



2011-2012 NVHS SPEECH ORIENTATION PROGRAM

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!

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Hi, Mom!



Welcome to the World of Speech

- Speech (officially called “Individual Events”) consists of **14 different categories**, each different from the others. A student on the Speech Team may be in just one event (“single-entered”) or may be in two events (“double-entered.”) Most first-year members will be single-entered.

- **How do auditions work?**
 - You must come to D219 after school **on either Tuesday, October 4th or Wednesday, October 5th**. These auditions go from 2:45 until 6:00 pm, though you may not have to stay the entire time. Get there early! If no one is around, we will go home. Novices *DO NOT* need to bring anything with them – we’ll give you everything you need that afternoon; however, if you’d like to recite a monologue or perform something you’ve practiced, we will give you that opportunity. Former Team members should have a prepared audition piece.
 - **We encourage those of you who are auditioning for the first time to come on Tuesday while returning Team members should come on Wednesday. If you need to audition on the other day, though, that’s fine.**
 - **If you cannot make it either day, you must email Coach Mehta at hemant_mehta@ipsd.org. (And you better have a good excuse...)**
 - **We will post the roster of who made the Team on Thursday night, Oct 6th, on NVSPEECH.COM. Please check the site for further instructions that evening. If you make the team, you **MUST** make arrangements to be free Tuesday, Oct 11th from 2:45-4:00pm. We’ll have our first team meeting at that time and it’s mandatory.**

- **What is the commitment for Team Members?**
 - **The basics:**
 - **We have tournaments every Saturday (all day) from November through February, minus the holidays. You are expected to be present at every tournament, whether you’re competing or not – unless there is a conflict which the coaches have pre-approved.**
 - **We have mandatory team meetings on Mondays (until 3:15) and Fridays (until 5:00). There will also be weekly Category Meetings, but the exact day will be decided after we pick the Team. You are expected to attend all of these -- unless there is a conflict which the coaches have pre-approved.**
 - **Everyone is expected to practice at least one hour with their coaches or Category Leaders during the week – in addition to practicing by yourself at home. Outside practice is where real growth occurs. From experience, we can tell you that those who practice the most on their own are the**

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most successful – a simple formula, really.

- People who miss a certain number of scheduled team meetings and/or practices (without getting the OK from coaches) will be kicked off 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.** Please audition only if you are willing to make time for us. In return, we will help you become a phenomenal public speaker, a strong writer/performer, and (hopefully) someone who wins a few tournaments, too ☺

• A few miscellaneous items

- The top two strings in every category are considered Varsity. Everyone else is considered Junior Varsity. Most competitions do not distinguish between the two levels. Anyone is eligible to make the Varsity Team, including freshmen. We seek to put together the strongest Varsity team in every category – experience and age do not necessarily guarantee that you are in the top two strings.
 - District 204 mandates that Team Members pay a \$160.00 dollar activity fee and complete a health form. These must be turned in before you are allowed to compete in a tournament. We are setting a deadline of Friday, **October 21nd** to turn those in.
 - **In every category you either write or find the material you perform.** In either case, Coaches or Category Leaders will help you. You are never alone and you come up with scripts only once for the whole year. For most events, you will (for the most part) keep that script for the duration of the season.
 - If you make the team, we will do our best to put you in the event(s) you want to be in, but we always try to keep the categories balanced (5 entries in each), and we decide which students will be in humorous/dramatic duets – so if you try out with a partner, you may not be with that partner during the season. The needs of the Team mean you may not get in the category you want. But we will always put you in an event in which we think you'll succeed – and we're pretty good at noticing individual talent and strength!
- **We are only interested in those individuals wishing to make the commitment to work towards excellence, realizing that success many not come immediately. This is a Team and not a Club – it is not the place for casual or occasional effort. If you do not wish to make the commitment, please do not bother trying out for Speech. We have a tradition of success and we will do what it takes to continue that tradition!**

FOR RETURNING MEMBERS ONLY: If you are interested in becoming a Category Leader this season, your responsibilities will be greatly increased. So read this over carefully. If you are still interested in being a Category Leader, please initial the appropriate box on *The Form*:

- Category Leaders this year are responsible for the sole coaching of the lower 2 or 3 strings in your category. You will also be running Category Rehearsals once a week with everyone in your event. Do not sign up to be a Category Leader unless you are willing to take on this responsibility.

Speech Team Schedule . . . Tentative

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.

Nov 1	6:00 – 8:00p – Info Meeting for new members and ALL parents
Nov 5	Downers Grove North (Novices only)
Nov 12	Wheaton North Downers Grove South Novice Invitational
Nov 19	Thornton Turkey Tourney TBA
Nov 21	5:00 – 9:00p – NVHS Open House (All levels perform; Top 4 on stage)
Dec 2	2:45 – TBA – Prepare for tomorrow's tournament
Dec 3	Neuqua Valley Scheidecker Memorial Invitational
Dec 10	Naperville Central Glenbard East/South Comfy Classic
Dec 17	Coal City Winter Break Invitational Meet Ya at Metea
Jan 7	Glenbard West Topper Tourney Thornwood T-Shirt Tourney
Jan 14	Wheaton Warrenville South Tiger Tourney Waubonsie Valley HS "The Reel Thing"
Jan 20-21	Downers Grove South Invitational (<i>Fri and Sat</i>) (Top two strings only)
Jan 21	TBA
Jan. 28	Upstate Eight Conference Tournament (Top two strings only) TBA
Feb 2	2:45p – Regional Runthrough (Team members only)
Feb 4	Regional Tournament (Top string only)
Feb 10	6:00p – Sectional Runthrough (Family/Friends invited to attend)
Feb 11	Sectional Tournament
Feb 17-18	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 . . .

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Speech Categories

Dramatic Duet Acting (DDA) (*8 minutes max*) Two people act out a dramatic scene between two characters from a play. There are no props except a table and two chairs.

Dramatic Interpretation (DI) (*8 minutes max*) One person presents a dramatic scene from a play (with two or three characters) or a monologue. There are no props. The performance stresses vocal variety and stance to differentiate among the characters.

Extemporaneous Speaking (ES) (*45-minute prep; 6 minute speak*) After drawing 3 possible questions about politics/current events and choosing one of them to answer, you will have 45 minutes to prepare, “memorize,” and then deliver a 6-minute speech answering the question. You must use citations from your own research to support your argument. (Sounds tough, but if you like politics, this is for you!)

Humorous Duet Acting (HDA) (*8 minutes max*) Same as DDA, but humorous.

Humorous Interpretation (HI) (*8 minutes max*) Same as DI, but humorous.

Impromptu Speaking (IS) (*2-minute prep; 6-minute speak*) After drawing three possible topics (like a word or quotation) and choosing one of them to talk about, you will get 2 minutes (*Only TWO!*) to plan out your speech. Immediately after that, you will deliver a 6-minute “memorized” speech about the topic. (Sounds tough, but we’ll teach you the tricks to make it easier!)

Informative Speaking (Info) (*8 minutes max*) One person presents an original informative speech about a topic we probably know little or nothing about. The speech must be researched and memorized.

Oratorical Declamation (OD or Dec) (*8 minutes max*) One person presents a speech someone else has delivered in the past (like a commencement address or TED Talk). The speeches should be inspirational or thought-provoking in nature.

Original Oratory (OO) (*8 minutes max*) One person presents an original persuasive speech about an important issue in today’s world. The speech must be researched and memorized.

Original Comedy (OC) (*8 minutes max*) Similar to Humorous Interpretation, except you write it yourself. You will perform a funny scene in which you play all the characters. Let your funny bone run wild!

Poetry Reading (PO) (*8 minutes max*) One person “reads” a collection of several poems from various sources revolving around a particular theme.

Prose Reading (PR) (*8 minutes max*) One person “reads” a *single* selection from a book, drawing the audience into the story.

Radio Speaking (RS) (*5 minutes exact*) The student is given a packet of “news.” He or she then has 45 minutes to cut it and arrange it into a 5-minute news show including local/national/international news, a commercial, sports and weather. It is performed in front of a microphone in a room separate from the judge. Any news show that falls outside of the limits of 4:50 and 5:05 minutes is disqualified.

Special Occasion Speaking (SOS) (*8 minutes max*) Similar to Original Oratory, except you can make it funny! One person presents an original persuasive speech about an important issue in today’s world.

“So, like, how do I join the Speech Team?”

If, after reading all of this, you truly desire to be a part of the Speech Team for the 2011-2012 season here at Neuqua Valley, then you must follow these steps:

- 1) Go over the information here with your parents and return *The Form* (on the next page) to us during auditions – On October 4th or 5th.
- 2) On Thursday, Oct. 6th, check nvspeech.com to see if you made the team! Some time after 8 pm, the Team roster will be posted.
- 3) If you made the team (*Congratulations!*), there will be a mandatory team meeting the following Tuesday (October 11th) in Room D219 at 2:45p.
- 4) Immediately make the necessary arrangements to free your schedule so that you may attend both the mandatory team meetings and all the required contests.

“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 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 at hemant_mehta@ipsd.org

Good luck and we hope you decide to audition!

The Form

for joining the 2011-2012 NVHS Speech Team

(Bring this form with you to auditions on October 4th or 5th in D219 ... PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)


Name - _____	Grade 9 10 11 12 (circle one)
Address - _____	Shirt Size _____
_____ <i>city and zip code are required!</i>	Locker # - _____ <i>If you don't know, go look!</i>
Home Phone - _____	Cell Phone - _____
Student ID # - _____	E-Mail - _____

In the blanks below, put a "1" in the category you'd most like to compete in. Put a "2" and "3" in your second and third choices. Place an "X" in any category you will NOT do.

Initial in this box if you are willing to be a Category Leader:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DDA | <input type="checkbox"/> HDA | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec | <input type="checkbox"/> PR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DI | <input type="checkbox"/> HI | <input type="checkbox"/> OC | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ES | <input type="checkbox"/> IS | <input type="checkbox"/> OO | <input type="checkbox"/> SOS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Info | <input type="checkbox"/> PO | | <input type="checkbox"/> I'll Do Anything! |

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!)* **This WILL be a consideration in who makes the team, but please be honest.**



Please read the following with your parents and 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 2011-2012 NVHS Speech Team. I understand that I must rehearse each event twice a week at school (as well as at home nightly) and that I am required to attend all team meetings, category rehearsals, and contests as specified. 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