

2019-2020 NVHS Speech Orientation Packet

PLEASE DO NOT PRINT THIS ENTIRE PACKET. ONLY PRINT THE PAGES YOU
NEED.



Hi! If you're reading this packet, it's because you're interested in trying out for the Neuqua Valley HS Speech Team. Or you clicked on a wrong link somewhere on the Internet. Either way, we hope this packet will answer most of your questions!

Everything you need to know about Speech is somewhere in this packet. Read it, love it, and talk it over with your family (really). If you still have questions, our contact information is in here, too.

We hope this is helpful and that you decide to audition for one of the most competitive, useful, and enjoyable activities Neuqua has to offer!

p. 1.....	You're looking at it!
p. 2.....	What is Speech?
p. 3.....	What Is the Commitment for Team Members?
p. 4.....	Category Leader responsibilities
p. 5.....	Tentative schedule of tournaments
p. 6.....	Still have questions?
p. 7.....	THE FORM
p. 8.....	Extended form for returning members

What is Speech?

Speech consists of **14 different categories**, each different from the others. Anyone who makes the team will be in one or two events. (Most first-year team members will be in just one.)

• **How can I audition for the team?**

- First, **come to an orientation meeting** to get more details! We have two of them, but you only need to attend one!
 - Monday, Sep. 9 at 2:30p in C202 (Main Building)
 - Tuesday, Sep. 10 at 2:30p in the Forum Room (Birkett Center)
- After that, you can sign up for an audition slot. Auditions take place in B223 (Main Building) on September 11-12. There are several available time slots and you don't need to stay very long. This year we will be using Sign-Up Genius (<http://j.mp/NVSpeech2020>) to organize the audition process. Please sign up for **one** of the 25-minute slots for either date. Slots will be limited to 5 people so sign up early! (Please take the earliest available slot if possible.)
- **Fill out the form** on page 7 of this packet!
- On the day of your audition, **please arrive outside B223 15 minutes early**. (We need to get some information from you!)
- If you cannot audition on your specific day, email Coach Mehta with a legitimate reason at mpromptu@gmail.com and your case will be handled on an individual basis.

• **What should I prepare for my audition?**

- **Two impressions/voices** of anyone you want (e.g. Arnold Schwarzenegger). They can be fictional characters or real people. We want you to pretend to be them so **we can see your acting/vocal skills!**
- **A 30-second speech** to read and perform for us. This can be a part of a TED Talk, an article you found online, an essay you wrote for class, or something you prepared during Speech Summer Camp. It does **not** have to be memorized, but show us your best presentation skills! **We want to see if you can be enthusiastic and confident!**
- We may ask you to read other material for us at the audition. Do your best, have fun, and let us see your personality!
- **Only for Varsity members:** Your auditions are after school on Wed. Sep. 11. Please bring a signed copy of The Form in this packet! You will perform a minute of your new piece for the season. (If you don't have a minute ready... then what were you doing for the past several months...?)

• **How will I know if I made the team?**

- We will post the roster on Friday night, Sep. 13, on nvspeech.com. Please check the site for further instructions that evening. If you make the team, you **must** make arrangements to be in B223 on Mon. Sep. 16, from 2:30p-5:00p. It's mandatory!

What Is the Commitment for Team Members?

- We have tournaments every Saturday (all day) from November through February, minus the holidays. You are expected to be present at every tournament, whether or not you're competing – unless there is a conflict that the coaches have pre-approved.
- We have **mandatory** team meetings after school on Mondays (until 3:15p). There will also be weekly Category Meetings and individual rehearsals, but the exact days/times will be decided by team members and category leaders after we pick the team. You are expected to attend all of these -- unless there is a conflict that the coaches have pre-approved.
- You are expected to practice with your coaches or Category Leaders at least an hour a week in addition to working on your own. From experience, we can tell you that **those who practice the most on their own are the most successful** – a simple formula, really.
- If you're not showing up for practices, category meetings, or team meetings, we may have to remove you from the team. We understand emergencies happen, but we do not tolerate laziness or apathy. There are many students who will not make the team, so if you cannot live up to these expectations, please do not take away a spot from someone who wants to be here!
- **You may not be on the Speech Team if you are planning to try out for or compete in a winter sport.** If you are auditioning for the Freshmen One Acts or you are currently in the Fall Play, we'll work things out. Basically, your extracurricular schedule should be free from October through February.
- **Yes, this is a lot of commitment. (We know.)** Please audition only if you are willing to make time for us. In return, we will help you become a phenomenal public speaker and a strong writer/performer.

We are only interested in those individuals wishing to make the commitment to work towards excellence, realizing that success may not come immediately.

Speech is an IHSA event, meaning all IHSA rules and regulations regarding the use of illegal substances and grades of team members during the season will be enforced and proper discipline will be taken.

Also keep in mind that Speech is not a Club – it is not a place for casual or occasional effort. We are a competitive, hard-working Team.

If you do not wish to make the commitment, please do not audition! We have a tradition of success and we will do what it takes to continue that tradition!

Category Leader Responsibilities

FOR RETURNING MEMBERS ONLY:

If you are interested in becoming a Category Leader this season, read this over carefully.

- Category Leaders are responsible for coaching their categories. They will also run Category Rehearsals at least once a week with everyone in their event, as well as keeping a record of who in your category misses weekly rehearsals and Monday meetings. This, of course, means your attendance is MANDATORY at all Monday meetings and you will be in charge of **strictly enforcing** attendance from your category members. Do not sign up to be a Category Leader unless you are willing to take on this responsibility.
- These responsibilities will not be taken lightly and captains and coaches will hold category leaders to their highest expectations. If the expectations **are not met**, the category leader will be **excused** from the position and a new team member will step up.
- Being a Category Leader does not guarantee you a spot on the post-season roster.

If you are still interested in being a Category Leader, please also complete the first question of the EXTENDED FORM (page 8).

Tentative Schedule of Tournaments

What follows is a **TENTATIVE schedule for this year** just so you have an idea of what our season looks like. This year's official schedule is still being put together, but you can expect it to be similar to this. Exact departure and return times will be announced as soon as they are determined. Items in **RED** are non-Saturday events.

Sat. Oct. 26	Mock Tournament (Novices only)
Tues. Oct. 29	6:00p – 7:00p – Info Meeting for parents
Sat. Nov. 2	Downers Grove North Invitational (Novices compete; everyone attends)
Sat Nov. 9	Wheaton North Downers Grove South (only Novices will compete)
Sat. Nov. 16	Thornton Turkey Tourney (only top 3 strings compete)
Mon. Nov 18	5:00p – 9:00p– NVHS Open House (All levels perform)
Sat. Dec. 7	Neuqua Valley (all strings compete)
Sat. Dec. 14	Naperville Central Glenbard East/South Comfy Classic
Sat. Jan. 11	Wheaton Warrenville South Tiger Tourney TBA
Fri/Sat. Jan. 17-18	Downers Grove South (<i>Fri and Sat</i>) (Top three strings only) TBA
Sat. Jan. 25	Metea Valley Tourney
Sat. Feb. 1	TBA
Thu. Feb. 6	2:45p – Regional Runthrough (All Team members)
Sat. Feb. 8	Regional Tournament @ Metea Valley (Top string only)
Thu. Feb. 13	6:00p – Sectional Runthrough (All Team members; Family may attend)
Sat. Feb. 15	Sectional Tournament @ TBA (Top string only)
Fri/Sat. Feb 21-22	IHSA State Championships (Peoria)

“So, like, what if this packet doesn’t help me?”

There is no way you can completely understand Speech from the material in this packet, but don’t panic. There is no reason for you to feel lost. After being on the team just a short time, you’ll understand everything. If you want to join the Speech Team, no one will let you become hopelessly lost or fall between the cracks. The Coaches, Captains, and Category Leaders will look out for you until you gain a feel for how everything works. We are a family, after all. We know that right now you might be a bit overwhelmed by all that has been presented, but we assure you, you will soon get a handle on all that is happening. If you can make the commitment as described so far in this packet, then you can handle Speech and we will help you succeed.

Still have questions? Contact

Coach Mehta	mpromptu@gmail.com
Zharia Brandon	zhariabra0261@k12.ipsd.org
Brendan McCluskey	brendanmcc7270@k12.ipsd.org
Arya Nalluri	aryanal2558@k12.ipsd.org
Megan Rajan	meganraj3651@k12.ipsd.org
Hope Seidman	hopesei9073@k12.ipsd.org
Anna Shura	annashu6602@k12.ipsd.org

Good luck and we hope you decide to audition!

The Form

Name _____

Grade 9 10 11 12 (circle one) Locker # _____ (if you don't know, go look)

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student ID# _____ Email _____

There are several Speech categories and it's impossible to understand them all in detail until you're on the team. But they all make use of different skills. Below, please rank those skills from your best (1) to your worst (4).

Improvisation () Acting () Writing () Storytelling ()

Answer the following with a yes or no:

Do you have a working knowledge of current events and politics? _____

Can you work with a partner if we paired you up? _____

Did you attend any kind of Speech Camp over the summer? _____

Please list **ALL** possible conflicts you have between October and February. *(Include work, sports, family obligations or any other activities that may compromise your commitment to the program!)* **Please be honest.**

If there's anything else you'd like the coaches to know, write it on the back of this page!

Please read the following with your parents. If you can agree to the requirements set forth in this document, sign this form and bring it with you to auditions:

I wish to be a part of the 2019-2020 NVHS Speech Team. I understand the commitment, including multiple rehearsals per week and attendance at all team meetings, category rehearsals, and tournaments. By being part of the team, I will make the effort necessary to represent myself and my school proudly. My parents and I have discussed the obligations necessary and our signatures below indicate our willingness to see that I do my best to meet those expectations. I also know that communication counts, and I am required to notify coaches any time there is a conflict (including these events listed above) *before* the rehearsal or competition arrive. I understand that failure to meet these requirements will result in removal from the team.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Extended Form (for returning members only)

This is new: Our goal is to place only three returning members in each event in order to better spread out the talent. If you're in an event where a lot of people are returning and you're probably not in the top three, consider auditioning for a different one. But we may adjust you on our own.

To help us out, please answer the following questions:

Preferred event(s): _____

It's not my first choice, but I'd accept being placed in: _____
(It's okay to write "ANY")

Whatever you do, DO NOT put me in: _____
(It's okay to leave this blank)

If you want to be a Category Leader, please use the space below to tell us why! (Or attach a typed response!)