

# Mounds View High School



# Speech Team Handbook 2022

# Welcome to the 2022 Mustang Speech Team!

This handbook of information is put together to aid you in your involvement and success on the MVHS Speech Team. We expect you to be familiar with and follow the policies and procedures outlined.

You are a valuable member of this team and your input is extremely important. Please direct all questions and concerns to the coaching staff and/or captains. We want to make this season a rewarding one for you.

## **Mission**

**Mounds View High School Mission Statement:** Building an inclusive community of responsible, respectful, and resourceful citizens who value learning.

**Mounds View Speech Team Mission Statement:** To be a team of leaders committed to growing as speakers by learning through perseverance, accountability, and active involvement.

## **Beliefs**

1. We understand Speech is first and foremost an educational activity.
2. We believe in a positive and fun team atmosphere.
3. We believe in making coaching time a priority for coaches and students.
4. We believe in improving competitively as a team.
5. We believe in being a dignified team that respects each other, our competition, and the activity as a whole. Dignified means:
  - We win with gratitude and humility.
  - We lose with grace.
  - We work for everything we earn.
  - We support and care for each other.
  - We respect our judges and their decisions.
  - We seek to be high-achieving, model students in the classroom.
  - We seek to be model citizens in the community.

# Communication

## TEAM MEETINGS:

We will have team meetings every Thursday from 3:25-4:25. This time will consist of coaches' and captains' notes, important speech announcements, group practices, team learning experiences, and a variety of other fun and helpful activities. Not only do these meetings provide additional opportunities to grow and improve, they also play a vital role in fostering a sense of team unity and cohesiveness. They are very important and **attendance at these weekly meetings is expected.**

## TEAM WEBSITE:

The Team Website will be updated often and will be a primary means of communication between coaches and team members. Therefore, team members will be expected to check the website **every week**. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.moundsviewspeech.weebly.com/>

## EMAIL:

Many important documents will be shared via Google docs, as will student scripts. It is **strongly recommended** that each student provide an email account. Every month, a newsletter will also be sent to all team members and parents/guardians via email.

## DISCORD:

It is also strongly encouraged for students to create a free account on Discord and join the Mounds View Speech channel. Link to our Welcome Room can be found on our website. It is a closed group, meaning that it can only be accessed by those with a specific link. This is a way for us to stay informed on important events and deadlines, and is also a fun way to communicate with your teammates. Our Discord is a primary means of communication.

In addition, the team uses twitter, @mustangspeech, and instagram, @moundsviewspeech. These are mainly for the captains to post pictures and results, but may be used to post informational reminders. We expect all public conversation about Speech to be positive and to uphold our mission and beliefs. This includes *any* posts to social media, including but not limited to: Instagram, Tiktok, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat.

## SETMORE:

Setmore is the website we use to schedule individual practices with coaches. This will be updated every Sunday for the upcoming week. Students sign up for a 30 min time slot with a coach. All individual practices are held in the AV Room (the unmarked room by the nurse's office).

<http://moundsviewspeech.setmore.com/>

## REMIND:

We use Remind as a way to send short reminders throughout the year - letting students know they should check the website or Discord for more information. Both parents and students can sign up for Remind by texting "@moundsview" to 81010.

# Coaching Staff

Our coaching staff is a group of incredibly talented and dedicated individuals that possess a wealth of experience, knowledge, and expertise of the Speech activity. Take advantage of your time with your coaches. Work hard, have fun, learn a lot, and success will follow.

**Bailey Hess, Head Coach**  
763-370-1706  
[baileyj.hess@gmail.com](mailto:baileyj.hess@gmail.com)

**Miranda Gonzalez, Assistant Coach**  
[mirandagonzalez123@gmail.com](mailto:mirandagonzalez123@gmail.com)

**Sundar Mallikarjunan, Assistant Coach**  
[mallil06@umn.edu](mailto:mallil06@umn.edu)

## Captains

Our team captains are our leaders, chosen by the team. They are here to help you with any aspect of being on the team and are responsible for team apparel; team bonding events, the annual showcase, any fundraisers, and social media.

### Our 2012-2022 Captains are:

Harini Avula, Jennifer Page, and Ellie Schneider.

Contact them at [moundsviewspeechcaptains@gmail.com](mailto:moundsviewspeechcaptains@gmail.com) or on Discord.

## Practice Expectations

Our team strongly values practice time. Team members have a very limited time to work one-on-one with their coach, so it is imperative that time be used wisely and efficiently.

Speakers sign up for 30 minutes per week of individual practices with one of the team coaches. Depending on what event(s) a student is involved in, practice requirements may vary. Practice schedules and sign-up will be available via Setmore. The Setmore link will always be available via the website.

Team members are expected to **attend and be on time to all scheduled practices**. If a team member is unable to attend a practice, **coaches must be notified ahead of time**. Absences are taken very seriously; if you skip a scheduled practice, you are taking possible practice time away from another team member and time away from your coaches. Practices can be both in person or virtual, and should be determined with the coach prior to the practice.

Weather conflicts: If school is cancelled due to weather, **no Speech meetings or practices will be held.**

In order to compete successfully, team members are expected to **practice on their own.** As with any other competitive activity, you should be practicing DAILY in some form. Depending on the category you compete in, this may include writing and revising, performing, researching, gathering resources, etc. Team members are also encouraged to practice with each other.

Team members should have a folder, 3-ring binder, or leather padfolio dedicated to Speech materials, which **should be brought to all practices, team meetings, and tournaments.** Said folder or binder should contain a copy of this handbook, all critiques acquired during the season, and any category-specific materials:

- for all scripted categories, an up-to-date copy of their script (even if the team member has the script memorized)
- for Storytelling or Extemporaneous Reading, a selections list
- for Discussion or Extemporaneous Speaking, a topic outline

Additionally, the following should be brought to every practice for students in the pertinent categories

- books (Extemporaneous Reading and Storytelling)
- research files (Discussion)
- research files and note cards (Extemporaneous Speaking)
- visual aids and easels (Informative)

#### **Memorization Requirements:**

- Team members, if not memorized, must have their script neatly glued to black cardstock or in a black 5 ½ x 8 ½ inch three-ring binder. See Coach Bailey for black cardstock.
- Team members must be memorized by the first February tournament, if not before. (Exceptions may be made if a team member switches pieces or categories mid-season.)

## **Event Descriptions**

Typically, speakers pick one category and stick with it throughout the season; however, it is acceptable to change if the speaker wishes. Most students will develop one prepared speech to be performed throughout the season, though students competing in “draw” categories (Extemporaneous Reading, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Storytelling) and Discussion will prepare somewhat differently. See the attached category descriptions for a brief overview of each.

- **Creative Expression**

Students write and perform their own 10-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 a 10-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 a 10-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 any literary work. The mood may be serious, humorous, or both; students are not limited in the number of characters they may perform in the 10-minute time period. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.
- **Extemporaneous Reading**  
Students read aloud various 7-minute selections from a book of either poetry or short stories (your choice), interpreting the reading in such a way as to add meaning and interest. This year the selections are (1) selected chapters from *There is No Long Distance Now* by Naomi Shihab Nye (2) selected poems from *Americans' Favorite Poems Edited by Robert Pinsky and Maggie Dietz*. Each tournament will require the reading of 3-4 of those chapters or groups of poems.
- **Storytelling**  
Students retell selected children's stories in their own words, interpreting and performing various characters during the 7-minute retelling. This year the selections are stories from [Project Gutenberg](#), a free ebook website. 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 10-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 10-minute speech on that topic. The intent of the speech is to inform, and most speeches are supported by a series of visual aids. Students perform the same selection at every tournament during the season.
- **Great Speeches**  
Students select a speech that was delivered by someone else, analyze it, and argue why the speech is worthy of study. The 10-minute performance will include portions of the original "great" speech interspersed with the student's 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 (this year it is *The State of American Democracy*) and then participate in roundtable discussions of related subtopics with 4-6 other students. Students are given an outline of topics and subtopics at the start of the season, and each tournament will draw from 3-4 of those subtopics.

# Costs

## Activity Fee

All students must pay a **\$100 School Activity Fee** to be able to compete in tournaments. The speech team activity fee is the school's required fee for all team members. This fee must be paid on the Smart School e-pay system online. The deadline for payment is January 7th, 2022. If the activity fee is not paid by this date, the student will not be able to compete

## Food

Food is available for purchase at the tournaments. Generally there are breakfast foods at the beginning of the day, and snacks and lunch foods later in the day. Please remember to bring cash if you plan on purchasing food at the tournament. The Mounds View Speech Team also brings a snack box every week, where students bring in snacks to share with the team.

## Clothing

Appropriate dress is required for tournaments. You may need/want to purchase appropriate tournament clothing. There will also be team apparel for sale if you wish to purchase it.

## Banquet Fee

At the end of the season, we will hold our team banquet. There will be a fee for each person attending to cover the cost of the facility and food.

## Travel Costs

If a team member qualifies for a national tournament, Mounds View High School only covers 20% of their travel costs. It is possible that the team budget can help alleviate some cost, but this should not be counted on. Any team members who qualify for these tournaments will be met with individually.

# Tournament Sign-up

Students must sign up for tournaments using the Google Forms link provided weekly via website, Remind, and Discord by the deadlines posted in order to be considered for competition. Signing up and registering for a specific tournament indicates a commitment to attending that tournament in a prepared manner.

# Double-Entering Policy

Double-entering is competing in two separate categories at tournaments. Some tournaments have restrictions on double-entering. For example, tournaments often don't allow double-entering in two draw categories (Ex Reading, Ex Speaking, Storytelling) or in a draw category and Discussion.

## 2022 Mounds View Speech Team ~ Tournament Schedule

Date	Tournament
Jan. 8th	Mock Tournament
Jan. 15th	Anoka
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Orono
Jan. 29th	Wayzata
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Prior Lake
Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	East Ridge
Feb. 19th	Forest Lake
Feb. 26th	Princeton
Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>	St. Anthony Village
Mar. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eagan
Mar. 19th	Roseville
April 6th	Section 4AA Tournament
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	State Tournament
May 12-15th	NIETOC

At the **Section 4AA Tournament** on April 6th at Fridley High School, each team is limited to bringing 39 total entries to the tournament with no more than four entries in any event. A student may not double enter at Sections. Toward the end of the invitational season, the coaches will choose the 39 entries that they will bring to Sections. In making that decision, consideration will be given to elements such as placing potential, work ethic, personal responsibility, dedication to the team, and seniority. If a student is unavailable to compete on the night of sections, they should tell the coaches as soon as possible so they do not take a spot from somebody else on the team.

The top three finishers in each category at the section tournament advance to compete at the **Minnesota State Speech Tournament**. This year's state tournament will be held at Eastview High School on Friday, April 22, 2022. If a student is unavailable to compete at the State Tournament, they should not compete at the Section Tournament.

The **National Individual Event Tournament of Champions (NIETOC)** is held each May. This year, the tournament will be held May 12-15, 2022, in Houston, TX. To qualify for this tournament, a student must earn two "bids" at invitational tournaments that are designated as NIETOC Bid Tournaments. A student earns a bid by advancing to any varsity-level final round. A student may also earn an "at-large" berth by finishing high enough in multiple tournaments and submitting an at-large application. The NIETOC main events are Oratory, POI, Extemp. Speaking, Informative, Duo, Duet Acting, Humorous, and Dramatic.

# Season Schedule and Tournament Policies

Our season schedule is tentative. It is each student's responsibility to check the website and Discord for updates on bus leave and return times. Be sure to cross-reference ACT/SAT dates, band/orchestra commitments, and other conflicts when signing up for a tournament. As specific tournament details are often not solidified until just prior to the tournament, please check the "Tournament Schedule" section of the webpage regularly.

We will use a bus for most meets. Transportation communication will be included with the tournament sign-up information.

Regular season Speech meets will occur every Saturday, beginning 1/15/22 through 4/22/22. Meets typically involve a 6:30-7:00am departure from MVHS with a return around 4:00-4:30pm. We will have a Mock Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 8th. We will then participate in 10 invitational meets, starting on January 15th. Sections will take place on April 6th at Fridley High School and the AA State Tournament will take place on April 22nd at East View High School.

Should a team member become ill or have another emergency on the morning of a tournament, he or she (or a parent) should text/call Coach Bailey's cell 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 Bailey'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 posted on the team webpage, the Discord, and communicated via Remind. 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 the internet at home should arrange for a team member who does have access to contact them in the event of a cancellation.

## Participation Levels

Speakers determine what level of commitment they would like to make. While it is encouraged to compete in all invitational tournaments, it is not required. Students sign up for tournaments a week before competition day through Google Forms. They can pick and choose which tournaments to go to. Participation does come into play when calculating Lettering. Students must compete in a minimum of 6 tournaments in order to Letter in Speech.

## Lettering Policy

Team members may earn MVHS letter(s) for their involvement in Speech if all of the following criteria are met in one season:

- Compete in at least 6 tournaments (mock, invitationals, and/or sections)
- Regularly attend team meetings in their entirety.

- Regularly attend individual practices. If time and space allow, there will be opportunity to reschedule and make up missed excused practices.
- Participate in team building activities.
- Act true to our mission, beliefs, and all policies stated in this handbook.
- Student has no unexcused absences from practices, meetings, or tournaments.

#### **Exceptions:**

- Students who do not meet all of the above criteria but have shown true commitment to the team may letter.
- Any student declared ineligible by the MSHSL will not letter.
- All letters are granted at the discretion of the Coaching Staff and Activities Director.
- Coaches reserve the right to present letter awards to exceptional students for showing performance and commitment that prove to be above and beyond expectations.

## **Tournament Procedures**

1. Students must follow district rules, and state/local laws regarding conduct in practice, competition, and on buses.
2. Meets can be long days. Students are encouraged to bring homework, reading, cards, theater and improvisational games, etc.
3. Transportation: Check the website, Discord, etc. before each tournament for arrival times, in case there is a change. The team will gather to wait for the bus at the front entrance to Mounds View. If there is a bus provided, students may **not** drive themselves or be driven by parents to tournament locations, unless it has been approved and pre arranged with the coaches. (A couple meets are close to the Mounds View district, and students will be expected to arrange for their own transportation for those.)
4. All team members are expected to stay for the whole day to support their teammates and learn as much as possible.
5. Remember: Each judge brings a different background and different expectations to every round. Use constructive criticism as a means to grow as an individual and adapt to different styles.

#### **During the Tournament:**

1. Find a place in the designated student spot (generally the cafeteria) to place your belongings and sit as a group. Wait there until team warm-ups.
2. Once you have received information from coaches at warm-ups, you are free to get ready to speak on your own. Check the postings to find out your room location and speaker order.
3. **Bring a blue or black pen and your binder** with you to warm-ups and all competition rounds.
4. Before each round, warm up individually by actually delivering your speech. Reviewing the speech mentally is not enough. **We will expect to see MVHS Speakers talking to walls.** ☺
5. For non-draw categories, be early to your round (5-10 minutes). If you are double-entered, make sure that your judge is aware that you will need to leave early or come late.
6. Speech is a listening activity as well as a speaking activity. Reading, doodling, visiting, reviewing your speech, rustling through papers, etc. while others are speaking is rude. We pride ourselves on being a team of courteous listeners.

7. Never put down or make negative remarks about other speakers or judges at a tournament. **Save venting comments for the bus ride home!**
8. Judges don't know what school you are from. This is purposeful. Protect the anonymity of the tournament by not asking competitors where they are from or offering that information about yourself. **Don't bring anything into a room that says "Mounds View" on it.**
9. Know when it is your turn to speak. Keep track of any drops or double entries in the round so that you are not taken by surprise. When is your turn to speak, wait until the judge calls you, then move confidently to the front of the room. Wait until the judge has given a verbal or nonverbal sign that he/she is ready before beginning.
10. Judges will write critiques which are given back to the competitor at the end of the tournament. You will also see your ranks at the end of the tournament.
11. All students will be expected to go and watch final rounds (in their entirety) if they are not competing in a final round. It is strongly suggested they attend the final round of their own category, a category similar to theirs, or a final round in which a teammate is competing.
12. MVHS speakers are expected to conduct themselves in a dignified and respectful manner at all times.

## **Professional Dress Code**

Appearance is a critical factor when making a favorable first impression in any professional situation. Therefore, the Mounds View Speech Team will take on a classy, professional approach to dress and overall appearance.

### **Choices for professional dress include:**

- A. Suit jacket, collared shirt, tie, slacks that accompany the jacket, and dress shoes.
- B. A professional skirt and a suit jacket. Skirts may not be made of stretchy, tight-fitting material and must be knee-length. The suit should be more conservative than trendy. If a skirt is worn, non-patterned pantyhose or tights are required.

### **Other guidelines:**

- Shirts should not be "revealing" in any way.
- Closed toed dress shoes are required. If wearing heels, heels must not be higher than 2".
- Hair should be out of face and neat. Jewelry and makeup should be conservative.

**Our goal is for the judge to be captivated by your performance, not distracted by your appearance.**

The same outfit can certainly be worn to all tournaments, just as other activities have a single team uniform. Team members are expected to remain in tournament attire for the entire tournament, including awards.

# Bus Etiquette

1. Know that you and your bus behavior are representing Mounds View High School and Mounds View Speech.
2. Arrive at the load time. We leave at the leave time. Being late is disrespectful to all of our team members who need to get to the tournament on time.
3. We conduct ourselves on the bus in a dignified way.
4. We always leave the bus the way we found it – clean. We all help pick up the garbage upon our return.
5. Engage in appropriate conversation that will not offend others around you.

## Failure to Comply With Policies

**The Mounds View Speech Team** exists under the auspices of the Minnesota State High School League and Mounds View High School. Therefore, Mounds View Speech follows the guidelines of both entities and will cooperate willingly and accordingly. Should a team member choose to violate any of the expectations outlined in this and other Mounds View Public Schools or MSHSL handbooks, consequences may be issued, including but not limited to: verbal reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions from competition, forfeiture of privilege of lettering, or removal from the team. Consequences will be issued at the discretion of the Head Coach and Activities Director.

## Team Events

Even though Speech can often feel like an individual activity, it is important to cultivate the team aspect. There are various chances during the season for the team to come together as a whole.

### **Team Gatherings**

During the season, the captains will organize team gatherings to have some fun with the whole team. Of course, all team expectations are still in place during these times.

### **Speech Showcase**

Near the end of the season, the team holds a Speech Showcase event at school. It functions as a way to showcase our talents to the greater school community.

### **Fundraisers**

During the season, or even outside of the season, there may be opportunities for the team to do some fundraising. It is expected that all team members make an effort to be a part of these events. Funds collected will go into the Speech Team account and will help alleviate costs for everyone on the team in various ways.

### **Team Banquet**

At the end of the season, we will hold a team banquet, including lunch and a program. This is a time to celebrate the successes of the season and look with anticipation toward the next season. Awards will be given, new captains will be announced, and graduating seniors will be recognized.

# Mounds View Speech Booster Club

**The Booster Club's objectives include:**

To provide financial support through managing team finances, providing fundraising opportunities, and donating to team travel or other events.

To promote the team and its accomplishments in Shoreview and surrounding communities by using local media to share information about the team. This includes opportunities to showcase the team at school board meetings.

To provide support in organizing team events including the annual showcase, fundraisers, team building events, and the team banquet.

It is extremely important that we prioritize financial backing. If you have any connections to possible corporate sponsorships or future fundraising ventures, please contact Bailey Hess.