

River Valley

Speech and Debate League

SEASON OPENER



**“We’re Just
peachy”**

Welcome back for another amazing year of competitive Speech and Debate in the River Valley! Dardanelle High School is proud to host the first RVSDL tournament of our third season.

Our tournaments are open to any school in the following Arkansas counties: Yell County, Logan County, Pope County, Conway County, Perry County, Johnson County.

We encourage any interested school to contact us at mrgambledhs@gmail.com



The River Valley Speech and Debate League exists to provide local, cheap and robust competitive Speech and Debate tournaments to the River Valley. The RVSDL exists because Coach Eric Gamble saw a need and decided to find a remedy for it.

During the course of his 16 years of coaching he was faced with 2 persistent problems. First, almost all of the tournaments offered in the state necessitated overnight travel and costly hotel stays. Second, he saw wave after wave of students at small, rural schools graduate without the opportunity to experience the life changing experience of Speech and Debate competition. Like every other program, in most schools, Covid-19 decimated the DHS Speech and Debate team's numbers. In an effort to reinvigorate the activity in his own school and address those two problem areas, Coach Gamble developed the concept of the River Valley Speech and Debate League. The initial goals of the League are to target six local counties: Yell, Logan, Pope, Conway, Perry and Johnson. In those counties, the league would offer: free instructional materials to kickstart programs, workshops for both teachers and students and a local, free, monthly competition.

In the fall of 2022, The Arkansas Communications and Theatre Arts Association membership voted to establish the RVSDL as its very first regional league. Our first year was a resounding success with teams from Morrilton, Bigelow, Russellville and Dardanelle experiencing success in multiple events.

In our third year, we hope to see an expansion of that success. Our league is a learning league and is committed to helping any school in our region start up Speech and Debate teams. We provide free handouts, a schedule for starting a team, personalized coaching and help with your team and most of all.....the tournaments are free for the first year of competition! You and your kids can take part in the activity spending nothing more than your own time. We will continue to reach out to teachers and administrators in local schools in an attempt to engage you into the league!

Coaches Katelyn Davis, Becky Lawson, and Eric Gamble welcome back all returner competitors and are incredibly happy to see the massive amount of brand new members in the league this year! It is going to be a great season, IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

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MISSION STATEMENT

Competitive Speech and Debate is unique in that children have the opportunity to apply what they learn into their core classrooms.

A variety of research shows that Speech and Debate gives children the tools necessary to: write and speak persuasively, explore alternative viewpoints, reason analytically, evaluate facts, think critically and listen carefully. These are invaluable skills that are cultivated and enhanced by competitive Speech and Debate.

The River Valley Speech and Debate League exists to found, develop and expand Speech and Debate competitions in rural Arkansas with an initial focus on the River Valley.



The RVSDL encourages membership in both the Arkansas Communications and Theatre Arts Association and the National Speech and Debate Association. Both provide multiple opportunities for competition and growth for their members.

As such, the RVSDL also encourages its own members to adhere to the **NSDA's Code of Honor which states:**

"As a student or coach member, I pledge to uphold the highest standards of humility, equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service in pursuit of excellence."

Humility: A member does not regard oneself more highly than others. Regardless of a person's level of success, an individual always looks beyond oneself to appreciate the inherent value of others.

Equity: A member respects individuals and their individual differences as well as fosters equity, diversity, and inclusion. A member promotes empowerment for people from all backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

Integrity: A member is honest, ethical, and adheres to the competition and conduct rules of the organization. A member follows the NSDA discrimination and harassment policy and abides by the rules of their schools, tournaments, and localities.

Respect: A member demonstrates civil discourse in their interactions with others. A member maintains and contributes to a safe space and welcoming environment for all.

Leadership: A member is aware their words and actions influence others. A member commits to thoughtful and meaningful words and actions that reflect NSDA core values.

Service: A member exercises their talents to provide service to peers, community, and the activity. At all times a member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.

Judge Instructions

Thank you so much for taking the time to judge for our tournament. We appreciate you so much! Remember that all of the competitors that you will see today are new to debate. Please treat them with kindness and compassion.

A good judge will:

- Listen attentively to the speeches of both students without yielding to distractions. *(make sure your phones are silenced)*
- Take notes on the major points of each side and how the opposing team responds to them
- Make a judgment solely on what is said in the round by each student and not based on your own bias or knowledge. **This is the hardest part.**

You will be judging these rounds using the website www.tabroom.com. You will need to sign up on the website so that you will be added to the rounds you will judge. This needs to be done immediately when you decide to take part. You can access it using a laptop, chromebook or smartphone. **Remember a few things as you fill out your ballot.**

SPEAKER POINTS: Speaker points are extremely important. Take care with how you hand out these points. They serve two purposes. They allow us to crown a tournament speaking champion and they serve as a tiebreaker for students who have identical win/loss records.

You will assign each speaker between 1 and 5 points per category

Determining Speaker Points: 1 pt is poor and 5 pts is excellent

You may wish to use the following categories with 1-5 points assigned for each in determining speaker points for the front of this ballot:

Affirmative		Negative
_____	Delivery	_____
_____	Courtesy	_____
_____	Appropriate Tone	_____
_____	Organization	_____
_____	Logic	_____
_____	Support	_____
_____	Cross Examination	_____
_____	Refutation	_____

Two clarifications:

- Support can come in either the form of cited evidence, specific examples or ample explanation from the debaters.
- Refutation is in regards to how well the speaker responds to what their opponent says.

MAKE SURE TO COMPLETE YOUR BALLOT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. YOU CAN GO BACK AND ADD IN SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO BOTH SIDES AFTER THE ROUND IS COMPLETE. We cannot start the next round until all ballots have been turned in on the website.

Coach Instructions

Congrats coach! You have done it. You started a team and brought them to competition.

Remember that the number one reason kids won't come back is because of how they are treated while competing. **We want the kids to have as much fun as possible while also learning and growing as competitors.**

This will allow you to get ready for the first round.

- Find an area in the cafeteria where your team will set up their base camp. Feel free to spread it across several tables. Make sure that your competitors have pens, paper and something to time themselves with. (remember cell phones and computers are NOT allowed in the round)
- Make sure your kids have their phones charging while they debate so that they can access the internet during the competition.
- Help your students prep for their rounds. Remember, these kids can use ANYTHING at their disposal before the round starts and that includes their most valuable resource... YOU.
- Go watch a round! (if you aren't judging)
- Come visit tournament officials in the Tabroom. (Lounge Area) And I will explain to you how hosting works and what will need to be done when your program hosts a tournament later in the year.
- HAVE FUN!! We want you to come back as well. That will only happen if you are having fun during the course of the tournament. If you are experiencing anything that causes you pause or concern don't hesitate to bring it up to tournament officials.

Student Instructions

You need to be in the cafeteria at all times when you are not competing. Please do not wander the school or the competition area hallway.

- Be quiet and respectful as you wait for your round to be called. We will call by last name. We will explain who is affirmative and who is negative. Negative will draw first. Affirmative should keep the slip and present it to the judge before the round starts. Be sure that you are ready to draw for your debate topic at the scheduled time. Draw will occur in the foyer in front of the cafeteria.
- Your time starts the moment you and your competitor are handed the slip. (You have 30 minutes and this includes getting to your room)
- During your preparation you are allowed to use anything and anyone to prepare you for the topic. Remember that your case needs to be written on paper and you cannot take in any laptops or cell phones into the competition room. You need to leave your room with about 1-2 minutes left so that you are ready to begin promptly
- **DO NOT ENTER A ROOM WITHOUT A JUDGE PRESENT. This will result in disqualification.**
- When you go into the room you are allowed pens/pencils, paper with handwritten notes and a timer. *(Phone may only be used on airplane mode as a timer)* **Any use of phone outside of its timer setting will result in disqualification.**
- Make sure to move back any and all tables, desks or chairs that you might move during the round after you are done.
- Grab a quick snack or drink between rounds and get ready to do it again!!
- ***If you advance, you will continue debate on saturday. If you are competing in other events you will compete on saturday. I HIGHLY encourage everyone to return on saturday EVEN IF YOU DON'T ADVANCE because it is the best way to learn.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

IPDA Debate *September 26th*

Thursday

IPDA Round 1 DRAW 4:30pm

IPDA Round 1 5:00pm

IPDA Round 2 DRAW 5:45pm

IPDA Round 2 6:15pm

IPDA Round 3 DRAW 7:00pm

IPDA Round 3 7:30pm

***(Top 8 and/or Top 6 Speakers) Will qualify to state in
Novice IPDA***

***(Top 4 and/or Top 6 Speakers) Will qualify to state in
Varsity IPDA***

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Individual Events

September 28th

Saturday

*8:00 AM Varsity Declamation, Varsity Storytelling, Spanish Poetry,
Spanish Declamation*

These Rounds will go straight to finals

*9:00 AM Varsity Informative and Varsity OO finals, SPANISH
IPDA DRAW*

These Rounds will go straight to finals

10:00 AM Varsity and Novice Poetry Rounds 1-3

11:00 AM Varsity and Novice Impromptu Rounds 1-3

12:00 PM IPDA Round 4 Draw

*1:00 PM Varsity and Novice Declamation Rounds 1-3, Semis in
Impromptu (if needed)*

2:00 PM 1st Out Round in IPDA

3:00 PM Finals in Poetry, Impromptu

4:00 PM Out Round in IPDA

5:00 PM Finals in Declamation and DEBATE

6:15 PM AWARDS CEREMONY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Individual Events JUDGE NEEDS

September 28th

Saturday

8:00 AM - 6 judges and at least 1 spanish speaking judge
9:00 AM 6 judges and at least 1 spanish speaking judge
10:00 AM 6 judges
11:00 AM 15 judges
12:00 PM 18 Judges
1:00 PM 9-12 judges
2:00 PM 9-12 judges
3:00 PM 6 judges
4:00 PM 12 judges
5:00 PM 9 Judges

6:15 PM AWARDS CEREMONY

State Tournament

Qualifying Levels

Straight to Finals: (none qualify to TOC or Arkansas State Championship)

- Spanish IPDA
- Spanish Declamation
- Spanish Poetry
- Varsity Informative
- Varsity Oratory
- Varsity Storytelling
- Varsity Declamation

Multiple Prelims and breaks

·**Varsity Poetry**: 3 prelims and a break to finals. We will have a clean break of no more than half the field. Unless there is a tie. We will break anyone who is at the clear break point. **THIS EVENT WILL NOT COUNT AS UKTOC AS WE DO NOT HAVE THREE SCHOOLS ENTERED IN THE EVENT**

oLevel 4 Qualifier to State: 1st Place only will qualify

·**Novice Poetry**: 3 prelims and a break to finals. We will have a clean break of no more than half the field. Unless there is a tie. We will break anyone who is at the clear break point. **THIS EVENT WILL NOT COUNT AS UKTOC AS WE NOVICE EVENTS CANNOT QUALIFY TO UKTOC.**

·**Novice Declamation**: 3 prelims and a break to finals. We will have a clean break of no more than half the field. Unless there is a tie. We will break anyone who is at the clear break point. **This is not an event held at Arkansas State championship and so doesn't count as a qualifier**

·**Novice Impromptu**: 3 prelims and a break to partial semis or straight to finals. We will have a clean break of no more than half the field. Unless there is a tie. We will break anyone who is at the clear break point.

o This is not a UKTOC event

oLevel 2 Qualifier to State- Top 6 will qualify

·**Varsity Impromptu**: 3 prelims and a break to finals. We will have a clean break of no more than half the field. Unless there is a tie. We will break anyone who is at the clear break point.

oLevel 3 Qualifier- Top 3 Will qualify to State

o This is not a UKTOC event