

# Speech Team

Osseo Sr High School



## Why Commit to the Speech Team?

### Three New Reasons

Looking for a new high school activity to try, but not sure which one? Here are our top 3 reasons you should join your school's speech team!

#### 1. Get over your fear of public speaking.

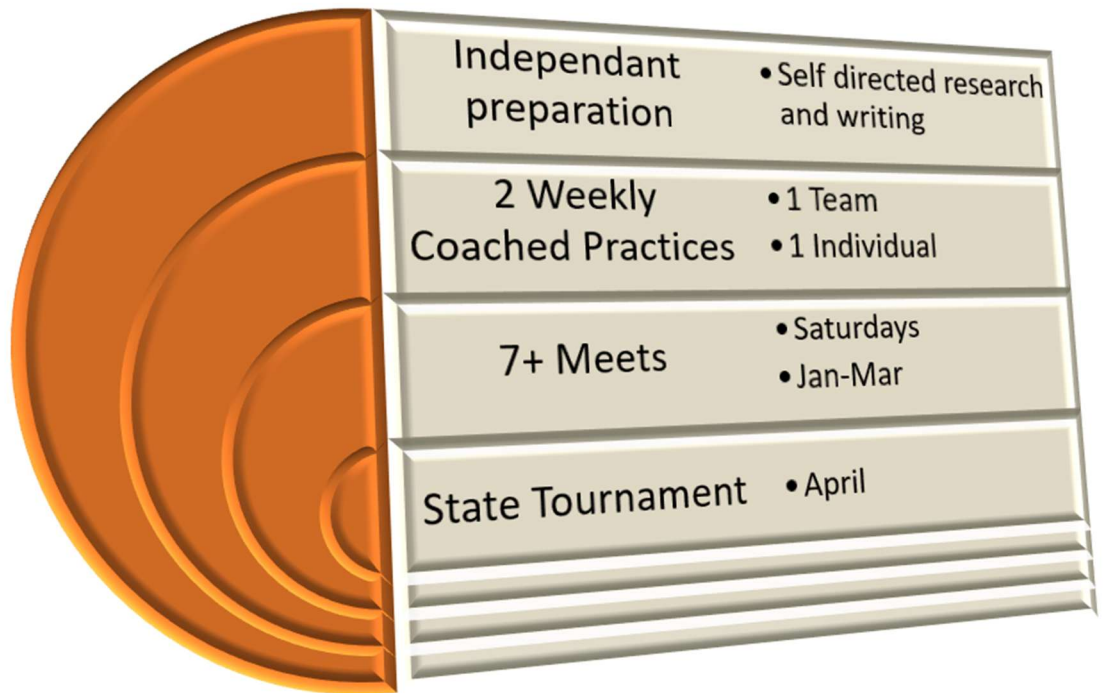
Public speaking is a critical skill for any career path, and there's no better way to get comfortable with it than practice. The Speech Team gives students endless opportunities to practice their public speaking skills

#### 2. Improve your academic standing.

Former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan argued that high school speech was uniquely suited to build skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and civic engagement. These skills are crucial for colleges and future employers, and countless studies have shown the impact of speech education on high school standardized test scores, attendance, college admission rates, and more.

#### 3. Use your voice to change the world.

Whether you're telling a story through an interpretation event or advocating for an issue in an oration, the speech team gives you the opportunity to stand up and take a stand. Your voice is powerful – use it!



**The Speech Team Commitment** is what you make of it. The student drives his or success based upon the amount of time they put forth. The team and Coach are there to help make it happen.

## No Matter the Future Career

### Boost Your Soft Skills for Today and Tomorrow

By participating in Speech, students will gain skills that help them immediately and in the future. Competing in Forensics provides students an opportunity to develop skills in research, critical thinking, organization, persuasion and communication. Students see tangible benefits from participating in the High School Speech Team

- Confidence in speaking situations
- Spontaneity in interviews
- Improved writing
- Understanding diverse perspectives
- The ability to course-correct by learning to accept and adapt to criticism

No matter the future career choice – your student will develop the soft skills, or personal attributes needed to effectively interact with others – listening critically, functioning well under pressure, finding solutions to problems, telling a good story and managing time well. Employers consistently rate soft skills as more necessary for employees than technical skills. A recent study by the University of Michigan found that training in soft skills boosts productivity, enhances employee retention and provides a return on investment.

## Speech Competition Categories: *There really is something for everyone!*

Category	Description
<p><b>Oration</b></p> <p>Original Oratory</p>	<p><b>Your performance or analysis of an original speech</b></p> <p>You will write your own speech to persuade your audience. You will use persuasive techniques, logic, and research. The perfect category for someone who is very passionate about something, or very good at persuading other people to think the same way. Research required.</p>
<p>Informative</p>	<p>You will write a speech informing your audience about something you think would be important or interesting for them to know about. You will have some sort of 2-dimensional visual aids (charts, graphs, etc.). A great category for someone with a special or unusual interest, or who wants to develop a special interest. Research required.</p>



## *Speech Competition Categories Continued*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
<p><b>Oration</b></p> <p>Great Speeches</p>	<p><b>Your performance or analysis of an original speech</b></p> <p>You will analyze and explain a great speech given by a respected speaker (Martin Luther King Jr., JFK, etc.) You will give an introduction explaining who the person was and why this speech is “great”. You will use actual sections of the speech to illustrate. (Less than 75% of time spent delivering parts of “great speech”). Analytical minds would love this category.</p>
<p><b>Interpretation</b></p> <p>Prose</p> <p>Poetry</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Duo</p> <p>Humorous</p> <p>Creative Expression</p>	<p><b>Your oral interpretation of the written word</b></p> <p>You will read/perform a selection of prose (fiction or nonfiction), and use your voice, facial movements, and gestures to convey the meaning of your piece. The selection should be serious in tone. This category would be good for someone who loves to read, and/or who can convey enthusiasm for a favorite section of a book or work of nonfiction.</p> <p>You will read/perform a selection of poetry, and use your voice, facial movements, and gestures to convey the meaning of your piece. The selection should be serious in tone. This category would be good for someone who loves poetry and is a good reader.</p> <p>You will read or perform any published dramatic piece with a serious tone. This could be from a play, a radio script, a screenplay, etc. This category would be good for someone who is able to be serious and portray serious issues and/or someone who has an interest in drama.</p> <p>This one is in a pair. You and another team member do a scene from a dramatic piece of literature (play, etc.). You portray two characters. Script optional. This category is best for people who want to work together and have a good dynamic.</p> <p>You will read or perform a selection that is funny or amusing. This category is best for people who can bring out the funny side of anything. To be successful in this category, you need to be able to get over yourself and act like a goofball if necessary!</p> <p>You write your own material. It can be humorous, dramatic, sad, etc. You may pantomime, story tell, impersonate, etc. This category is probably the most open in terms of what is allowed. Creative people who are excellent writers will especially like this category.</p>
<p><b>Impromptu Interpretation</b></p> <p>Storytelling</p> <p>Extemporaneous Reading</p>	<p><b>Your oral interpretation of prescribed written word selections</b></p> <p>You will become familiar with 15 different stories. At the competition, you will draw one story, and have 30 minutes to prepare. Then you will tell the story to a judge, using no notes. You will get to create different characters for the different stories and use gestures and voices to portray what happens in the story. This category would be great for anyone who is a good storyteller (or who would like to become a good storyteller!), and who likes a bit of acting.</p> <p>You choose to read either poetry or prose. There will be several selections from each genre, which you will know about ahead of time. At the competition, you draw one of these selections to read. You will have 30 minutes to prepare, and then you will read it for a judge. This category would be best for someone who does well under pressure and is an excellent reader.</p>
<p><b>Impromptu Oration</b></p> <p>Extemporaneous Speaking</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p><b>Your performance analysis of prescribed topical concepts, issues or ideas.</b></p> <p>You get to choose to speak on either U.S. or International topics. Topics will be social, political, or economic, and you will research ahead of time. At the competition, you will draw a question to speak about. You will have 30 minutes to prepare your speech, before you give your speech for a judge. You are allowed one notecard. This category is best for someone who does well under pressure and is good at speaking on the fly. You should also like to research.</p> <p>In this category, you cooperate with other contestants in a group discussion to come up with a solution or consensus about a particular topic (chosen in advance). This category is best for people who like research, have good listening skills and are able to contribute to a group to reach a consensus.</p>

### For More Information



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