

WELCOME:

Welcome to the Aurora High School Speech Team! We're looking forward to a great year, which includes working with you.

GOALS:

Goals for the Aurora High School Speech Team include the following:

1. Each student will learn more about speech and improve his or her skills.
2. Each student will develop life skills in communication, competition, and teamwork.
3. Each student will experience some success.
4. Each student will learn to deal positively with disappointment.
5. Each student will enjoy his or her involvement with the speech team.
6. Team Goal—win the Central Conference Tournament hosted by AHS.

PHILOSOPHY:

Our coaching philosophy is that each student has fun while competing at various speech events. We're very thrilled when students do well, but we really want each student to have small successes, show personal growth, develop their speaking abilities, gain confidence in general and before an audience, and become unified as a team to encourage and support each other in all events.

TRADITION: We have been a successful team for several years. We have always shown respect to other teams and coaches. We want to compete well but we also know that we should show a lot of class and sportsmanship as we do so. It is great to receive medals but we do believe it's more important to have people think of us as fair, honest and kind.

OUTCOME: It's important to keep the outcome of any round or contest in perspective. These outcomes are merely based on opinions. If we have good outcomes, that's great. If we're disappointed, we'll look at the results, evaluate them, and work to improve. As long as we try to improve and try our hardest, we have done our best.

ATTENDANCE: Varsity team members should attend five invitational tournaments unless you make special arrangements to be absent. This prepares you to compete at a higher level during the end of the season. It's important to the team that you attend and compete at these tournaments. Novice team members are encouraged to attend all tournaments and may be asked to perform as varsity team members at the end of the season.

SCHEDULE FOR 2013:

Saturday, Jan. 5—Hastings Adams Central. All NSAA events. Varsity and Novice. Students may triple enter unless they are extemporaneous speakers. Entry deadline: Jan. 7. Three rounds, no finals. **(Depart 6:30 a.m.)**

Saturday, Jan. 12—CNFL#1@GISH. All events. Varsity and Novice. Triple entries allowed. Entry deadline: Jan. 8. Three rounds, no finals. Fifteen medals for varsity and 10 for novice. **(Depart 6:40 a.m.)**

Saturday, Jan. 19—HAM-MER Invitational@Central City. All events. Varsity and Novice. Triple entries allowed. Entry deadline: Jan. 15. Two rounds and finals. **(Depart 7:00 a.m.)**

Saturday, Jan. 26—CNFL#2@GISH. All events. Varsity and Novice. Triple entries allowed. Entry deadline: Jan. 22. Three rounds, no finals. **(Depart 6:40 a.m.)**

Saturday, Feb. 2—AURORA Invitational. All events. Varsity and Novice. Triple entries allowed. Thematic Interpretation is an added event. Entry deadline: Jan. 29. Two rounds and finals with a sweepstakes award for top two teams. **(Students arrive at 6:45 a.m.)**

Saturday Feb. 9—Minden Invitational. All events. Varsity and Novice. Triple entries allowed. Improvisational Duet is an added event at this tournament. Two rounds and a final with a sweepstakes award for the top teams. Entry deadline: Feb. 5. **(Depart 6:00 a.m.)**

Saturday Feb. 16—Mustang Invitational@Sutton. All events. Varsity Only. Students may enter three events to compete in the Triathlon. Triathlon competitors will receive medals if they place in the top ten. Two rounds and a final. Ten medals. Entry Deadline: Feb. 12. **(Departs at 6:30)**

Wednesday, Feb. 20—Central Conference Speech@Aurora. All events. Competitors will be determined based upon the entire season performance and points accumulated. Two entries for all events. Entry deadline: Feb. TBA. Two rounds and finals.

Week of March 4—Speech Showcase (District Performers will showcase their events) **TBA**

Week of March 11—District B-5 Speech. All events. Varsity. Competitors will be determined based upon the entire season performance and points accumulated. Two entries for all events. Entry deadline: Feb. 13. One round with one judge and finals with two judges **(Departure time TBA)**

Thursday March 21—State Speech @UNK (Two rounds and a final with 3 judges)

SIGN-UP: Please fill out the back sheet and return it to us. Indicate the events you want to do. I will sign you up for each event unless you notify me of a conflict. You are required to let me know at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance if you will not be competing at a tournament.

MATERIAL SEARCH: You may find material through several websites that are linked at our high school page under activities. Please see the links at the following web site:
<http://www.aurora.esu9.org/hs/speech.php>

SCRATCH POLICY: When you pull out of a contest on short notice, several things are affected. We have to call the contest director and scratch your name, which is very inconvenient for him or her. This is embarrassing both personally and professionally. We forfeit the entry fee that has been paid for you. Extra judges and rides that have been set in anticipation of a certain number of contestants going on a certain day may become unnecessary. This is rude to the people who have been good enough to offer to judge or drive. The following policy **WILL BE ENFORCED**. For all contests, if you scratch for any reason **OTHER THAN** personal illness or emergency, **YOU WILL PAY THE SCHOOL** for any fees already paid including your **ENTRY FEE** and any scratch fee assessed. Under the circumstances this is the only way to discourage the practice of last minute scratches.

TRAINING: Take care of yourself. Avoid screaming at basketball games to the point of hoarseness. Get your sleep, especially the night before a contest. Training isn't just rehearsing with your coaches. You are expected to spend some time outside of school rehearsing, fine-tuning, and memorizing your pieces. Work at home in front of the mirror, work with a friend or work with a family member.

ELIGIBILITY: Keep your grades up. Speech falls under the same requirements as any other activity on the Aurora eligibility policy. We will not practice with you during a week you're ineligible. If you're ineligible the week of a contest and your name is on an entry form, you will be required to reimburse the entry fee to the school.

PREPARATION: Success and hard work go hand in hand. If you haven't already, you need to meet with us to get started by setting goals and choosing events/material. Ideally, you should meet with us at least once a week per event before each contest. These should be at least half-hour sessions. There will be a sign-up calendar available with times to meet posted. If the times don't work for you, please come and talk to us. For those of you new to Speech Team, success depends both on time spent working with us as well as time spent working without us. You must do both to succeed.

PRACTICE TIMES: Do not sign up and then not show up. Chances are someone else could have come in and used the practice time. Besides, it's just plain rude. **If you are performing duet or O.I.D. you have a mandatory rehearsal once a week. The most difficult event to schedule rehearsal is O.I.D. You need to be committed to each other and a rehearsal schedule.**

DIVISIONS: Varsity refers to those people who have competed in any high school speech contest prior to this year. Novice refers to any student who has not competed prior to this year.

VARSITY TEAM: For people who have earned spots on the conference and district teams, there are two entries each in seven individual events (serious prose, humorous prose, poetry, informative speaking, persuasive speaking, entertainment speaking, and extemporaneous speaking) and, now, beginning this year, **two entries** in each of the two **group events** (duet acting and oral interpretation of drama). This is a total of eighteen entries.

PLEASE NOTE: The **Conference and District varsity team** will be based on **seniority, past experience, this year's contest performances, and overall effort and attitude (including attendance at practice and meets)**. If you have not made finals during the year, or you're not working or performing well, your spot is open to challenge. Please see the section on awarding of points as there have been some major changes in the accumulation of points.

DRESS CODE: You are expected to dress appropriately for each contest. This doesn't mean a new outfit for each contest. This does mean dresses, suits, etc. for girls. Open-toed shoes are not a good idea. Boys should wear nice shirts or sweaters and pants. **Boys, a tie is required for conference and districts.** We recommend that you dress in dark attire that has a professional look. Judges tend to prefer dark, tailored clothes. Attire will not make you a winner, but it sends a message. **If you make finals, you need to stay dressed up until after awards.** If you wish, we'll wait for you to change before returning home.

CONTEST BEHAVIOR: We are often unavailable at contests because we are judging. Do not use that as an excuse for inappropriate behavior. In the past, we have been very proud of how we conducted ourselves. You represent your community, school, team, coaches, and yourself. Do not embarrass any of us. This is your only warning. Serious infractions will preclude you from further competitions under our direction. **DO NOT** be followers into trouble. General behavior suggestions are listed below. Know them and follow them. Common sense will usually keep you out of trouble.

The following are some specific rules of etiquette, which are imperative for you to follow:

1. Always be quiet when waiting outside a competition room. Also, be quiet in hallways, gym or common areas where students gather. Sometimes the noise can be heard in competition rooms.
2. Never enter or leave a contest room during a performance.
3. Be polite, quiet, attentive listeners.
4. Compliment your competitors.
5. Be polite and cooperative with your judges.
6. Stay your entire round unless you have a reason for not doing so that we will accept.
7. NEVER make fun of another competitor's honest attempt to present a speech.
8. Awards ceremony is NOT the place to relax and forget about the basics of decorum.
9. No cell phones during rounds. You should not be texting when another person is performing. Turn your cell phones off.

***NOTE: These etiquette suggestions are for friends and family members who attend speech tournaments, too. Please make sure they are aware of these guidelines before attending a tournament.

ATTITUDE: There is a difference between confidence and cockiness. Please remember we want to be known for our abilities not a bad attitude. Support and encourage your teammates and competitors. Have pride in yourselves. Be gracious in accepting results of any round or contest.

WARM-UP: This is a vital part of any speech competition day. You must get rid of mistakes before you go in front of a judge. Find a corner, hallway, or any space to practice your speech before each round. Veterans will probably agree this is a necessary practice even if you feel foolish talking to a wall.

PERFORMANCE: Do your best every time and you will improve. The judge is there to help you, but remember each judge is a person with biases and foibles. Never let one judge's opinion ruin you much less your desire to try again.

SPEECH LETTERS: You can earn a letter for participating on the speech team. You need **850 points** to earn a letter. The points may be earned in various ways:

5	Attend speech practice
10	Rehearse at speech practice
10	Compete in one event at any meet
15	Compete in two events at any meet
20	Compete in three events at any meet

Novice Performers:

- Superior rating (total of 90 points at a two round tournament or 135 points at a three round tournament): 10 points
- Excellent rating: 5 points
- Good rating: 2 points
- 1st place medal: 30 points
- 2nd place medal: 25 points
- 3rd place medal: 20 points
- 4th place medal: 15 points
- Any other medal: 10 points

VARSITY performers:

- Superior rating (total of 90 points at a two round tournament or 135 points at a three round tournament): 20 points
- Excellent rating: 15 points
- Good rating: 5 points
- 1st place medal: 50 points
- 2nd place medal: 45 points
- 3rd place medal: 40 points
- 4th place medal: 35 points
- 5th place medal: 30 points
- 6th place medal: 25 points
- Any other medal: 20 points

DISTRICT and STATE Tournament Points:

15	Good at districts
20	Excellent at districts
30	Superior at districts

50	Superior at state
75	First, second or third place at districts (State qualifier)
100	Any placement at State Contest

Points Acquisition for Conference and District Tournament Positions. These points will determine which competitors will qualify for conference and district positions in the event there are more than two performers or groups in any event. These will not count toward the speech letter. They will be tabulated separately. *Also, the coaches may also consider extenuating circumstances in the selection of a conference or district position in the event of an illness or family emergency when a student could not compete but may have earned points.*

The Lunda Miller Speech Award:

The recipient of the Lunda Miller Speech Award should display exemplary character. Lunda Miller was first and foremost a person of character. And to add a pun to this award, she was also quite the character. She was funny and made us laugh. Lunda would laugh at this play on words. Because Lunda was a person of character, she believed in being the best one could be and treating others with respect. If someone won a medal that was great, but she also taught us that even if we didn't win a medal, we were winners in her book.

The recipient of this award should display the characteristics that Lunda displayed as a speech coach and as a person. She believed in everyone. She believed everyone could succeed. She was very supportive of students and was generous with her praise and offered a sympathetic shoulder to cry on when it was needed most. She was also very committed to her coaching and judging, and attended every speech tournament and activity associated with speech that she could (until her health declined).

The recipient of this award should be a speech student who treats all with respect, that is, coaches, judges, teachers, administrators, fellow students in Aurora High School, and fellow competitors. The recipient would win with a smile and lose with a smile and congratulate others who performed well. The recipient of this award is supportive of his or her teammates, inspiring them to do their best, and encouraging them when they haven't performed as well as they would have liked. The recipient of this award is committed to high school speech and dedicates himself or herself to rehearsal and attendance at all speech tournaments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please read the daily announcements each school day during the speech season for information for our contests, such as the time of bus departure and changes in practice schedules. **EMAIL ADDRESSES: I will create an address book in my email account, and I will send pertinent announcements to you!! Please read your email on a regular basis!!**

MANDATORY MEETING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS OR PLANNERS:

Thursday, August 23, 2012

- Speech Team Kickoff Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Room 406 (FCS Room)—If you bring a potential speech member, you'll receive a prize! (Food and fun)

Monday, September 17, 2012

- Speech Team Meeting in Room 104 at 4:30 p.m. Goal sheets due! (4:30-6:00—work on platform events; 6:00-8:30—work on interpretative events).

Monday, October 15, 2012

- Speech Team Meeting in Room 104 at 4:30 p.m.: All speeches and cuttings must be completed by this date. Mentoring Day: Mentors work with novice performers. SENIORS STAY LATE: Design 2012 T-shirts

Monday, November 12, 2012

- Speech Team Meeting in Room 104 at 4:30 p.m.: State of the team check up; order speech t-shirts. Performance night: Students perform and receive critiques from each other.

Monday December 10, 2012

- Christmas party at Espressions at 5:00 p.m. (Food and fun) If you want to perform, you may. (We will have a sign up sheet!)

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, or need to contact us, please call us at school or at home:

Cathie English
694-2820 Ext. 2259 H. School
694-5081 Home
694-8678 Cell
cenglish@esu9.org Email

Keli Margritz
694-2820 Ext. 2299 M. School
(402) 694-2660 Home
(308) 320-1172 Cell
kmargritz@esu9.org Email

NAME: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Events you plan to compete in:

I have read this entire handbook and understand all the requirements and expectations as they have been listed. I also agree to them and signify this by signing below.

NAME

DATE

I have read this entire handbook and understand all the requirements and expectations of my son or daughter as they have been listed. I also agree to them and signify my child has read the handbook and understands the guidelines and recently changed criteria.

PARENT NAME

DATE

THIS FORM IS DUE MONDAY, September 17!

MY GOALS FOR THE 2013 SEASON

Tournament Schedule and Departure Times (PLEASE CUT THIS OUT AND POST IN A PROMINENT PLACE):

- Hastings Adams Central (Jan. 5) **(Depart 6:30 a.m.)**
- CNFL #1 @ GISH (Jan. 12) **(Depart 6:40 a.m.)**
- HAM-MER @ Central City (Jan. 19) **(Depart 7:00 a.m.)**
- CNFL #2 @ GISH (Jan. 26) **(Depart 6:40 a.m.)**
- Aurora Invitational (Feb. 2) **(Students arrive at 6:45)**
- Minden Invitational (Feb. 9) **(Depart 6:00 a.m.)**
- Mustang Invitational @ Sutton (Feb. 16) **(Depart 6:30 a.m.)**
- Central Conference @ Aurora (Wed. Feb. 20) **(Students arrive at 8:00)**
- Speech Showcase (District Performers will showcase their events) Week of March 4-**TBA**
- District B-5 @ High School (Week of March 11) **(Departure Time TBA)**
- State Speech @ UNK (Thursday March 21)