

AVHS Brings Home Two National Titles, Again Named School of Excellence

Apple Valley High School Speech and Debate students participated in the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Tournament during the week of June 15. Three entries were named national finalists, and two entries were named National Champions.

The following AVHS students competed in the tournament:

Semaj Lee - National Champion in Dramatic Interpretation

Jessica Connors and Jonah Johnson - National Champions in Duo Interpretation

Cecelia Voss - 3rd place in Informative Speaking

Kirill Pernatiy - Semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation

Liza Rotty - Semifinalist in Program Oral Interpretation

Sydney Wilson - Semifinalist in Original Oratory

Laurel Carter - Quarterfinalist in Dramatic Interpretation

Frank Knier - Quarterfinalist in Humorous Interpretation

Making the quarterfinal round places a student in the top 1% of all competitors in the country. All of AVHS's students who qualified to Nationals made the quarterfinal round.

The team also won a "Team of Excellence" Award, marking them as a top 20 school for speech nationwide.

Additionally, the NSDA recognized AVHS coach and teacher, Dr. Scott Voss, as the 2020 NSDA High School Assistant Coach of the Year.

The NSDA National Tournament, held every year in a different location, includes over 2,000 entries in speech and debate events from across

the country. This year's event was held virtually, with students recording their performances and submitting them for review.

Congratulations to head coach Mr. Luke Ostrander, all of our coaches, and all of our students on an incredible run at Nationals!