

Austin Packers Speech Team Handbook

Head Coach:

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Communications

- It is crucial that each Speech team member accept responsibility for communicating with the coaches, and for accessing the communications that are vital to the success of our program.
- Each team member must join the Speech Team Schoology course; the access code can be obtained from Coach Hanson.
- The Schoology messaging system, along with school-issued email addresses or another email address of the competitor's choosing, will be our primary means of communication. Emails and Schoology should be checked each day.

Season Calendar

- A season calendar that contains our team meetings, events, and tournament schedule is available on our Schoology page. As specific tournament details are often not known until just prior to the tournament, please check the "Tournament Schedule Details" file on Schoology regularly.

Practice Information and Expectations

- Each team member will be scheduled for approximately one week in advance for practices with coaches, captains, or a group of teammates every week.
- Practice schedules will be posted on the door of Mr. Hanson's classroom (Room 222).
- Team members are expected to **attend and be on time to all scheduled practices**. If a team member is unable to attend a practice, **Coach Hanson must be notified ahead of time**. (Note: Please notify Coach Hanson, even if he is not the coach with whom you were scheduled to practice. He will notify your coach of your absence.) Being late to or missing a practice without prior notification will result in consequences as outlined in the "Consequences" section of this handbook. If a team member is absent from school on the day of his or her practice, it is considered an excused absence, as long as every effort is made to reschedule the practice. The team member is expected to make contact with Coach Hanson, ideally via email or Schoology message, or in person the morning of the first day of return to school, to reschedule the practice.
- Team members should have a folder or binder dedicated to Speech materials, which **must be brought to all practices and tournaments**. The folder or binder should contain a lettering points tracking sheet, all critiques acquired during the season, any notes from coaches, and the following (if applicable): an up-to-date copy of their script (even if the team member has the script memorized), Storytelling or Extemporaneous Reading selections list, topic outline for Discussion or Extemporaneous Speaking. Additionally, the following should be brought to every practice for students in the pertinent categories: Storytelling books, Extemporaneous Reading books, research files (Discussion), research files and notecards (Extemporaneous Speaking), and visual aids and easels (Informative).
- In addition to practicing with coaches and captains, team members are expected to practice outside of scheduled time. When given an assignment by a coach, team members are expected to complete that assignment by the deadline set forth by the coach.

Tournament Information and Expectations

- **All team members will be registered for all tournaments**, unless prior arrangements have been made with Coach Hanson to be excused from a competition. Please **respect the deadlines for**

making these arrangements as delineated on the “Tournament Schedule Details” file on Schoology.

- Occasionally we compete in tournaments, such as the Section 1AA Tournament, where we are limited in, or choose to limit, the number of competitors we may bring. For these tournaments, the Head Coach will determine which speakers will compete. In making that decision, consideration will be given to elements such as placing potential (the likelihood of placing at the top of the category), work ethic, adherence to deadlines, personal responsibility, dedication to the team, and years in Speech.
- Should a team member become ill or have another emergency on the morning of a tournament, he or she (or a parent) should call Coach Hanson’s cellular phone prior to our departure time.
- Should a team member miss the bus on the morning of a tournament, he or she should call Coach Hanson’s cell phone to get directions for meeting the team at the tournament. Missing the bus is not a valid excuse for not competing in the tournament.
- If bad weather or other emergency necessitates the cancellation of a tournament (or our electing to not attend), information about that cancellation will be communicated through email and cell phone. If Internet service is interrupted, every effort will be made to reach team members by telephone. Any team member who does not have reliable access to Internet at home should arrange for a team member who does have access to contact them in the event of a cancellation.
- Team members will ride the team bus to and from tournaments. If it is necessary for a team member to ride with a parent or other adult, arrangements must be made with Coach Hanson **at least one day ahead of time, and a written note of permission must be obtained.**
- Team members are expected to dress in appropriate tournament attire. The same outfit can certainly be worn to all tournaments.
 - Jeans, tennis shoes, and t-shirts are unacceptable. Preferred attire is suits, skirts, dress pants, dress shirts, ties. Solid, non-distracting colors are ideal.
 - Shirts may not be "revealing" in any way, including an exposed midriff, shoulders, or cleavage.
 - Skirts must not be higher than 1” above the knee, and may not be tight-fitting.
 - If a skirt is worn, non-patterned pantyhose or tights are required (leggings are not acceptable). If pants are worn, trouser socks, dress socks, or pantyhose/tights must be worn.
 - “Skinny” pants or pants that taper at the ankle are not acceptable.
 - Close-toed dress shoes are required; heels must not be higher than 2”.
 - Males must be clean-shaven, or have facial hair neatly groomed.
 - Jewelry should be conservative.
 - Hair should be pulled back from the face so as not to distract during the performance.
- Team members not qualifying for the final round of competition at a tournament are expected to attend either the final round of their own category, or a final round in which a teammate is competing, unless given permission to attend another category. Team members are expected to remain in tournament attire for the entire tournament, including awards. (Team members may wear casual clothes that are in accordance with the NHS dress code on the bus rides to and from tournaments.)

Lettering

- Team members may earn (an) A.H.S.. “letter(s)” for their achievements in Speech. It is the responsibility of the team member, not the coach, to keep track of performance points earned. A lettering points tracking sheet will be distributed to each team member at the start of the season, and will be due to Coach Hanson the day following the Section tournament.
- A letter may be earned for a season of Speech if the following criteria are met:
 1. Attendance is expected at all scheduled team meetings, events, and practices. Missed deadlines and unexcused absences from practices, team meetings, mandatory events, or tournaments will be documented and may negatively impact your ability to letter. **At least 5 tournaments must be attended for a letter to be earned.**

Consequences

- Should a team member fail to meet the expectations outlined in this and other Austin Public Schools or Minnesota State High School League handbooks, consequences may be issued, including but not limited to: verbal reprimand, written reprimand, attending a tournament in full tournament dress but not being allowed to compete, forfeiture of privilege of lettering, removal from the team. Consequences will be issued at the discretion of the Head Coach and Activities Director.

MSHSL Speech Categories

Creative Expression

Students write and perform their own 8-minute piece of original writing (although 20% of the material may come from other sources). The mood of the writing may be serious or humorous. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Drama, Poetry, and Prose Interpretation

In these three categories, students choose a serious piece of literature and perform an 8-minute interpretation of it. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Humorous Interpretation

In this category, students choose a humorous piece of literature and perform an 8-minute interpretation of it. The selection may be taken from prose, poetry, or a play, as long as the mood is essentially humorous. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Duo Interpretation

This category pairs two students together to perform an interpretation of prose, drama, or poetry. The mood may be serious, humorous, or both; students are not limited in the number of characters they may perform in the 8-minute time period. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Extemporaneous Reading

Students read aloud various 6-minute selections from a book of either poetry or prose (your choice) interpreting the reading in such a way as to add meaning and interest. Students are given a list of story selections and poems at the start of the season that will be used at all competitions. Each tournament will require the reading of 3-4 of those stories or compilations of poems.

Storytelling

Students retell selected folk stories in their own words, interpreting and performing various characters during the 6-minute retelling. Students are given a list of stories at the start of the season that will be used at all competitions. Each tournament will require the telling of 3-4 of those stories.

Original Oratory

Students in this category research a topic of their choosing, and then write their own 8-minute speech on that topic. The intent of the speech is to persuade, and while the speech may contain elements of humor, the mood is essentially serious. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Informative

Students research a topic of their choosing, and then write their own 8-minute speech on that topic. The intent of the speech is to inform, and most speeches are supported by a visual aids, though VAs are not required. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Great Speeches

Students choose a speech that was delivered by someone else, and analyze why the speech is considered to be "great". The 8-minute performance will include portions of the original great speech

interspersed with the student's research and analysis of the speech. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Students build research files on current events, and then deliver 7-minute speeches based on questions related to national or international politics (your choice). At each tournament, students will draw questions of national or international interest, and will then have 30 minutes to formulate their response using the research files they have created. Each round of competition will draw from new questions.

Discussion

Students build research files about a pre-selected topic (selected by the MSHSL, not the student) and then participate in round-table discussions of related sub-topics with 5-7 other students. Students are given an outline of topics and sub-topics at the start of the season, and each tournament will draw from 3-4 of those sub-topics.