

Neuqua Valley Speech 20-21

Dear Parent/Guardian and Team Member,

Welcome (or Welcome back!) to Neuqua Valley Speech Team. Speech is one of the most beneficial co-curricular activities a student can participate in during high school and we're thrilled to have you as part of our family. This is an opportunity to compete, grow, learn, and celebrate. We've had tremendous success over the past few years, with multiple State Champions, multiple State Finalists, and multiple top ten finishes for the team. That may explain why more than 100 students auditioned for our team this past week.

Our success has been due to the talent, dedication, hard work, and determination of the team members, coaches, and parents. In order to continue on that path, each team member must commit him/herself to long hours of practice at home, practice over Zoom, and at competitions.

Obviously, a lot of things will change this year due to the pandemic. All practices and tournaments will be virtual until further notice. We are still working out those details. So the paragraph below is from last year!

A typical week consists of a team meeting after school on Monday, 2-3 practices with a Varsity team member or coach, a Category Rehearsal with others in the same event, and a Saturday tournament that runs from the early morning well into the evening. **Team members are required to attend all meetings and tournaments even if they are not competing.** This includes the novice-only tournament at the beginning of the year and the entire postseason in February.

While our tournament schedule is still being put together, a sample schedule from LAST YEAR is attached, and all the information will eventually be available at www.nvspeech.com.

The activity fee for the district applies to Speech Team as well and those dues are \$200 per child (**See details on the website**). This helps us pay for entry fees, judges, buses, and team supplies & materials. If there are any concerns about this, please let me know.

We ask that all parents who are new to the team (or weren't able to attend in the past) come to our **Speech Parents' Night on Thursday, November 5th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** (Zoom link to come later!)

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 312-685-7027 or email me at Mpromptu@gmail.com. **If your child is sick on the day of a tournament, please call me on my cell late Friday evening or Saturday morning before 6:00 a.m.** (It's okay. I don't sleep.)

I'm looking forward to a fantastic season.

Thank you for all that you do!

Hemant Mehta, Head Coach
Atlas Brewster, Assistant Coach
Tegan McQuaid, Assistant Coach
Kaitlyn Sparkman, Assistant Coach

SAMPLE Schedule of Tournaments

What follows is a **SAMPLE schedule FROM LAST YEAR** just so you have an idea of what our season looks like. This year's official schedule is still being put together — **and it will likely be all-virtual** — 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	York Invitational (Novices compete; everyone attends)
Sat Nov. 9	Wheaton North TBA
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 attend)	6:00p – Sectional Runthrough (All Team members; Family may
Sat. Feb. 15	Sectional Tournament @ TBA (Top string only)
Fri/Sat. Feb 21-22	IHSA State Championships (Peoria)

If you join Speech, we expect you to start making plans immediately with your parents so that you can make all contest dates required! Success in Speech is spelled . . .

C * O * M * M * I * T * M * E * N * T