

# KHS Speech and Debate Team 2022-23

**Google Classroom:** 3hyfamo **Remind App:** text @kenstonsd to 81010

**Twitter:** @KenstonSpeech **Instagram:** kenstonspeechanddebate

**Website:** [speech-debate.kenstonlocal.org](http://speech-debate.kenstonlocal.org)

**Google Calendar:** [tinyurl.com/KHSspeechcalendar](https://tinyurl.com/KHSspeechcalendar)

**What is Speech and Debate?** Speech and Debate is a fun academic competition against other high schools that focuses on public speaking, debating, writing and acting skills. Similar to a swim or track team, students compete in one or two of a dozen events against approximately twenty schools at each tournament. Instead of only one event occurring at a time as at a swim meet, all students compete in their events at the same time in separate classrooms in four separate rounds at each tournament, against different schools in each round. Students debate topics such as whether college athletes should be paid and whether there should be price controls on prescription drugs, write speeches on topics such as Attention Deficit Disorder, human trafficking or drunk driving, or perform a ten-minute portion of a play or book. A brief description of each event is on the reverse side. We don't have try-outs. Everyone is welcome and will be able to compete at tournaments. You don't need to be a good speaker; rather, the point of being on the team is to become a better speaker.

**Why join?** Being a member of the team is fun! Besides looking great on college applications and resumes, Speech and Debate teaches you to be a polished public speaker, to develop argumentative, writing and research skills, to increase your confidence, and to become a member of the nation's largest Speech and Debate honor society! You can also become a part of a winning team! Recently, Kenston was recognized as being one of the top ten high schools in Ohio in both the debate and rhetoric categories of competition and came in second in the State in Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Speech and Debate has been a tradition at Kenston for 24 years!

**Can I also simultaneously play a sport, participate in band or theater, or compete in Science Olympiad or Mock Trial?** Yes. You are not required to attend every Speech and Debate tournament.

**When and where are the competitions?** We compete in more than a dozen Saturday tournaments at schools in Northeastern Ohio from late-October through mid-February with the goal of qualifying for States held in early March. Additionally, we go on an overnight trip to Toledo in January. Top individual and school awards are given at each tournament, to which we take Kenston school buses. If you become one of the best in your event in the Cleveland area, you could qualify for one of the national tournaments held this season in Louisville, Kentucky in May during Memorial Day weekend and in Phoenix, Arizona in mid-June.

**When and where are practices?** Team practices are Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-8:30pm beginning September 20. Practice is held at KHS in the Lower A Computer Lab.

**How do I sign-up?** If you are interested in joining the team or getting additional information, please join Google Classroom with code: 3hyfamo, signup for Reminds by texting @kenstonsd to 81010 or emailing Coach Voudris at [stephan.voudris@kenstonapps.org](mailto:stephan.voudris@kenstonapps.org)

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** In this one-on-one format, students debate a new “values” topic every two months, ranging from individual freedom versus the collective good, to economic development versus environmental protection. Students use evidence gathered prior to the debate. An entire debate is roughly 40 minutes and consists of constructive speeches, rebuttals, and cross-examination.

**Public Forum Debate:** Opposing teams of two students debate a new topic every month concerning a current event. After a coin toss, the winners choose which side to debate (PRO or CON) or whether to speak first or last, and the other team receives the remaining option. Students present cases, engage in rebuttal and refutation, and also participate in a “crossfire” where the teams ask each other questions. Students use evidence gathered prior to the debate. An entire debate is roughly 40 minutes.

**Congressional Debate:** Students generate arguments on a series of student-written legislation that is debated that week. Students alternate delivering speeches for and against the topic in a classroom that simulates the U.S. Congress. An elected competitor serves as a presiding officer. Students are assessed on their research, argumentation, and delivery skills, and knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

**U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking & International Extemporaneous Speaking:** Students are presented with a choice of three questions related to current events and, in thirty minutes, prepare a seven-minute memorized speech answering the selected question. Students need to cite news articles. U.S. Extemp topics range from political matters to economic concerns to U.S. foreign policy. International Extemp topics range from country-specific issues to regional concerns to foreign policy.

**Original Oratory:** Students deliver a memorized, self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Competitors craft a speech using evidence, logic, and emotional appeals. Topics range widely, and should be persuasive in nature. No more than 150 words of quotations from any source may be used.

**Informative Speaking:** Students deliver a memorized, self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Competitors create the speech to educate the audience on a particular topic. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. Visual aids are permitted. No more than 150 words of quotations from any source may be used.

**Declamation:** Students deliver a speech that has been written and delivered by someone else, from the historical greats to contemporary public orations (such as commencement addresses, speeches to the UN or Congress, or a eulogy). Students have ten minutes to perform a memorized speech with an introduction. The goal is for the student to perform another speaker's message in their own voice.

**Dramatic Interpretation and Humorous Interpretation:** Using a play, short story, or other published work, students perform a memorized selection of one or more portions up to ten minutes in length. Competitors may portray one or multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used. Performances include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance, and state the title and the author. With a spotlight on character development and depth, Dramatic Interpretation focuses on the student's ability to convey emotion through the use of a dramatic text. Humorous Interpretation is designed to test a student's comedic skills through script analysis, delivery, timing, and character development.

**Duo Interpretation:** Two competitors deliver a ten-minute performance of a portion of a published play or story. Using off-stage focus, competitors convey emotion and environment through a variety of performance techniques focusing on the relationships and interactions between the characters. Each student may portray one or more characters. The piece may be serious or humorous in nature. No props or costumes may be used. Performances include an introduction written by the students to contextualize the performance and state the title and the author.

**Program Oral Interpretation:** Using selections from prose, poetry and drama, students create a ten minute performance around a central theme. Program Oral Interpretation is designed to test a student's ability to inter-splice multiple types of literature into a single, cohesive performance. A manuscript is required and may be used as a prop within the performance if the performer maintains control of the manuscript. Performances include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance, must state the title and the author of each selection, and may include transitions between each piece.