Carter/King Speech & Debate Tournament

Midtown High School | Atlanta, GA

Dear Speech and Debate Coaches,

The Jesters Speech and Debate Team at Midtown High School is pleased to invite you to the 16th Carter/King Annual Speech and Debate Tournament in Atlanta, GA.

The tournament is at Midtown High School on **Saturday, December 5, 2026.**

EVENTS

Events in the **Speech** division will be divided into patterns and students may double enter in each pattern. We will follow GFCA and NSDA guidelines. Competitors that use scripts/notes or are overtime by more than 30 seconds may not receive first place in the round.

Pattern A - Extemporaneous Speaking
Humorous Interp.
Impromptu Speaking
Duo Interp.
Original Spoken Word- Poetry

Pattern B - Program Oral Interp.
Informative
Dramatic Interp.
Oratory
Congress

Events in the **Debate** division are Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and Worlds Debate. We offer Novice and Varsity divisions in all flavors of debate, with a JV division in PF. If there are fewer than 8 entries, JV will be folded into Varsity PF.

We are pleased to offer two newer events at the Carter/King: Original Spoken Word Poetry and Worlds Debate.

Open Spoken Word Poetry is a five-minute event (with a 30-second grace period) where students perform original poetry from memory. The piece must be written by the student and may include no more than 150 words of direct quotation, which must be cited in a printed copy. Poetry should be presented from memory.

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World Schools Debate is a high school speech event where teams of three to five compete in a dynamic debate format that blends prepared and impromptu topics. Teams argue for or against a motion, with a specific structure of alternating speeches: three 8-minute constructive speeches per side, followed by a 4-minute reply speech from each team. The format emphasizes argumentation, teamwork, and engaging with the opponent through "points of information" (POIs).

ENTRY FEES

$20 per student for EACH event

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

Speech - 1 judge for every 4 entries or portions thereof. ALL judges are obligated for elimination rounds.

Debate - judging obligation is 2 preliminary rounds per entry. All judges are obligated for elimination rounds.

HIRED JUDGE FEES (FOR EACH MISSING JUDGE)

We much prefer and would love for you to bring judges! Please do all you can to fulfill judge obligations. If you are unable to, we have a limited number of judges for hire. The cost for judges not provided is as follows:

Speech - $75.00
Lincoln-Douglas Debate - $125.00
Worlds School Debate - $100
Public Form - $100.00
Policy Debate - $150.00

Schools may bring a check to registration or may follow the link provided on Tabroom to pay all fees.

DIVISIONS EXPLAINED

1. **Novice Division**

This is for FIRST YEAR debaters. In Novice Policy, the novice packet will NOT be required. This is to assist novice policy teams as they prepare for the Novice State Debate Tournament.

2. **JV Division**

This is for students in their FIRST OR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION. If a student is competing in their third high school season or beyond, they are not eligible for this division.

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3. Worlds Debate

Novice and Open divisions are offered in this flavor of debate. Divisions will collapse into a single division if numbers dictate such action.

CROSS ENTRIES

Speech - Double entry within each pattern ONLY. Students may enter up to four Speech events within those restrictions. PLEASE NOTE: students are responsible for making rounds on time and informing their judges of cross-entry.

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Impromptu Speaking
Duo Interp.
Original Spoken Word- Poetry

Pattern B - Program Oral Interp.
Informative
Dramatic Interp.
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Congress

Debate - One flavor of debate ONLY, ***no cross entry.*** **JV divisions will collapse into varsity divisions as numbers warrant.**

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

Independent entries are ***NOT*** allowed at the Carter/King Tournament. Should an entry manage to be accepted by mistake and discovered rounds have started, the entry will be disqualified upon discovery and the entry forfeits its entry fees.

A school-authorized adult must be in attendance AT ALL TIMES at the Carter/King Tournament.