior to the tournament, and they will need to bring a laptop (preferred), cellphone, or tablet with them to write ballots. Visit [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com) and create an account; this is a FREE and simple process that only takes a minute or so. Please complete all fields, even the ones that aren't mandatory. E-mail address and cell phone number are necessary, so that you can receive e-mail and text message notifications when you have a round to judge.

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette are expected at all times.

**Registration Information:** Online registration will be available starting Wednesday, October 26 at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com). Registration should be completed by Wednesday, November 9th at 5:00 PM. Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted.

**Drops:** May be emailed to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net) up until 5 p.m. Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with no fee. Any drops made after that point will be assessed a \$5 nuisance fee. If you have drops the morning of the tournament, MSDL rules require you to report them by 8:00 AM.

**Mandatory Morning Call-In:** Each school is required to **text or call 508-397-5143 between 7:00-8:00 AM on the morning of the tournament**. Please let us know the name of your school, confirm you have all of your entries and judges, or let us know of any last-minute drops. This check-in is extremely important, as it allows us to make the changes necessary to start the tournament on time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

**Fees:** \$14 per Duo and Debate entry. All other entries are \$7 each.

**Judges:** For speech, you are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof. For debate, you are required to bring one judge for every two entries or fraction thereof. In debate, students with at least 2 years of high school debating experience may judge the Novice division. Student judges may not also be entered as competitors at the tournament. Judging quotas are based on original entry, before drops. A \$50 penalty will be assessed for any missing judge. This fine is not to be used in lieu of your judging requirement. No hired judges will be available for this tournament.

**Congress Bills:** Congress bills will be available online at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com).

**Group Discussion Topic Area:** Europe with focus areas on Britain's Prime Minister, War and Beyond in Ukraine, Italy's Prime Minister, and the Energy Crisis in Europe.

**Public Forum Debate Resolution:** The United States strategy of Great Power Competition produces more benefits than harms.

**Tentative Tournament Schedule:** This schedule is subject to change.

Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 AM

New Judges Briefing: 8:15 AM

Extemp Draw: 9:15 AM

Rounds: 9:30 AM- 3:30 PM

Finals: 4:00 PM

Awards: 6:00 PM

**Directions:** Natick High School is located at 15 West Street, Natick, MA 01760. [Click here for directions.](#)

A variety of foods, including bagels, pizza, salads, sodas, juice, snacks and candy, will be available throughout the day.

Thank you and we hope to see you on November 9th!

*Joyce Albert*  
Tournament Director

*JJ Gilbert*  
Student Director

*Sarah Donnelly*  
Tournament Host