

Sandra Starke-Maguire

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1992



Sandra Starke was born in Berkeley, California, and her favorite class in high school was public speaking. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, she earned a General Secondary Degree in education and began teaching history and public speaking.

Sandra never had the opportunity to teach public speaking until she was hired at Miramonte High School in Orinda in 1979. She started with one non-competitive speech class, and her program quickly expanded to five classes of competitive speech.

Competitively, her team is currently involved in individual events, public forum debate and student congress. Under her direction, Miramonte High School has qualified students to the state championships every year since 1982 and to the national championships every year since 1985.

During her tenure, Miramonte's most successful competitive event has been student congress: They have brought home seven congress state champions and six winning presiding officers. At nationals, Miramonte has also won the NFL cumulative congressional sweepstakes award, the Karl Mundt Trophy, twice, and continually Miramonte congress competitors have placed as the top nine finalists in both the Senate and the House.

In addition to her students success in congress, Miramonte has boasted state finalists in many IE events. In 2002 Miramonte won six individual events and student congress. Miramonte is also active in service club competitions, and two years ago Miramonte had the national winner in the American Legion Speech Contest. Sandra has also served as congress director in her league and served on the California High School Speech Association's council as a member of the congress committee.

In addition to teaching the public speaking classes that are a cornerstone of Miramonte's curriculum, Sandra has also taught English. She says that she is very proud that past students have come back, years later, to thank her for inspiring them to pursue careers in writing, because she showed them the power of English.

In addition to coaching speech and debate, she enjoys spending time with her husband, three children and seven grandchildren. She tells us that she makes sure that she lives a well-balanced life by spending her time away from speech traveling; enjoying good restaurants; walking; visiting art galleries; attending the theatre, and reading.

For her dedication to the California High School Speech Association and its students Sandra Starke-Maguire was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1992.

