



*The 31st Annual*  
**Mardi Gras**  
**Speech Carnivale**  
*February 28, 2026*

The Shrewsbury High School Speech & Debate Team cordially invites you to the 31st annual **Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale**, to be held at **Shrewsbury High School**, 75 Cypress Ave, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts on Saturday, February 28, 2026. This tournament is sanctioned by the MSDL as a state-qualifier. The tournament is also sanctioned by the Tournament of Champions as a Speech bid tournament (entry number dependent).



Online ballots:

All judges will be required to have their own individual tabroom.com account to which they should be “linked” (with an email) as a judge on your judge roster. In addition, all judges will need to have a WiFi capable device with them at the tournament (preferably a tablet or laptop). Information on creating a Tabroom account as well as the online ballot process can be found at: <http://docs.tabroom.com/Judging>

The **Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale** is a **DOUBLE-ENTRY TOURNAMENT**. Students that double-enter will be responsible for competing in each of their two events during the time allotted for each round of competition. There will be three preliminary rounds in all speech events and a final round in all events with more than one preliminary section. In larger speech events there may be elimination rounds (Quarters, Semis). Debate will follow a separate schedule with the number of preliminary and elimination rounds determined based on the number of final entries.

Students may enter up to 2 of the 21 events listed below subject to the restrictions described. Please note: students in multiple can triple-enter UNLESS they are competing in a draw event; in this case, they can double-enter in multiple and their draw event.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Events</u> With no restrictions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Events</u> Where double entry is <u>not</u> <u>allowed</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Events</u> Where double entry is allowed with restrictions</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dramatic Performance</li> <li>• Prose Reading</li> <li>• Poetry Reading</li> <li>• Play Reading</li> <li>• Children's Literature</li> <li>• Original Oratory</li> <li>• Declamation</li> <li>• Duo Interpretation</li> <li>• Impromptu</li> <li>• Informative Speaking</li> <li>• Programmed Oral Interpretation (POI)</li> <li>• Team Improv</li> <li>• **Multiple Reading – students may triple enter, subject to the abovementioned rules about draw events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressional Debate</li> <li>• Group Discussion</li> <li>• Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate</li> <li>• Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate</li> <li>• Novice Public Forum Debate</li> <li>• Varsity Public Forum Debate</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please note: schools may only enter eight (8) PFD Teams in each division &amp; six (6) LD entries but can enter a waiting list.</i></p>	<p>Students in draw events may double enter, but they can only be in <u>one</u> draw event. The draw events are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking</li> <li>• Novice Extemporaneous Speaking</li> <li>• Radio Broadcasting</li> </ul>

Coaches should designate **NOVICE** speakers entered in Prose, Poetry, Play or Children's Lit. by also listing them in Novice OI for consideration of the separate novice final round.



Although schools are limited to eight (PFD) & six (LD) entries in debate due to space concerns, waitlist entries are encouraged. Notification of acceptance of waitlisted entries will be made by email on or before Thursday February 26, 2026. Please enter judges calculating your wait-list entries. If we cannot accept the entries, those judges will be released without penalty.

ALSO, STUDENTS MAY NOT USE THE SAME CUTTING IN DIFFERENT EVENTS

## Other Important Category-Specific Information

### 1. Group Discussion:

The overall topic area will be “U.S. Foreign Policy”.

Focus areas will include: ‘China, ‘Europe/NATO, ‘Latin America’, and ‘Russia/Ukraine’.

### 2. Congress legislation:

Bills & Resolutions as distributed by the MSDL & posted on Tabroom.

Legislation inquiries should be addressed to MSDL Congress Chair, Joe Bowden.

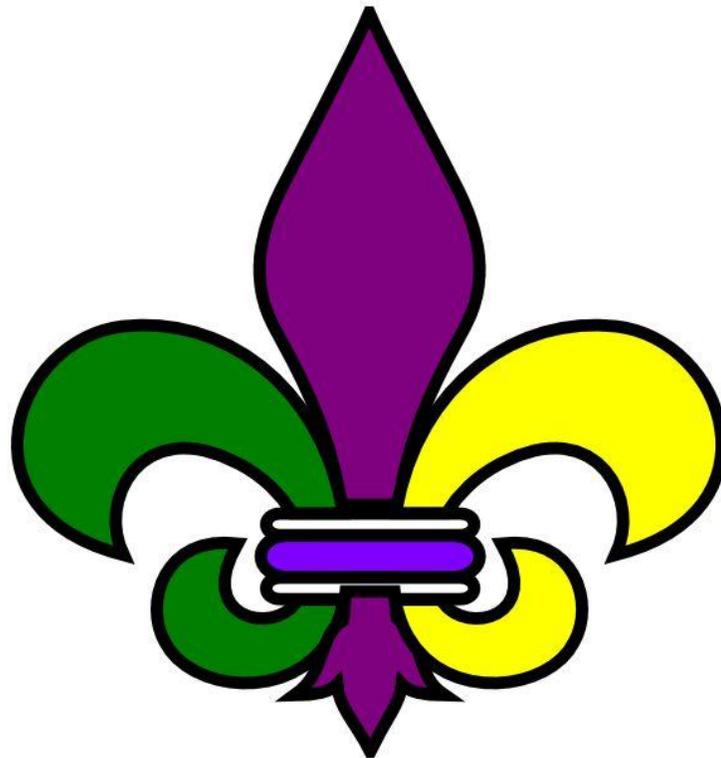
### 3. Extemp Final Round Topic Area: International Alliances

### 4. Public Forum Debate: The FEBRUARY NSDA Topic will be used:

**Resolved:** The Federal Trade Commission should establish a federal regulatory framework for sports betting.

### 5. Lincoln Douglas Debate: The JAN/FEB NSDA Topic will be used:

**Resolved:** The possession of nuclear weapons is immoral.



## Individual Awards and Sweepstakes

Individual awards will be presented to ALL finalists in each category. In addition, Speaker Awards will be given in Debate. Novice awards will be presented to the top-finishing first-year speaker in each event (other than novice events and Multiple). Remember to update your novice speakers on your tabroom.com team roster!

Sweepstakes awards will be calculated using a "Lucky 13" formula. Individual scores for the top ten entries in ten different events will be added together with the next top three entries in any event(s). A reverse scale point system will be used:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SWEEPSTAKES POINTS</u>
1	5
2	4
3	3
4, 5, 6 or lower	1

Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top twelve teams using this [Lucky 13 formula](#). In addition, a special 13<sup>th</sup> team award will be presented. The 13<sup>th</sup> award is the Kitty Viscardi Memorial Novice Award. Kitty Viscardi was the long-time coach at Shrewsbury and for many years we were lucky to have Kitty personally present the award. This is a revolving plaque and will be presented to the team with the highest total of sweepstakes points earned by all novice competitors at this year's tournament when added to the total of the novice speakers' sweepstakes points earned by that team at all previous [Mardi Gras Speech Carnivales](#). Once a team has won the award that team's points revert to zero. Three presentations must pass before a team can win the award again although points continue to be earned. Points can add up quickly over a few years!

## Speech Event TOC Bids

The 31<sup>st</sup> Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale will record bids for speech events for the 2026 [TOC](#) at the University of Kentucky, assuming that we have enough entries to fulfill the

tournament bid requirements. For more information, check the University of Kentucky TOC website: <https://uktoc.org>.



## VOTE FOR THE KING AND QUEEN OF THIS YEAR'S MARDI GRAS

This popular tradition continues. Purchase a Ballot for only 50 cents! The winning King & Queen will be crowned at the awards ceremony as last year's Mardi Gras royalty relinquish the throne.

### Registration Instructions

1. ALL REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED ON-LINE AT [WWW.TABROOM.COM](http://WWW.TABROOM.COM). If you do not have an account, follow the instructions at the website. **Indicate all first year (novice) speakers on your team roster.**
2. The registration fee is \$10.00 per Speech entry. Team Improv and Multiple each count as one entry. PFD and Duo Interpretation registration fee is \$20.00 per entry.
3. You are required to bring one judge for every five speech entries, or fraction thereof. You are required to bring one judge for every two debate entries, or fraction thereof.

**(There are no hired judges – There is a \$50 missing judge fine – This is not to be used in lieu of bringing judges – Students may be dropped if judges are missing)**

**For Novice LD and Novice PF, a high school student with 2 or more years of debate experience, may judge novice debate.**

4. Registration:

Closes on Wednesday February 25 at 5PM.

Fees are frozen on Thursday February 26 at 5PM.

Schools must register on-line at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com).

Drops after this time may be assessed a \$5.00 nuisance fee **in addition** to the regular entry fee.

**TEXT Drops (or no drops!) prior to arrival on Saturday morning - (774) 275-7195.**

Please include the name of your school!

This number will ONLY be available Saturday 7:00 to 7:30AM

## Tentative Tournament Time Schedule (subject to change)

REGISTRATION	7:30-7:45 (please plan to arrive no later than 7:45AM!)
JUDGES MEETINGS (mandatory)	8:15
DEBATE ONE	9:00
SPEECH TIME SLOT ONE	9:00
CONGRESS SESSION ONE	9:30
DEBATE TWO	10:30
SPEECH TIME SLOT TWO	10:30
DEBATE THREE	12:00
SPEECH TIME SLOT THREE	12:00
CONGRESS SESSION TWO	1:00
DEBATE FOUR	2:00
SPEECH TIME SLOT FOUR	1:30
SPEECH QUARTERS (if needed)	1:30
SPEECH TIME SLOT FIVE	2:30
SPEECH SEMIS (if needed)	2:30
DEBATE FIVE	3:00
SPEECH & CONGRESS FINALS	4:30
DEBATE FINAL(S)	4:30
AWARDS	6:45

EXTEMP DRAW WILL BE 30 MINS BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED TIME SLOT.

## Food

A selection of food will be available throughout the day. You will note that there is no time slot scheduled for lunch. Students and Judges should have ample time to eat between competition rounds and off rounds as well as after preliminary rounds.

**Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette must be abided by at all times.**

We look forward to seeing you all at the 31st annual Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale! If you have any questions concerning the information in this invitation, please feel free to email me.

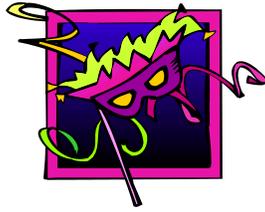
Very truly yours,

**THE SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM**

Gabriel Hopkins  
Tournament Director

Vaishnavi Iyer, Saketh Madhusudhan, & Pradnya Cowlagi  
Student Tournament Hosts

## *S.H.S. Mardi Gras Speech Carnivale Special Event Description*



Team Improv (NOTE: Unlike other tournaments, this is a two-person event)

This category is for a pair (2) of contestants from the same team. The team will draw, at random, 2 characters and 2 settings. After only momentary preparation time, the pair begins a presentation in which each contestant portrays one of the two characters drawn. The characters must begin together in one setting and progress creatively from that setting to the second setting. The maximum time for completing the improv is five minutes. The improvisation should be humorous and entertaining. The team is judged on their ability to create and maintain their characters, as well as their interaction and creativity in bringing the characters from one scene into the next.

*For example, Mary and Joe are a team. Mary draws the character of a pregnant woman. Joe draws the character of a priest. They draw the first setting - an elevator and the second setting - a deserted island. Mary and Joe begin. The pregnant woman and the priest are in an elevator which happens to be in an airport. They discover they are on the same flight to Bermuda. The plane goes down somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean and they eventually make their way to a deserted island.*

Maximum Time: 5 minutes (30 seconds grace - no minimum time requirement)

## DIRECTIONS TO SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

75 Cypress Ave, Shrewsbury MA 01545

*Although the address has changed, the school hasn't moved! Cypress Ave is now just the name of the driveway up the hill.*

**From Boston and Southeastern Massachusetts:** Follow Route 128 North to Mass Pike West to Exit 11A (Route 495). Proceed on Route 495 North to Route 290 West. Follow Route 290 West to Exit 22, "Main Street Shrewsbury". At the end of the exit ramp, TURN RIGHT. Stay in the right-hand lane – to an immediate traffic light. Turn right at the set of lights, onto Holden Street. You will continue onto Cypress Ave approximately one-quarter mile – the entrance to the High School will be straight ahead – up the hill to the school building. The bus drop-off will be your second right (the front of the building).

**From Northeastern Massachusetts:** Follow Route 495 South to Route 290 West. Take Exit 22, "Main Street Shrewsbury". At the end of the exit ramp, TURN RIGHT. Stay in the right-hand lane – to an immediate traffic light. Turn right at the set of lights, onto Holden Street. You will continue onto Cypress Ave after approximately one-quarter mile – the entrance to the High School will be straight ahead – up the hill to the school building. The bus drop-off will be your second right (the front of the building).

**From Western Massachusetts:** Follow the Mass Pike to Exit 10 in Auburn, Route 290 East. Continue on 290 East to the "Main Street Shrewsbury" Exit (Exit 22). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Turn Right at the next traffic light onto Holden Street. You will continue onto Cypress Ave approximately one-quarter mile – the entrance to the High School will be straight ahead – up the hill to the school building. The bus drop-off will be your second right (the front of the building).

**From Northwestern Massachusetts:** Follow Route 2 to 190 South to 290 East in Worcester. Continue on 290 East to the Main Street Shrewsbury Exit (Exit 22). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right. Stay in the right-hand lane – to an immediate traffic light. Turn right at the set of lights, onto Holden Street. You will continue on Holden Street approximately one-quarter mile – the entrance to the High School will be straight ahead - up the hill to the school building. The bus drop-off will be your second right (the front of the building).

**BUSES SHOULD PARK IN THE UPPER LOT. VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO IDLE IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING!**

**SAT. AM "DROP" (or no drops) TEXT # (active 7:00 AM - 7:30AM)  
Please TEXT PRIOR to arrival - 774-275-7195**