

Speech Team 2010-2011



Dear Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Parents and Students,

September 2010

We are currently forming our speech team for the 2010-2011 high school tournaments. We are looking for sixth, seventh and eighth graders who want to participate in the tournaments in December and January. Speech is a wonderful way to build confidence and poise in making oral presentations in front of an audience, which is a skill that everyone will use in high school and beyond.

Our second **School-wide Learning Expectation** is “**Students communicate effectively.**” Speech team is a great way to build on these oral communication skills that we work on in the classroom. Plus, it’s a lot of fun and gives you the opportunity to meet students from other schools. **We are asking anyone who joins the speech team to commit to attending both tournaments.** They are **all day** on Saturdays. (Blanchet’s is Dec. 11th, Seattle Prep’s is Jan. 22nd) You will also need to make the commitment to come to small group practice sessions an average of twice a week. (If you are doing the fall play, we will work around your rehearsal schedule.) In addition, you will need to spend time on your own finding or writing what you plan to present, and preparing and rehearsing on your own. The adults (parents and teachers) who volunteer to coach you are just that....coaches. **The primary responsibility for being prepared for the tournaments is yours!**

Below is a list of different “events” that are offered at the various tournaments. **There will be an information meeting on Friday, Sept. 25th during recess (12:50pm) in the 7A classroom for all interested students.** Basic information will be given and questions will be answered by myself, as well as some of the members of last year’s team. If you decide to join the team I will provide you with some guidelines for selecting readings and writing speeches. Usually each person on the team chooses two events for which to prepare. I would like to get underway by early October, so please come to the meeting on Friday if you are even **considering participating**. There will be a limit of 25, so if you know you want to join, do so sooner rather than later! (Priority is given to eighth graders, then seventh graders, followed by sixth graders as spaces allow.)

Mrs. Robin Hendricks, ASB Speech Team Moderator

If you are interested in **interpretive reading**, you may choose to do a:

Dramatic Reading

Humorous Reading

Duel Interpretive Reading (working with a partner to prepare and perform)

Children’s Storybook (only open to 6th and 7th graders – not available at Blanchet)

If you are interested in **writing a speech**, you may choose from the following:

Expository

Editorial Commentary

Oratory

If you are good at speaking “off the top of your head” and “**thinking on your feet**”, you might want to try: **Impromptu Speaking.**

Contract/Registration forms will be available at the information meeting.

SPEECH TEAM INFORMATION 2010-2011

Below you will find some information to help you make a decision about whether or not you want to be a part of the ASB Speech Team this year.

If you are interested in **interpretive reading**, you may choose to do a:

- **Dramatic Reading**
- **Humorous Reading**
- **Duel Interpretive Reading** (working with a partner to prepare and perform)

For these interpretive readings contestants may read one or more selections of prose, poetry and/or drama from any major published source. The material chosen should be of a serious nature (for Dramatic) or of a humorous nature (for Humorous). Students will be required to have a short introduction to their reading. A transition should connect selections when more than one is used. The selection may be memorized, but the illusion of reading should be maintained. Movement and gestures should be limited. TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes

- **Children's Storybook** (only open to 6th & 7th graders and is not available at Blanchet)

Contestants will read from a child's storybook of their choice. The student will be seated on a chair, or stool, and must have the book in hand. Display of the book's pictures (or not) is the choice of the reader. Rules of interpretive reading apply to this event. TIME LIMIT: usually 6 minutes, but possibly 8

If you are interested in **writing a speech**, you may choose from the following:

- **Expository**

The purpose of this speech is to describe, clarify, explain, and/or define an idea, object, concept or process. This informative speech should be the original work of the contestant and may be delivered with or without notes. Visual aids may be used but are not required.

TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes

- **Editorial Commentary**

This is a speech taking a position on some issue of current public concern as if the speaker were an editorialist for a television station. The speaker should attempt to influence an audience toward a particular position. The speech should be delivered from a seated position as if to a television camera. (Speeches that are under or over the time limit will be penalized by dropping the speaker one place in the rankings.)

TIME LIMIT: 1:45-2:00 minutes (very strict timing!)

- **Oratory**

The purpose of this speech is to persuade. All orations must be the original work of the speaker. There should be no more than 100 words of quoted material in the speech. The speaker must provide a typed copy for the judges. Oratories often deal with a problem and a possible solution. Oratories may also alert the audience to a threat, strengthen devotion to a cause, or eulogize a person. It must be memorized. TIME LIMIT: 8 minutes (Sr. division) 5 minutes (Jr. division)

If you are good at speaking "off the top of your head" and "thinking on your feet", you might want to try:

- **Impromptu Speaking**

Students will wait outside the door until it is their turn to speak. Contestants will be given three choices: a word, a quotation, or a question of social concern. The contestant will have two minutes to prepare and will then speak for a maximum of five minutes. No notes or other materials may be used either in the preparation or delivery of the speech.

TIME LIMIT: 2 minute preparation time; 5 minute speaking time

SPEECH TEAM SIGN-UP/CONTRACT 2010-2011

Below is a sign-up form and **contract** for you, and your parents, to complete if you decide to be on Speech Team. Remember, eighth graders have first priority, followed by seventh graders and then sixth graders, as space allows. Please return this form to Mrs. Hendricks no later than **Wed, Sept. 29th**.

****PLEASE NOTE:** *In signing this form, you are agreeing to the commitments listed below. Failure to fulfill these commitments may result in removal from the team.*

SPEECH TEAM SIGN-UP/CONTRACT 2010-2011

(Please return to Mrs. Hendricks by Sept. 29th)

Student's Name _____ Homeroom _____

Family email address: _____

What two events do you think you might be interested in? (You don't need to make a commitment right now, but it helps me to know what you might want to do.)

_____ I **will be** in the Fall play (team practices will not conflict)

_____ I am **not doing** the Fall play.

****** By signing below, we are committing to participation on the ASB Speech Team during the 2010-2011 school year. We understand that this means participating in **both** the Bishop Blanchet (Dec. 11, 2010) and the Seattle Prep (Jan. 22, 2011) tournaments, coming to after school team practices (usually about twice each week), as well as spending time finding, writing and practicing readings/speeches at home. *Two or more unexcused absences may result in removal from the team.*

Student's signature

Parent's signature

Parents: I am looking for some coaches to help us prepare for the tournaments. I will also need judges to serve at each of the two tournaments. I would love experienced volunteers, but I am also more than willing to train you if you think this would be an interesting way to earn parent volunteer hours! If you are interested in coaching or judging, please provide your name and contact information in the space below.

Name

phone #

email address(if different from above)

Conflict Schedule

Please list below any days that you will not be able to attend an after school practice. With advance notice, I will try to schedule around these conflicts.

Date(s) and/or Day of the week	Reason for conflict

Parent Signature