

Huntington Middle School

Speech and Debate Team Application 2014-2015

"Debating in high school is the most valuable training whether for politics, the law, business or community service... I wish we had more debating in our educational institutions than we do now." - President John F. Kennedy

Huntington Middle School Speech and Debate Team is one of the most unique academic teams on HMS campus, and consistently trains some of the best and brightest competitors who go on to compete for San Marino High School in the state of California and the nation. Every year, San Marino sends more than a dozen team members to the State Championship tournament, where we have had numerous state finalists and semifinalists. In 2014, seventeen San Marinians qualified for the State Championship, and, this year, San Marino Speech and Debate is sending six competitors to the National Championship Tournament in Kansas.

Speech and Debate involves interscholastic individual or team debating and individual speaking events. Individual speaking events include a range of more specific activities including limited preparation events (impromptu and extemporaneous speaking competitions), platform speaking events (oratory, advocacy, or expository) and oral interpretation of literature (the dramatic or humorous literature, or oratorical declamation of great speeches).

A 1991 survey of college students involved in competitive individual speaking events cited the advantages of speech and debate: improved oral communication skills, improved critical thinking skills, organization, research skills, improved writing skills, improved self confidence, the capacity to think quickly, development of a sense of ethics and a sense of personal accomplishment.

In order to try out for the Speech and Debate Team, you must do the following:

1. Fill out this application and turn it in to **the HMS office by May 16, 2014 at 3:00PM.** Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Have your current history/English teacher and another teacher of your choice fill out the teacher recommendations (total of TWO teacher recommendations).
3. **Sign up for an audition** time slot the day you turn in your application. Auditions will take place in **Mr. Folsom's Room, 112, from May 22-23-from 3:05-4:45.**
4. Perform **from memory** ONE of the attached Humorous, Dramatic, or Oratory pieces, OR debate the attached resolution (memorization for debate not required). Instructions are on each of the respective pieces.

***If you are a 5th grader at present, you may either email the application to mslimp@smusd.us and sign up for an interview slot as well OR turn in your app and sign up for your interview in Mr. Slimp's box at HMS.**

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Student Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Grade next year: _____ Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

1. List your current extracurricular activities:

2. List all possible extracurricular activities for next year (include all groups you are planning to try out for):

3. Why do you want to be a part of Speech and Debate?

4. What do you think you can add to the team?

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Speech and Debate Teacher Recommendation

Student Name: _____

ID Number: _____ Grade next year: _____

Dear teachers,

Thank you so much for taking the time to work on this recommendation. Please fill out this form to the best of your knowledge and be as honest as possible. We would appreciate any additional comments or insight into the student. This is absolutely confidential. When completed, please fold the page in half and return it to **Mr. Slimp's mailbox by May 16th.**

Please evaluate the student on the following...

1. Public Speaking Skills.

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Weak Unable to say

2. Work habits

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Weak Unable to say

3. Citizenship

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Weak Unable to say

4. Trustworthiness

Excellent 1 2 3 4 5 Weak Unable to say

5. What motivates the student?

Self-motivated Grades Parents Other Unable to say

Anything else that will help us make a decision?

Teacher Printed Name: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

