

CAVALIER

The logo features the word "CAVALIER" in a large, bold, dark green serif font. Below it, a gold-colored horizontal bar with a curved, sword-like shape on the left side contains the word "INVITATIONAL" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

INVITATIONAL

2026 Cavalier Invitational
Tournament Packet



January 16, 2025

Welcome.

That word has deep resonance at Durham Academy, where diversity, inclusion and equity are long-cherished values and the foundation of our current strategic plan. We love opening our doors, look forward to learning more about you and hope you'll bring your fullest, most authentic selves to our school.

This weekend you will be using most of classrooms from PreK to grade 12. The teachers who regularly occupy those rooms are glad to share their spaces.

This year, the Cavalier Invitational continues use of our Middle School – where you'll see the first two of five stages of construction to reimagine that Academy Road campus. To see our full plan and timetable for our building projects, click to: www.da.org/about/campus-plan.

Our mission at Durham Academy: to prepare students for moral, happy, productive lives. To see how these traits come to life in our school, check out www.da.org or [find us on Instagram](#).

In the meantime, we wish you a moral, happy, productive weekend. Whether you are trying a new event or challenging to win the tournament, you are honing skills that build better teams, communities and democracies.

We're glad you're here!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ulku-Steiner", with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Ulku-Steiner
Head of School
Durham Academy



January 15, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The Durham Academy Speech & Debate team cordially invites you to attend the 12th Annual Cavalier Invitational on January 16th through 18th of 2026.

We will try to offer you and your students not only an outstanding academic competition, but also a pleasant tournament experience. Rest assured the 12th edition of the Cavalier Invitational will be the best installment yet.

Please note the tournament schedule:

- We will continue to offer in-person **World Schools Debate** that is open to school-based and hybrid (by school) teams.
- For this year, the tournament runs **Friday through Sunday**. Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and World Schools Debate will be Friday through Sunday. Speech & Congress will be Saturday & Sunday only.
- The tournament offers **six preliminary rounds in all LD, PF, and World Schools divisions, Semifinals in Congressional Debate and four preliminary rounds in all speech events**. In debate, we will strive to break all winning records. In speech, we will advance the greatest number of students reasonable.
- **The introduction of Middle School Congressional Debate & Middle School Public Forum Debate**. As well as the continuation of **Novice divisions in Lincoln-Douglas Debate & Public Forum Debate**.
- Designated as a University of Kentucky **Tournament of Champions qualifying tournaments** at the following levels:
 - o Public Forum Debate – Quarterfinals
 - o Lincoln Douglas Debate – Semifinals
 - o Congressional Debate – All Students in Finals
 - o World Schools Debate - Finalists
 - o Speech Events

A common theme of our invitation, based on the language and implicit assumptions therein, is that you are a guest of Durham Academy and its coaching staff and, by attending the tournament, you are agreeing to adhere to our guidelines as a condition of participation in the Cavalier Invitational.

We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful campus!

Crawford Leavoy
Director

Rachel Mauchline
Assistant Director

Justin Spitzer ('26) & Ethan Asnani ('27)
Student Tournament Co-Directors



2025 Cavalier Invitational Tournament Sponsors

The Cavalier Invitational extends its gratitude to:

- Steffen & Almasa Bass
- Daniel Ennis & Lisa Purtell-Ennis
- Gnanaraj & Prayrana Joseph
- Zhigang Guo & Xinyan Li
- Nathan & Susan Nanzer
- Rahul & Neha Pagidipati
- Sondra Ray
- Rajesh Swaminathan & Susan Kansagra
- David & Lois Tsui
- Fan Ye & Li Wang
- Jia You & Pei Zhou





2026 Cavalier Invitational Tournament Personnel

- Tournament Directors.....Crawford Leavoy, Durham Academy (NC)
Rachel Mauchline, Durham Academy (NC)
- Facilities Director.....Elliot Beamer, Durham Academy (NC)
Ben Hodges ('24), Durham Academy (NC)
Raiyan Choudhury, Durham Academy (NC)
Jacob Deutsch, Durham Academy (NC)
- Parent Advisory Council.....Sarah Schulz (P'21, '25, '27), Rasna Prakash (P'23, 26),
Tiffany Foster (P'27), Lisa Rahangdale (P'26, '28),
Jill Moore (P'24, '28, '31), Sujani Surakanti (P'27, '30),
Doug Hodges (P'22, '24), Cory Forbach & Jade Sung (P'26),
Anil Asnani (P'27, '30)

2026 Tabulation Staff

- Equity Advocate.....Radeyah Muhammad, Charlotte Latin School (NC)
- Lincoln Douglas Debate.....Christopher Vincent, Isidore Newman School (LA)
Jacob Palmer ('20), Durham Academy (NC)
- Public Forum Debate.....Chase Williams, Taipei American School (Taiwan)
Jenn Melin, Texas Forensic Association (TX)
Noah Mengisteab, Durham Academy (NC)
- World Schools Debate.....Megan Butt, Charlotte Latin School (NC)
Courtney Coffman, Northland Christian School (TX)
- Individual Events.....Ryan Levesque, The Potomac School (VA)
Harry Strong, The Potomac School (VA)
Ben Denton, Pinecrest HS (NC)
Kate Hamm, Ransom Everglades School (FL)
- Extemporaneous Speaking Prep.....Brian McAninch, Lake Highland Preparatory School (FL)
- Congressional DebateBrittany Stanchik, Phoenix Country Day School (AZ)
Seth Hammond, Durham Academy (NC)



Robert Sheard Excellence in Coaching Award

In 2016, the Durham Academy Speech & Debate Team established the Robert Sheard Excellence in Coaching Award. This award was established to recognize a coach at the tournament, who demonstrated continual success throughout their career in speech and debate. In addition to their success, we strive to recognize community members that strive to serve beyond their team. The recipient should be someone with not only a strong commitment to their team(s), but a strong commitment to speech and debate.

- 2016.....Robert Sheard, NSU University School (FL) *(Retired)*
- 2017.....Shannon Jarman, Cumberland International Early College HS (NC) *(Retired)*
- 2018.....Harry Strong, The Potomac School (VA)
- 2019.....Alexandra Sencer, The Collegiate School (NY) *(Retired)*
Keith Pittman, Asheville HS (NC)
- 2020.....Helen Freeman, Huntington HS (WV) *(Retired)*
Vacated
- 2021.....Mario Herrera, Midtown HS (GA)
Cyndy Woodhouse, John F Kennedy HS (IA)
- 2022.....Brittany Stanchik, Desert Vista HS (AZ)
RJ Pellicciotta, Cary Academy (NC)
- 2023.....Nathan Johnson, Lake Highland Preparatory School (FL)
- 2024.....Courtney Coffman, Northland Christian School (TX)
Chase Williams, Taipei American School (Taiwan)
- 2025.....Ben Denton, Pinecrest HS (NC)
Jeff Welty, Cedar Ridge HS (NC)

Jeffrey B Welty Award

In 2022, the Durham Academy Speech & Debate Team established the Jeffrey B Welty Award. This award was established to recognize the coaches of the championship team in Varsity Public Forum Debate. It acknowledges the dedication and hard work of Jeff Welty who founded the Durham Academy Speech & Debate team and served on our coaching staff until May of 2021.

- 2022.....Jerry Crist & Neo Curry, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory (TX)
Cait Bliss & Devon Weis, Poly Prep Country Day School (NY)
- 2023.....Jerry Crist & Neo Curry, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory (TX)
Tim Huth, The Bronx HS of Science (NY)
- 2024.....Chase Williams, Katheryne Dwyer & Veer Prakash ('23), Taipei American School (TW)
- 2025.....Yongshun Lin, Richard Montgomery HS (MD)



Schools in Attendance

- Taiwan.....Taipei American School
- Arkansas.....Episcopal Collegiate School
- Arizona.....Phoenix Country Day School
- Florida.....Christopher Columbus HS
Clark Advanced Learning Center
Lake Highland Preparatory School
Newsome HS
Nova HS
Ransom Everglades HS
Trinity Preparatory School
- Georgia.....Northview HS
- Louisiana.....Isidore Newman School
- Maryland.....Glenelg HS
Richard Montgomery HS
Walt Whitman HS
- Massachusetts.....Catholic Memorial School
- New Jersey.....Ridge HS
- New York.....Avenues: The World School
The Bronx HS of Science
- North Carolina.....Apex Friendship HS
Ardrey Kell HS
Cape Fear Academy
Cary Academy
Cedar Ridge HS
Charlotte Country Day School
Charlotte Latin School
Cumberland Polytechnic HS
Cuthbertson HS
Durham Academy
Forsyth Country Day School



Schools in Attendance (Continued)

- North Carolina.....Martin MS
Marvin Ridge HS
Massey Hill Classical HS
Myers Park HS
NC School of Science & Math – Durham
Pine Forest HS
Pine Lake Preparatory
Pinecrest HS
Research Triangle HS
Terry Sanford HS
The Early College at Guilford
Wake Preparatory Academy
William G Enloe HS

- Ohio.....Hawken School

- Pennsylvania.....Council Rock North HS
La Salle College HS

- Texas.....Northland Christian School

- Virginia.....James Madison HS
Langley HS
South Lakes
The Potomac School



Tournament Registration, Judging & Protest Guidelines

1. **Registration**
 - a. **Electronic registration will be available.** Teams should only register once they have confirmed their entry is correct.
 - b. **For teams that still need to pay their fees,** you can request an online CC payment or bring a physical check/cash to a Tab Room on campus. You must pay prior to Round 1.
 - c. **Coaches should continue to login and change Tabroom in order of for your entry to stay up to date until we turn off your privileges.** After that we appreciate text messages and emails letting us know that changes need to be made.
2. **Hidden Drops:** Hidden drops or drops not disclosed at registration and found by the Tab Staff, will be subject to a \$200 fine.
3. **Judging:** We know that you value having qualified judges in all events; please help us ensure the quality of our judging pool by bringing only trained judges to the tournament. Please do not enter any judges who are unsure of how to judge events or are not qualified. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL, NOT THE TOURNAMENT TO TRAIN JUDGES. The tab room reserves the right to fine your school if a judge must be removed from the pool because they are uncomfortable, unable and/or unwilling to judge.
4. **Judge Fines:** Schools will be assessed a \$50 fee for each round missed by a judge in a preliminary round. Judges who miss an elimination round ballot will be assessed a \$100 fee.
5. **Protests:** Although we never hope for protests, we do plan accordingly:
 - a. **For evidence and ethics challenges in Debate Events,** all protests are handled in round and are not appealable to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director can only help the judge in understanding the process, not in making a decision.
 - b. **For equity, harassment or discrimination concerns,** all concerns are to be brought to the Equity Advocates. They will be handled by a collaboration between the Tournament Directors, the tournament's Equity Advocates, and the Durham Academy administration.
 - c. **All other protests, complaints or challenges** are to be brought to the Tournament Directors. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to appoint an Ombudsperson for the tournament to handle complaints and protests.
6. **Filing Protests or Equity/Harassment/Discrimination Concerns:**
 - a. Protests are filed with the Tournament Directors or official ombudsperson on duty. Concerns are filed with the Tournament Directors or Equity Advocate on duty.
 - b. The tournament will provide forms on Tabroom.com where protests & concerns are to be filed.
 - c. Protests may only be filed by a coach of record for the school and must be filed in a timely manner. Concerns may be filed by anyone participating at the 2025 Cavalier Invitational.
 - d. No protests will be accepted after the next round is paired, released, and started.
7. **Supremacy Clause:** Decisions of the Ombudsperson, Equity Advocates and/or Tournament Director are final and are not appealable.
8. **Governing Rules:**
 - a. Event rules are listed in this manual for convenience.
 - b. However, for all events except Oratorical Declamation and Oral Interpretation of Literature, the NSDA rules will be the final authority on a matter.
 - c. For Oral Interpretation of Literature, the NCFL rules concerning DEC and OI will have final authority in the matter.



Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Tournament Guidelines

1. Lincoln-Douglas debate will use the 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 format. Public Forum debate will use the 4-4-3-4-4-3-3-3-2--2 format.
2. A 4-minute preparation rule will be enforced in Lincoln-Douglas. 3-minutes of preparation time will be enforced in Public Forum.
3. Debaters in Public Forum debate will use the NSDA January topic. Procedures for the debate will follow NSDA guidelines: Prior to the round in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the side of the topic they wish to defend OR the speaking position they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). Once the coin toss winners select their favored option, the other team makes a choice with the remaining option.
4. Meals will be provided Friday through Sunday for student purchase in both Student Lounge areas. All meals should be purchased on campus. The schedule does not permit time to leave the building. Please do not bring food from outside into the building.
5. Please eat only in the Student Lounge areas. Food should not be taken into the classrooms (this includes judges.) Please use trashcans provided in each classroom and in all hallways. Do not leave trash on the floors or on the tables in the Lounge areas.
6. All Durham Academy campuses and The Hill Learning Center campus are non-smoking campuses. **Smoking or vaping is not allowed anywhere on school property.** If you wish to smoke or vape, you must walk across the street to a location that is not on school grounds. Security will enforce this rule.
7. The concession stands are located in both the Student Lounge area of Durham Academy Lower School and Middle School. Snacks and soft drinks will be available throughout the tournament. The Coaches' and Judges' Lounge is located in the Performing Arts Building of the Durham Academy Lower School and in Taylor Hall of Durham Academy Middle School. The Tab Room is located in the Learning Commons of the Durham Academy Upper School. Tabulation rooms are closed to all students. Coaches and judges should direct their tabulation questions to the Tournament Director, Tabulation Director and/or Ombudsman.
8. Security personnel and members of the Durham Academy staff and faculty are in the building for your safety and to provide information. Feel free to contact them if you have a problem. Please treat them with respect. Please not remove or move any furniture or equipment from any of the rooms.
9. All rounds are open to authorized guests of the tournament. Guests may flow debates.
10. All team with a 4-2 or better record will break-in both Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum debate. No speaker awards are distributed at the Cavalier Invitational.
11. Please do not loiter in the buildings after the rounds on Saturday and Sunday evenings. After materials must be removed from campus on Sunday evening.
12. Power matching will occur at the end of Round 2 in all debate divisions. The Cavalier Invitational will never lag power debate nor power any round high/high. Each round will be power matched high/low within brackets. If we have to pull teams up, the computer will make those decisions. No teams should be pulled up more than once. We will be using the most updated version of Tabroom. The presets will be randomly assigned by the computer.
13. Elimination Round participants will be determined in the following order: Ballots, H2H, Opp Wins, Drop H/L pts, Total pts, J. Var



Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Tournament Guidelines (continued)

14. Schematics for Round One will be available at the school and online at 4:30PM on Friday. All schematics will be distributed online and posted in the Student Lounge. Please congregate in the lounge areas after each round. Do not loiter in the halls or in classrooms.
15. The Tabulation staff and supervisors are listed in the front of the tournament packet.
16. In LD & PF, judges are obligated on a “per preliminary round” obligation. This means that each entry in these events generates a round obligation. One judge can cover a maximum of 6 preliminary rounds. This means that a judge can cover a maximum of two entries if they are available for all three days. Please remember that changes to availability may affect a judge's ability to count towards a full obligation.
17. Judges are required to serve one round after their last team has been eliminated. Failure to comply with this will result in additional judge fines and denial of future entry in the Cavalier Invitational. Hired judges are expected to stay until released by the Tournament Director.
18. All debate ballots will be distributed electronically via Tabroom. Decision times will be notated on the ballot in both LD and PF. Rounds not decided by the decision time will result in a coin-flip by the Tabulation staff.
19. Students not present ten minutes after the posted time are eligible for forfeiture. Only the Tab Room can declare a forfeiture. No judge can declare a forfeiture.
20. Do not forget to give points to each debater in the round. You must give a decision in each round on your ballot. All debates must have one winner and one loser. Please check “low point win” if higher points are given to a losing team. Do not give points lower than 20 in any debate. The tab room will raise points to 20 if you forget. Half points for speaker points are allowed.
21. We encourage disclosure of decisions and discussion of all debates within reason after the round. Please keep us on time. If your discussion is going on too long, you will be stopped.
22. Rooms are difficult to find sometimes on our outdoor campus. Please use the maps provided on Tabroom.com. Students and staff wearing white name tags will be available to help you. Since hallways may be used for competition, please be especially quiet when moving from round to round. Due to the size of the tournament and our desire to accommodate as many entry requests as possible, some of our rounds may be in commons spaces in a building.
23. Judges not scheduled for a particular round should wait in the Judges' Lounge. Please do not leave or wander the building. Not being initially scheduled does not translate into having no obligation for that particular round. Missing a stand-by assignment carries the same penalty as missing a published assignment.
24. For Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Debate, use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives and accessing resources via the internet. Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of the debate in question and zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater. This rule recommends, but does not require, that all text messaging devices and cell phones be turned off during debates. It is meant to restrict the debaters from initiating or responding to any outside contact during a debate round. Example: A student's cell phone ringing during a debate would not violate the rule. A student calling, emailing, chatting text messaging or responding to any contact from their coach during a debate would violate this rule.
25. More explanations of event rules and tournament procedures can be found in the Tournament Invitation located on www.tabroom.com



Individual Events Tournament Guidelines

1. NSDA rules will be used for all events except for Oral Interpretation of Literature. NCFL rules will be used for Oral Interpretation of Literature.
2. Time limits for HI, DI, DUO, POI, OI, OO, and INF will be 10 minutes maximum. The time limit for EXT and IMP are 7 minutes.
3. Meals will be provided Saturday and Sunday for student purchase in both Student Lounge areas. All meals should be purchased on campus. The schedule does not permit time to leave the building. Please do not bring food from outside into the building.
4. Please eat only in the Student Lounge areas. Food should not be taken into the classrooms (this includes judges.) Please use trashcans provided in each classroom and in all hallways. Do not leave trash on the floors or on the tables in the Lounge areas.
5. All Durham Academy campuses and The Hill Center campus are non-smoking campuses. **Smoking or vaping is not allowed anywhere on school property.** If you wish to smoke or vape, you must walk across the street to a location that is not on school grounds. Security will enforce this rule.
6. The concession stands are located in both the Student Lounge area of the Durham Academy Lower School. Snacks and soft drinks will be available throughout the tournament. The Coaches' and Judges' Lounge is in the Performing Arts Building of the Durham Academy Lower School. The Tab Room is in the Learning Commons of the Durham Academy Upper School. Tabulation rooms are closed to all students. Coaches and judges should direct their tabulation questions to the Tournament Director, Tabulation Director and/or Ombudsman.
7. Security personnel and members of the Durham Academy staff and faculty are in the building for your safety and to provide information. Feel free to contact them if you have a problem. Please treat them with respect. Please not remove or move any furniture or equipment from any of the rooms.
8. All rounds are open to authorized guests of the tournament.
9. Between 12 and 14 (inclusive) competitors will advance to the Semifinals based on cumulative ranks in events that have more than 24 entries. In events with less than 24 entries, between 6 and 7 (inclusive) competitors will advance to Finals based off of cumulative ranks.
10. Please do not loiter in the buildings after the rounds on Saturday and Sunday evenings. After materials must be removed from campus on Sunday evening.
11. Schematics for Round One will be available at 8:30AM. Subsequent round schematics will be posted in the Student Lounge areas. Please congregate in those areas after rounds. Do not loiter in the halls or in classrooms. Please be prepared to move to rounds immediately after the schematics are distributed.
12. The Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room is in the Preschool Great Room. You may leave materials overnight, but we are not responsible for them. Please remove all materials Sunday afternoon. We will be following NSDA guidelines and rules in regards to the use of laptops and internet in the prep room. The Cavalier Invitational is not responsible for providing electrical power for your laptops – please bring them charged.
13. Please use trashcans provided in each classroom and in all hallways. Do not leave trash on the floor. Clean your table in the Student Lounge areas.



Individual Events Tournament Guidelines (continued)

14. Coaches & school judges should be available for all prelims and elims. Missing preliminary assignments will result in all your students being ranked last in the round you missed. Missing elimination assignments may prevent your school from receiving future invitations to the tournament. Hired judges are expected to stay until released by the Tournament Director. Each student deserves the best judging possible and this can only occur if everyone reports to the rounds assigned.
15. All speech ballots will be distributed electronically via Tabroom. Each judge will be provided a dance card for their judge assignments. All judges should report for their round ten minutes in advance of the start. If a replacement is needed, the computer will select a judge, and they will be notified electronically.
16. At the end of each round, ballots should be electronically via Tabroom. No oral critiques are permitted in Individual Events at the Cavalier Invitational.
17. Please do not delay in going to your round. The tournament will stay on schedule only if your rounds start on time. Hopefully, a reasonable amount of time has been built into the schedule this year; do not abuse it. Remember that many students are double-entered. Be reasonable with these contestants.
18. Please understand that because so many students are cross-entered in two or three events that are scheduled to take place at the same time, it was extremely difficult for the computer to place them in totally satisfactory speaker positions. In some instances, a student in two events is scheduled at the same time may be first speaker in one event and third or fourth speaker in another. Tell your cross-entered students during a particular time slot to go to the room win where they are to perform first. Then go to their other event(s).
19. Students should be sure that each judge knows their names when they perform. If there are no-shows or the performance order gets confused somehow, judges can mix up names on ballots.
20. Contestants should clarify with the judge how time signals will be given in the round.
21. We reserve the right to move the schedule forward or backwards as needed to guarantee the smooth running of the tournament.
22. Ballots will be made available online after the tournament. Coaches wishing to review a ballot may make that request to the Tabulation Director.



Congressional Debate Tournament Guidelines

1. NSDA rules will be used for all Congressional Debate procedures.
2. Time limits for all speeches will be 3 minutes maximum. The cross-examination period for sponsorship speeches will be 2 minutes maximum. The cross-examination period for all other speeches will be 1 minute maximum. Suspension of the rules regarding extending questioning is not permitted.
3. All cross-examination in Congressional Debate will be direct questioning.
4. Meals will be provided Saturday and Sunday for student purchase in both Student Lounge areas. All meals should be purchased on campus. The schedule does not permit time to leave the building. Please do not bring food from outside into the building.
5. Please eat only in the Student Lounge areas. Food should not be taken into the classrooms (this includes judges.) Please use trashcans provided in each classroom and in all hallways. Do not leave trash on the floors or on the tables in the Lounge areas.
6. All Durham Academy campuses and The Hill Center campus are non-smoking campuses. **Smoking or vaping is not allowed anywhere on school property.** If you wish to smoke or vape, you must walk across the street to a location that is not on school grounds. Security will enforce this rule.
7. The concession stands are located in both the Student Lounge area of The Hill Center and the Durham Academy Lower School. Snacks and soft drinks will be available throughout the tournament. The Coaches' and Judges' Lounge is located in the Performing Arts Building of the Durham Academy Lower School. The Tab Room is located in the Learning Commons of the Durham Academy Upper School. Tabulation rooms are closed to all students. Coaches and judges should direct their tabulation questions to the Tournament Director, Tabulation Director and/or Ombudsman.
8. Security personnel and members of the Durham Academy staff and faculty are in the building for your safety and to provide information. Feel free to contact them if you have a problem. Please treat them with respect. Please not remove or move any furniture or equipment from any of the rooms.
9. All sessions are open to authorized guests of the tournament.
10. Three preliminary sessions will be held with chambers ranging from 15 to 20 students. Approximately one-third of students will advance to the Semifinal Session with chambers ranging from 12 to 20 students. We will advance 12 to 18 students to the Final Session of Congressional Debate.
11. Please do not loiter in the buildings after the rounds on Saturday and Sunday evenings. After materials must be removed from campus on Sunday evening.
12. Chamber Assignments will be available at 8:30AM. Subsequent schematics will be posted in the Student Lounge areas. Please congregate in those areas after rounds. Do not loiter in the halls or in classrooms. Please be prepared to move to rounds immediately after the schematics are distributed.



Congressional Debate Tournament Guidelines (continued)

13. For Congressional Debate, use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives and accessing resources via the internet. Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of all judge ranks in that session. This rule recommends, but does not require, that all text messaging devices and cell phones be turned off during debates. It is meant to restrict the debaters from initiating or responding to any outside contact during a debate round. Example: A student's cell phone ringing during a debate would not violate the rule. A student calling, emailing, chatting text messaging or responding to any contact from their coach during a debate would violate this rule.
14. Please use trashcans provided in each classroom and in all hallways. Do not leave trash on the floor. Clean your table in the Student Lounge areas.
15. All congress ballots will be distributed electronically via Tabroom. Each judge will be provided a dance card for their judge assignments. All judges should report for their round ten minutes in advance of the start. If a replacement is needed, the computer will select a judge, and they will be notified electronically.
16. At the end of each round, ballots should be electronically via Tabroom. No oral critiques are permitted in Congressional Debate at the Cavalier Invitational.
17. Please do not delay in going to your round. The tournament will stay on schedule only if your rounds start on time. Hopefully, a reasonable amount of time has been built into the schedule this year; do not abuse it. Remember that many students are double-entered. Be reasonable with these contestants.
18. Students should be sure that each judge knows their names when they speak - judges can mix up names on ballots.
19. Contestants should clarify with the Presiding Officer how time signals will be given in the round.
20. We reserve the right to move the schedule forward or backwards as needed to guarantee the smooth running of the tournament.
21. Ballots will be made available online after the tournament. Coaches wishing to review a ballot may make that request to the Tabulation Director.