

# The Fall 2023

## Stephen Stewart Memorial Middle and High School Invitational

### Welcome Letter

Dearest High School Forensics Enthusiasts!

You are cordially invited to take part in the Stephen Stewart Memorial Middle and High School Invitational at Milpitas High School. This event will take place **Friday, September 22nd, through Sunday, September 24th, 2023**. We welcome all competitors in grades six and up. This speech and debate competition will be held in person at Milpitas High School in Milpitas, California. We are committed to providing you with a professional atmosphere and a spirited competitive experience.

We are pleased to announce that the Semi-Finalists in Varsity Public Forum will earn a Gold Bid to the Tournament of Champions in Kentucky. Quarter-Finalists in Varsity Public Forum will earn a silver bid. UKTOC speech bids will be awarded in DI, Duo, Extemp (both DX and IX), HI, Info, POI, and OO. We expect NPDL bids to Parli TOC are allocated based on size of entry. In addition, bids to NIETOC will be available in DI, HI, Extemp (both DX and IX), DUO, POI, Informative, and OO.

We will be using the online entry system available at [www.Milpitas.Tabroom.com](http://www.Milpitas.Tabroom.com). **Registration will open on July 1st (8AM PDT). Due to limited space, we urge teams to register ASAP. All entries will be initially waitlisted** to ensure equal access to the tournament. Waitlists clear when Judging is entered OR fees are received. Every judge must have a Tabroom.com account linked to their email. We encourage early registration, so that you may take advantage of this opportunity and ensure your attendance to the tournament. Unfortunately, Varsity entries are limited; therefore, we will have to turn away entries once our room capacity is met. Varsity debates including JVPF are initially capped at 90 to ensure deserving teams break to Double-Octofinals. Policy will initially be capped at 60. **The deadline to register is Friday, September 15th at 5:00 PM (PDT) so I can plan food.** Teams may be added after the deadline, depending on space availability. We will pull entries from the waiting list as spots become available.

There are many affordable hotels on the website that offer you choices in

accommodations. Hotel information will be available one month before the tournament. Food will be available on campus during the weekend so that your students, coaches, staff, family, and friends will not have to leave the tournament. Debate, congress and speech competitors **and** judges will be provided a box lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

On behalf of the coaches, students, and parents of Milpitas High School Speech and Debate Team, you are encouraged to join us and we look forward to experiencing the Stephen Stewart together!

Sincerely,  
Charles Schletzbaum  
Director of Forensics  
Milpitas High School

## Decorum

Please remember to conduct proper communication between competitors and judges. Students will not ask questions about decisions until the judge has submitted their ballot. Judges will not ask questions about arguments or speeches, with the exception of asking to see evidence, until decisions are submitted and confirmed. **THERE IS NO RECORDING OF MINORS WITHOUT \*PARENT\* PERMISSION IN CALIFORNIA.**

## Supervision Requirements

**Each school must be accompanied by a qualified adult supervisor who is physically at the tournament site and reachable at all times. No unaccompanied entries will be permitted. Non School entities will use the INDEPENDENT ENTRY form on the last page of the Invitation.** Varsity and JV debate judges cannot cover speech entries. All schools and programs must be “accompanied” by an adult reachable by phone, PHYSICALLY ON SITE, and must remain under adult supervision throughout the tournament. No exceptions! If your student(s) are unsupervised, we reserve the right to remove your entries from the tournament for liability reasons with no refund.

## Events / Divisions

In debate, we offer Open Division of Congressional Debate, and both Novice and Open divisions in Parliamentary, Novice and Open LD, and Novice, JV and Varsity Public Forum. We are adding Open Policy this year. We will use the Sept./Oct. LD topic and the Sept./Oct PF topic and the current Policy topic. Open debate events will make every attempt to break all winning records up to a full double-octofinal round. **WE DO NOT USE THE NSDA NOVICE TOPICS!!!!**

In speech we offer Open divisions in all CHSSA events including: Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Oratorical Interpretation (10 minute Declamation), Programmed Oral Interpretation (POI), Duo Interpretation, Original Oratory, Original Advocacy, Informative, Original Prose & Poetry (not to be confused with prose/poetry), Impromptu, Domestic Extemporaneous, and International Extemporaneous.

Speech will break to two Festival finals chambers if there are twenty-eight or more entries; in some events we may have more Festival final sections. Fewer than twenty-eight entries will break directly to Finals. Events with 51+ will break to 3 finals sections. Events with 85+ will break to 4 sections. Trophies will go to the top 7 cumulative ranked entries after the Festival Finals round. In the event that a division cannot support a full division, (less than one section) we reserve the right to collapse similar events.

## **Eligibility / Novices**

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

- Open/TOC event: Open to all HIGH SCHOOL competitors (Restricted to HS competitors only).
- Junior Varsity: Open to ALL competitors HS and MS.
- Novice: Open to all competitors who are debating their first year in the type of event (Speech/ Debate) they are entered in. In Teamed events, BOTH team members must meet this qualification. Any competitor in 7th and 6th grade can compete as a novice. 8th graders in their second year or less can debate novice. Any student 8th grade or higher in their third academic year of forensics or higher must go Junior Varsity or higher. Entries younger than 6th grade will not be allowed.

### **ALL OTHER DEBATE EVENTS:**

- Open: Open to all competitors.
- Novice: Open to all competitors who are debating their first year in the type of event (Speech/ Debate) they are entered in. In Teamed events, BOTH team members must meet this qualification. Any competitor in 7th and 6th grade can compete as a novice. 8th graders in their second year or less can debate novice. Any student in their third academic year of forensics or higher must go varsity. Entries younger than 6th grade will not be allowed.
- Middle School Congress: Open to all competitors grades 6-8.

## **Waitlist and Confirming Registrations**

Fees paid in advance will move your registration from “wait list” to “confirmed” status. **Please mail your checks by Friday, September 16th, 2022. If you cannot mail a check by this time I will have an online payment through square.** Teams are welcome to bring checks to registration, but priority will be given to teams who mail in payment ahead of the tournament. Teams will move off the waitlist when you enter judges to cover your entry or when payment is received.

## **Dates / Deadlines**

- Add Entries: September 15, 2023
- Fees Frozen: September 15, 2023 at 11 PM
- Manual drop deadline: September 21, 2023 at 5 PM
- Judge Entries by: September 18, 2023 at 4 PM
- Judge Hire Requests: September 15, 2023

- 5 team Strikes open in PF: September 20, 2023 at 5 PM
- Change and drop fees: September 21, 2023
- Adds: We operate on a “first come, first serve” basis until September 15th and we will probably fill all space at the tournament. As a result, each school should send in its entries as soon as possible.
- Drops: The deadline to drop without penalty will be Wednesday, September 15th at 11:00 PM.
  - Drops after this point will be charged the regular entry fee due to our commitments to Ordering food and room allocations from the school district.
  - You may continue making drops online until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 20th. This helps us save time at registration.
- Judges: The deadline to register judges is September 18th at 5:00 PM.

## Judges / Judging Obligations

**School Judges:** Please register judges accurately. Because we will be using entirely electronic ballots in debate it is important that judge registration be accurate. Any attempts to circumvent judge registration processes will result in your team being waitlisted and those spots being given to other teams.

The deadline to register judges is also Wednesday, September 24th at 5:00 PM. If you do not have judges registered by this deadline, you will be charged for missing / hired judges regardless of whether you bring additional judges to the tournament. We will need a time to finalize contracts with our hired judges. Saturday and Sunday judges need to be indicated on tabroom. There will be no AM/PM judge split. Varsity PF/LD needs 1 judge per 3 teams/entries. Parli needs 1 judge for each 3 teams. Policy needs 1 judge per 1.5 entries and Speech and Congress needs 1 for every 5 entries.

All judges must be qualified to judge the division which they are covering. Novice LD, Open and Novice Public Forum and Open and Novice Parli, and congress may be used in other events. Policy judges MUST have a paradigm, and experience.

Speech judges will be used in all speech events.

**Hired Judging:** The tournament will also have a limited number of hired judges. If you wish to hire judges from the tournament, please submit hire requests on [Milpitas.tabroom.com](https://Milpitas.tabroom.com) as soon as you are aware of your need. Hire requests must be in by Saturday, September 15th at 11:55 PM. Please note that hired judge fees cannot be refunded after this point as we will have made payment commitments to our hires. Note that once you hire a judge, you are liable to pay for that request EVEN IF you find you do not need it as the tournament approaches. This rule applies even in the event your school decides not to attend the tournament at all; your school will still be responsible for any judge hire and relevant drop fees.

\$250 covers 1 **ENTRY** for varsity or JV debate. \$100 covers 1 novice **ENTRY**. No hired judging fees will be refunded, even if you drop the entry/entries that the hired judge is covering.

**Part Time Judges:** If you will be having different judges on different days, please register all judges, and mark each one as Unavailable for the day that they will not be in attendance. Remember a full open/jv debate judge covers Fri-Sat-Sun (even if that is 3 different people)

**Elim Commitment:** All speech/Congress judges are committed for all speech/Congress rounds.

**In regards to Varsity Debate elimination rounds, all judges are obligated to judge the first FULL elimination round AND one round beyond their last school's best competitive finish.** Whichever requirement is later will apply. For example, if your school has a competitor in the octafinals, then your school's judges are all obligated through the quarterfinals. This rule is necessary to ensure the best panels for elimination debates. Please make appropriate logistical arrangements that honor these requirements.

### **Judge Prefs and Strikes**

- Judge Philosophy Guidelines: All Varsity judges should have a judge philosophy posted on their Tabroom.com account.
- All varsity judges must be entered and have judge philosophies posted at this point for a school to have the privilege of judge preferences/strikes for ALL of their varsity competitors. Failure to have a tabroom paradigms for all your judges results in preferences / strikes being ignored.
- Varsity Teams will be allowed up to a maximum of 5 strikes in each division.
- Preferences/ strikes will be available at Milpitas.tabroom.com on Tuesday, September 18th, 2023 at 5 PM. Prefs and strikes will close on Thursday, September 21st at 5:00 PM.
- Paradigms that offer more speaker points for food or arcane knowledge/references of old tv and movies will not be tolerated.

### **Penalty for Missing Rounds**

Please note there is a \$50 per round penalty for any judges that miss their rounds. Please advise your judging staff that the team will be charged if they do not attend their debate rounds. We prefer not to charge any teams for missing debate rounds and this nuisance fee is only assessed to discourage judges from missing debates to ensure a high quality experience for all competitors. Please ensure your judges who do not currently have a ballot report to the Judges Lounge/Library 15 minutes before the posted round start. They will be dismissed when we start all rounds. If your judge is called for in the Judges' Lounge/Library while pushing ballots, you may be fined if they do not answer.

## Financial Information / Entry Fees

Fees may be paid by mail or by requesting a SQUARE invoice. All fees should be in the form of square credit card payment or a check made out to Milpitas High School. School checks and Square are the only acceptable forms of payment without prior approval.

Please mail checks to:

Milpitas Debate

C/o Mr. Charles Schletzbaum, Milpitas High School

1285 Escuela Parkway

Milpitas, CA 95035

### Make the check to "MUSD"

Entry fees on drops will be refunded fully as long as drops are made by September 15th. Note: processing refunds through the Milpitas Student Bank is likely to take a painfully long time.

- School Fee: \$50/school
- Varsity LD: \$90/entry
- Novice LD: \$70/entry
- Varsity Public Forum: \$140/entry
- Varsity Parliamentary: \$125/entry
- Novice PF / Parli: \$85/entry
- Open Congress: \$35/entry
- IEs: \$35/entry
- Duo: \$50/entry

### Non-refundable Fees:

- Varsity Debate Hired Judge Fee - \$250 / per uncovered Varsity Entry
- Novice Debate Hired Judge Fee - \$100 / per uncovered Novice Entry
- Speech / Congress Hired Judge Fee - \$50 / per uncovered Entry
- Missing Judge Penalty - \$50 / per judge per missed round
- Nuisance Penalty - \$10 (any changes to entry after 9/15/22 at 5PM (PT))
  - Note: failing to request a hire/cover a judge incurs the higher missing judge fee

**Entry fees must be paid by registration.**

## Entry Caps

Due to the number of elimination rounds in the schedule, we are capable of accommodating a large, but not unlimited number of competitors. **Initially, Schools will be restricted to 6 entries in each division of debate and 6 entries in each IE event to allow for maximum diversity of schools at the Stephen Stewart Invitational. We will waitlist additional entries and allow them in as room availability allows.** Please rank your waitlist entries on who gets entered first. Novice entries from one school will be restricted to max 10% of the field in each novice event. Initial cap will be 90 in each Varsity event to ensure most winning records break to

Doubles. If the waitlist grows too large, we will try our best to accommodate one more elim round that will be double flighted.

**Please do not enter debaters just to hold slots; be mindful of the needs of other schools.**

Teams and individual entries are only officially entered after the tournament administrator has removed them from the waitlist. Registration in each division will close when we reach our room capacity, so waitlist and pay/enter judges early.

## **Independent Entry Policy**

Independent entries that meet the criteria listed in the section titled "Independent Entries." Any independent entry that fails to meet the deadlines or criteria listed will not be allowed to enter or compete in the tournament. Any payment made by any independent entry that drops or fails to meet the set deadlines or criteria will not be refunded. Private Academies need to contact the tournament director for approval. All registration, entry, and tabulation will be done via tabroom.com. Please make sure that any judge accompanying your team has a Tabroom account set up and linked.

All students are expected to abide by Milpitas High School's code of conduct, to respect MHS officials and tournament staff, and generally to behave responsibly.

## **Double Entry**

**Novice Students:** May enter up to three events; consisting of one debate event and two speech events. Exceptions:

1. A Novice student entering Extemp, may only single enter in the speech events; but may still enter one debate event.

**Varsity Students:** May enter one debate event and up to 2 speech events. Exceptions:

1. Students may enter both Parliamentary and Extemp, but additional prep time will not be given if one of the patterns is running behind. Enter at your own risk.
2. Please keep in mind that Round 1 of Speech is concurrent with Elimination rounds of Varsity competition. Double-entered varsity competitors will be placed in Flight B of their last preliminary debate, and placed early in their speech round for round 1 IF rounds are double flighted. Double entered students should compete in their speech event, and then proceed to their debate round.
  - a. The coach of a competitor who qualifies to advance in a varsity Debate may be required to choose the event in which the competitor will continue if they are double-entered in speech as well. We will do our best to accommodate these students so long as we can remain on schedule.

**Students who double enter are responsible for getting to their rounds on time. Please**



**note that double entry IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

## **Speech / Congress Rules**

NSDA rules will be followed as closely as possible for all NSDA events; CHSSA guidelines will be used for the remaining speech events, subject to review by the tournament committee. One notable exception – final placement in speech and congress will be determined by total cumulative score for the whole tournament.

**Speech:** In the Speech events we will break the top 7 to finals in events that have up to 28 entries. Divisions with more than 28 entries will have the top 12-14 advance to Festival Finals, divisions with more than 51 entries will have three sections of festival finals with 18-21 competitors advancing, and divisions with more than 85 entries will have four sections of festival finals with 28 competitors advancing. We will award trophies up to the top seven in all speech events. Placement will be determined by cumulative ranking.

**Congress:** If numbers warrant a final, we will advance at least 12 competitors to Congress Finals. There will be no presiding officer contest in Congress. Presiding officers will be elected from the chamber and be given speaking priority in line with NSDA guidelines. Please send Congressional legislation to Charles Schletzbaum at the tournament contact email address. Congress legislation will be posted approximately 3 weeks prior to the Tournament.

## **Debate Rules**

Starting with Round 3, all prelim rounds will be power-matched. The 16 individuals/teams with the best win-loss record in the Open Division will advance to the Octofinal elimination round. Brackets will not be broken in eliminations. If entries warrant, a double octofinal will be held to break the maximum number of winning records.

**Tournament Committee:** The tournament committee will consist of the tournament director and two directors from other events. The committee will adjudicate any disputes and interpret all rules. Decisions made by the tournament committee are final.

**Technology:** All teams may use technology, but MUST NOT communicate with coaches or team members outside the round. Parli may not use anything other than timers/airplane mode cellphone timers in round, and cases must be written on paper, not be read off of laptops or other digital devices. Parli teams may use the internet or consult with teammates during prep time, but no judges, parents, or other non-student adults should help students. Appointed staff may clarify basic rules.

## LD

- **The Lincoln Douglas debate topic will be the Sep/Oct NSDA topic for BOTH Varsity and Novice divisions.** We DO NOT use the NSDA novice topic.
- Lincoln-Douglas will include varsity and novice divisions, with NSDA rules and time limits.
- There will be five preliminary rounds in varsity LD with an appropriate number of break rounds determined by the entry size. Novice LD will have five rounds, and will award winning records.
- **Varsity Judging:** We encourage you to bring experienced LD judges to judge in the varsity division. "Experienced" is defined as at least a high school graduate who has competitive or coaching experience with LD debate or has significant LD judging experience. Inability to provide experienced judges may limit a team's entry and/or require a team to hire judges to fulfill their obligation. All varsity judges are required to post their judge philosophies on tabroom.com by the preferences deadline. We would like every school that wants to participate to do so; however, we require the best possible judging to ensure students have a positive competitive experience. If a school does not have experienced judges to fulfill their commitments, please contact Charles Schletzbaum at mrschletz@gmail.com.
- **Novice Judging:** Adults as well as HS Seniors who are 3rd or 4th year varsity debaters are eligible to judge in the novice divisions. Coaches/Directors are responsible for ensuring that any varsity debaters are knowledgeable and responsible enough to fairly assess a novice debate round.
- **Hired Judging for Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** There will be a limited number of LD judges available for hire. Note that once you hire a judge, you are liable to pay for that request EVEN IF you find you do not need it as the tournament approaches. You must email Charles Schletzbaum at mrschletz@gmail.com by September 17th at 11:55 pm (PT) to hire judges. Judging is available for \$250 / **entry(not judge obligation)**.

## PF

- **Will use the Sep/Oct topic. We do NOT use the NSDA novice topic.**
- All PF will flip for side and speaker order in both Prelims and Elims.
- NSDA pilot rules and time limits will be utilized. 3 minute summaries, 4 minutes of prep.
- Only HS debaters in their first year of competition, eighth graders in their 1st or 2nd year, and any 6th or 7th grader, may enter the novice division.

## Parli

- Internet Prep will be allowed, but competitors may not consult with anyone other than their partner. There will be no coach prep.

## Topics for Extemp, Parli, Imp, and Congress Legislation

- We will be using the Sept./Oct NSDA Topic for ALL divisions of LD and PF.
- Parli topics will have topic areas announced 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Congress Legislation will be posted 3 weeks prior to the tournament
- Extemp Topic Areas will be posted prior to the Tournament.
- We invite the community to submit potential topics or topic areas for consideration and integration to the tournament. All topic selection decisions will be made by the tournament director. If you or your students would like to create congress resolutions, suggest Extemp topic areas, or submit Parli resolutions, please email all ideas to (mrschletz@gmail.com). Congress legislation must be received by September 5th, 2022 so that the congress bills can be posted online three weeks prior to the tournament. The deadline for Parli Topics and Extemp Topic Regions will be September 5, 2022. Legislation packets will be posted on the tabroom page by September 6th, 2022.

## Awards

**Individual Awards:** Individual awards will be presented to all debaters advancing to the Double-Octofinals in debate events. All finalists in speech events and Congress will be presented awards. Novice will receive Trophies for 5-0, and medals for 4-1 records, and certificates for 3-2.

**Speaker Awards:** We will also award speaker awards for debaters. Top 5 speakers in each debate event will receive awards from the tab room.

**Results:** Results for each varsity debate round will be posted each round starting after Round 3. Please do not request to see results at the tab room unless you question the posted results. Novice debate, congress and speech results will be published after awards.

## Schedule

ALL TIMES ARE Pacific Daylight Time Zone

Friday:

Noon: digital check in.

4:30PM: Parli Flight 1 topic release, Policy Round 1

5:00PM Varsity and JV round 1

7:00PM Parli flight 1 topic release

7:30PM: Varsity, JV and Policy Round 2

Saturday:

8AM R1 Novice Debates. R3 JV, Varsity and Policy, PF, LD, Parli)

8AM Congress R1

10AM R2 Novice Debates. R4 JV and Varsity

11:00AM Congress R2 Policy R4

1:00PM R3 Novice Debates. R5 JV and Varsity(PF, LD, Parli)

2:00PM Congress R3

2:30PM Policy R5

3:30PM R4 Novice, Double Octos JVPF, VLD and Vpar. R6 VPF

5:30PM R6 Policy

6:00PM R5 Novice, Octos JVPF, VLD, Vpar, Doubles VPF Congress Finals

8PM or ASAP Novice Awards and congress: (judges willing)

Sunday:

8:00am IE R1

Quarters VLD, JVPF, Vpar and Policy, Octos VPF

10:00am IE R2

11AM Semis VLD, JVPF and Vpar and Policy, Quarters VPF

1:00pm IE R3

1:30PM Finals VLD, JVPF and Vpar and Policy, Semis VPF

4pm IE Elim

VPF Finals.

6PM start time of last PF if round of 64 added

6:30PM Speech awards

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## Independent Entry Form

Parent Letter authorizing participation by independent entries

(template--copy/paste the text and fill in the blanks as appropriate):

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Milpitas High School:

This letter is to inform you that we would like our child, \_\_\_\_\_, to attend The Stephen Stewart invitational from ,September 30th-October 2nd 2022 and that she / he does so with our full consent and permission. We have arranged for our child to be fully chaperoned and for transportation to our satisfaction, and accept full responsibility and liability for our child during the entire course of the event. We understand and agree that Milpitas High School, its employees, and its agents provide no chaperones for the event, and further agree that Milpitas High School, its employees, and its agents are hereby relieved of any responsibility or liability of any sort for the supervision of our child.

The following person will be chaperoning our child:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to our child: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this we are certifying that we are in fact the legal guardians of the listed child, and have full legal authority to act on the listed child's behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parents' contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Child's insurance # \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Provider \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be required to be on the chaperon's person, and presentable to the tournament by the chaperon on request (preferably at the tab-room when the team first arrives at the tournament).