

EDUCATE

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EMPOWER

CHSSA **STATE 2020**



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A NOTE FROM THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

*"When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, 'It looks like the end of the world.' What you're seeing is **love in action**. What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immune-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet. People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their business, and some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk or on your way to the store or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of the love. Let it fill and sustain you. It isn't the end of the world.*

It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness."

In an attempt to share that solidarity, I asked our community to submit reflections and celebrations, so that we may document not only this unprecedented disruption to our way of life, but also both grieve and celebrate California's 2019-2020 season. I hope this book can bring a little peace and light to those who read it.

I appreciate you all and am thankful for the solidarity that our community continues to show, especially in times like these. Whether you realize it or not, you are each changing the world for the better -- and from the bottom of my heart: thank you.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I attended my first high school speech and debate tournament in the fall of 1982. With my kitchen recipe box full of 3x5 cards with evidence and handwritten cases, I was immediately addicted to our activity by the adrenalin and freedom at tournaments. As I continued to participate, coach, and direct within the community, I was impressed with how well everyone in the activity adapted to different happenstances. Missing from postings? Go to Tab. Missing a judge? Assign a new one. Postings not up at the scheduled time? Wait. Awards too long? One clap rule. What always struck me was how coaches and students adapted so quickly to whatever the situation required.

During the 90s, something called the world wide web made library trips diminish and photocopy expenses lessen. Now, we shifted to a digital world...no more cutting and pasting newspapers, magazines, and photocopies, on to blank paper. The digital cut and paste world changed our activity even more.

When cell phones became more prevalent in society, speech and debate benefited from the ability to communicate (yes, there were times when tournaments operated without cell phones) quickly with team members. Now, many of the problems that before required adaptation can be better addressed with our cellulars.

Ultimately, our activity teaches not only critical thinking and speaking skills, but it also prepares all who participate to adapt to different changes and situations with grace and ease; "adaptation is key." Now, we find ourselves on the doorsteps of a new evolution in our activity due to world events. What will the outcome be? What will it look like? Can virtual tournaments be effective or even the same experience as traditional tournaments? The obvious answer is: absolutely. CHSSA has changed over the last 63 years because our activity teaches us to adapt to the times. Sometimes the changes are more efficient, other times, they are born from

adversity. While CHSSA has never cancelled a State tournament before, we have also not been faced with such an obstacle to our activity like we encounter now. No matter what, our activity will become stronger and better as a result of these awful times .. I guarantee it because my confidence in our activity and the people that make it successful has never wavered.

Please stay safe and keep your chin up. To quote Queen Elizabeth II;

WE WILL MEET AGAIN

DON'T KNOW WHERE

DON'T KNOW WHEN

BUT I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN
SOME SUNNY DAY



“

WHEN STUDENTS
FIND DEBATE, THEY
ARE TRANSFORMED.
A TEENAGER WITH
A CAPTIVE ADULT
AUDIENCE TRULY
UNDERSTANDS
THE POWER OF
LANGUAGE AND
PERFORMANCE.



CARA BORGS MILLER

2019 NSDA High School Coach of the Year
Parkway West High School, MO

Each year, the National Speech & Debate Association is proud to name a James Madison Copeland Coach of the Year who represents outstanding leadership and commitment to speech and debate activities. This year's recipient, Cara Borgsmiller of Missouri, is well deserving of this honor.

The contributions Cara has made in the Eastern Missouri District are diverse—as their “judge guru,” as the ultimate example of our NSDA Code of Ethics, and as an educator who empowers her students to use their voices to advocate for a better world. In short, she is a coach who other coaches compete against but simultaneously root for.

The NSDA, founded by Bruno E. Jacob as the National Forensic League in 1925, was created to motivate high school students to participate in speech and debate activities. Today, the organization's mission is to connect, support, and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through competitive speech and debate. That diverse community is comprised of middle and high schools from every U.S. state.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NSDA AWARDS:

www.speechanddebate.org/school-recognition





Dear CHSSA students and coaches,

This spring has not gone the way any of us expected. You have been on our minds every day as our team at the National Speech & Debate Association has worked to provide you with the tools and connections you need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though there has been disappointment, we have also seen so much cause for hope. Much of that starts with you! Through your behavior and your communications with others, you have advocated for the health of our global community. You have stayed home. You have given up team meetings in squad rooms and practice as usual. You have set aside your desire to put some of the final touches on your speech and debate seasons and, in some cases, careers. Every step you take to ensure the health and well-being of others is an act of leadership and service.

The training you, as students, experience through speech and debate prepares you for times like these. Hundreds of thousands of stories, large and small, will emerge about what members of this community did to help during the pandemic. You will not only be part of those stories—you will be uniquely capable of sharing them.

Our mission at the NSDA is to connect, support, and inspire our members. We've never felt more connected or supported by you, in return.

We give our fondest regards to every member of the speech and debate community, but especially our 2020 seniors for everything you've given us - you're our inspiration as we work to hold the 2020 online National Tournament, Senior Open, and Middle School Speech Challenge.

From your friends at the National Speech & Debate Association

www.speechanddebate.org/nationals


2020 HALL OF FAME



*We are honored to present the
2020 California High School Speech
Association Hall of Fame Inductee,
Karson Kalashian of Orosi High School
in the SVFL*

Prior to the selection of California State High School Speech Association's first group of Hall of Fame inductees in 1987, the Association's Council directed that the inductees should be "dedicated", "dynamic", "caring", "successful", "long-serving" and "understanding".

Karson Kalashian is all of these, and more. He is a strong believer that speech is important to all students, regardless of their circumstances. This has been apparent with the size and successes of his programs in schools of wide diversity. He has rebuilt programs and created programs, all with



love and concern. He is one of those who will work his heart out and “live and die” with the students’ successes and failures, both forensically and personally. He truly cares about them and they care about him.

He has served at Sanger, University, and Orosi High Schools for 16 years. These schools represent high migrant, low income and “exclusive” schools. Karson is truly great at all levels.

Karson is the epitome of a dynamic speech teacher/coach whose goal has always been “participation over trophies.”

His inspiration carries beyond the classroom and tournament competition. A large number of his ex-students return to assist with coaching and many are planning a career as a speech teacher/coach: a sure-fire indication of his dynamic influence on his students.

Karson has served in a number of forensic positions:

CHSSA Secretary

CHSSA Director of Debate

CHSSA Area 2 Rep at Large

NSDA Committees: Code of Ethics, Student of the Year, Administrator of the Year and Student of the Year

NSDA/Sierra District Chair and Committee Member/10 years

SVFL Redwood Region President

SVFL President and Co-President

He has earned significant recognitions for his work:

CHSSA Service Above Self Award

NSDA Educator of the Year Finalist

NSDA Director’s Award

I have known and forensically served with most of the CHSSA Hall of Famers and I honestly feel that Karson better meets the qualifications than most all of them. He is the reason that the Hall of Fame was created.

He is more than a speech coach....He is a true educator.

CHSSA HALL OF FAME
1988 Inductee

Ron Underwood



JOIN THE CAMP THAT'S **READY**

“Being planned, prepared and adaptable is more important than ever. For your safety, we continue to monitor COVID-19.

Whether it's in person or online, we will continue to deliver the winning curriculum for which Summit Debate has been known for 25 years.”

–Jenny Cook, Executive Director



SAN JOSE

ONLINE

Jun 26 – Jul 10

BOSTON

(PF In-Person)

Jul 12 – Jul 26

third week option thru Aug 2

DES MOINES

Jul 26 – Aug 4

Now Offering ALL EVENTS ONLINE in ALL LOCATIONS!!

VISIT WWW.SUMMITDEBATE.COM TO APPLY
for the **#CAMPTHATWINS** and receive
REAL-TIME UPDATES.



We would like to applaud all the members of the California Speech and Debate Community for their remarkable resilience in the face of unprecedented times! Our sincere hope is that you stay safe, find ways to stay involved in the activity that you love and keep connected with each other! Our best wishes go out to the seniors and retiring coaches who are embarking on their next chapter. Please never forget the power of your voice and what you can do to make a difference!



AREA 1

A letter from Area 1 Chair, Chris Harris

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.*

These are the words of William Ernest Henley. "As a child, Henley was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone which necessitated an amputation of one of his legs. Later, in his twenties, Henley was told he would have to lose the other leg as well, but instead sought an alternative treatment. Over the course of the next few years, Henley was treated..., where he began to write poetry, including this then-untitled poem."

Originally, published with no title, the poem circulated under several titles. Some better than others. It took 25 years and a young writer, who would later become known as one of the greatest literary critics of their time, to give the masterpiece a proper and fitting title.

My point; labels matter. Labels give our

heart direction while providing our soul perspective.

Before we can tackle any stress of disappointment our emotional intelligence demands we apply a label. My label for the world pandemic crisis of 2020 that has violently landed onto our lap is not COVID-19 or Coronavirus. Instead... "Invictus". Latin for "unconquered"

I... You... We... "am the captain of my soul," **UNCONQUERABLE!**

Chris Harris

COAST FORENSICS LEAGUE



SPEECH AND DEBATE

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS

OPP

CAILEY LARMORE
ZURI WILSON
ARIANA SHAHINFAR
AUDREY CHIANG
PUNEET KHANNA
ANISH GUPTA
ISABELLA NICOLETTI
AMY GRUBER

OO

LILIAN CHANG
KAI XIAO
DRAKE SOM
ANGELA CHU
ANNABELLE DUFLOCK
PARISA ANSARI
WILL FLORENTINO

EXPOS

SAHIL SAOJI
HRISHI KOUSHIK
ALAINA MUPPARTHI
SARAH YUM
ALEXANDER LEE
SHREYA BALUSU
NIMI NAIR

DI

AARON MUNDANILKUNATHIL
YAGMUR ONER
ELENE PILPANI
OLIVIA COOKMAN
ANGELINA ARNST
ASHWATH BHUPATIRAJU
SHERWIN LAI

IMP

EVAN FINE
HIMANSH BISHNOI
JACOB VARGAS
ARUSHI BANSAL
ERIC LEE
NIKHIL SHANBHAG
SIDDARTH SHARMA

IX

KRISH KOTHARI
ANUJ KOTHARI
NIKITHA KALAHASTI
RYAN ALAPPATT
DANIEL KIM
ASHOK RAMKUMAR
TARUN CHIRUVOLU
TYLER PINEDA

OI

ANUSHKA SANYAL
LAKSHANYAA GANESH
KATHLEEN SPEARS
MARIJKA VERNOOY
JAELYNN PASCUAL
TRISTAN GRANT
FLORA PENG

OA

RIA D'SOUZA
JADEN MORGAN
KHUSHI PARIKH
IRINA PAUN
PRIYANKA JOSHI
ARNAV BHAU
SAHITH KUDARAVALLI

HI

SAMEER KESWANI
MILO MEE
MADURYA SURESH
OLIVE TANG
NICHOLAS MARANOWSKI
ADITI CHHANGANI
JUSTIN FUSILERO

LD

ASHOK RAMKUMAR
CLAIRE CHEN
ERIC GOTTLIEB
LUKAS KRAUSE
ETHAN BONEH
ASHLEY LEE
JOANNA YANG
ANNALISA FEDERIGHI
SOPHIA LU

NX

BRENDAN FOODY
AALOK PATWA
ADARSH HIREMATH
AVI UPADHYAYULA
SURYA MIDHA
KUSH NARANG
JAY VISHWARUPE
SAUMIL THAKORE

POI

ANOUEK YEH
SWETHA NAIDU
AYUSH AGARWAL
NIKKI SOLANKI
MICHELLE QIAO
GENEVIEVE MCKENZIE
INES BEN MAKHLLOUF

PO

GURMEHR KLAIR

CONGRESS

ANDREW SUN
AKSHAJ DWIVEDULA
MAYA LEVINE
MEHAR SINGH
ARUSHI LAHIRI
ETHAN SOE
JASON CAPPELLONI
MICHAEL LUTZ
NEAL DWIVEDULA
RYAN WISOWATY
TANISH KUMAR
ETHAN OSIER
MICHELLE NGUYEN
RISHAB SATYAKAAL

CX

ARNAV BHAU AND JAY VISHWARUPE
RAM GORTH AND AKHIL IYENGAR
SACHAIT ARUN AND ELIJAH SCHACTER
ADARSH HIREMATH AND SURYA MIDHA
AALOK PATWA AND MOHUL AGGARWAL
BRENDAN FOODY AND AVI UPADHYAYULA
ANTHONY REYNOLDS AND ANDRE GAVIOLA
EVAN ALEXIS AND NIKKI SUZANI
MALLIKA PARULEKAR AND CLAIRE CHENG

PARLI

ROHAN SACHDEV AND SAM JONKER
SATHVIK NORI AND ANDREW GORDAN
JOANNE PARK AND JOHN LEE
SHERYL CHEN AND KATIE DORAN
THOMAS LI AND GRANT CHENG
NISHITA BELUR AND KUSHI PARIKH
YASHIKA BATRA AND SAHANA NORU
PRIYANKA JOSHI AND OJAS UPALEKAR
ANEESH PATEL AND PARAM MEHTA

PF

HETVA JOSHI AND CATHERINE CHU
DANIEL KIM AND JOONHEE PARK
NEIL SHAH AND SIVA SAMBASIVAM
HANNAH JOHNSON AND ASHLEY KANG
ISHAN BALAKRISHNAN AND EZRA KOHRMAN
JAI BHATIA AND ROSHNI KODURI
RIANNA HERZLINGER AND MERIEM CHERIF
REVA BALAKRISHNAN AND MAX ZHANG
SIDHART KRISHNAN AND ADRIEL LEE

DUO

TONY CAO AND ZIXIAO ZHANG
ALEXIS KORB AND JACK HULL
FINBARR DONOVAN AND DEVANSH BANSAL
NIHAR DUVVURI AND TAVISH MOHANTI
GRACE GOVIG AND MATTHEW MARANOWSKI
PETER CHONG AND JIANNA WONG
RIDDHI KULKARNI AND RIYA SHUKLA
KASSIDY JORDAN AND SYDNIE DOMINGUE

CFL

A letter from League Co-President, Xavier Liu

Hey CHSSA Students and Coaches,

To put this letter in perspective, I finished writing this letter about 36 hours after I got the message that CHSSA decided to cancel State. All words and perspectives are my own.

To be honest, last afternoon, last night, and this morning have been wild. From UC Berkeley canceling in-person classes, to CHSSA State getting cancelled, things are wild. There were lots of emotions I was feeling last night: everything from depression to disappointment, frustration to fatalism, you name it. Even when I'm writing this letter, nearly 24 hours after I found out that State was cancelled, I'm still feeling a bit defeated, depressed, and frustrated.

As Co-League President this year, I am beyond disappointed. State represented the culmination of the countless hours of work I spent to help the League prepare for SQUALS. Whether it was the very beginning of the year when I was chairing our August League Meeting, the countless hours I spent chaperoning

League Tournaments, or the many scripts that I've read from different schools prior to IE SQUALS, I couldn't help but think that all my effort this year was for naught.

Last year, when I told my mom that I would have to come back home a lot more often to chaperone tournaments because I was Co-League President, she warned me that I was trying to do too much and that I was stretching myself too thin. I gave two responses to her inquiry comment. First, I clarified that I would be sharing my responsibilities with a Co-President, and second, I told mom that all the things that I did would make the League better. In other words, I would forge and give meaning to an activity through my service and devotion to the League. So, when I found out that State got cancelled, there's just this part of me that wanted to say that the hours that I've spent were worthless and meaningless. That even if I forged and gave meaning to this League and this activity, did it even surmount to anything?

The answer?

Of course, it did.

Results, plastic plates, trophies, all of those things are ephemeral. They can break, they can disappear, they can get lost. But the one thing that you have with you forever are the lessons that you've learned from S&D and experiences that you've had this past year. THAT is where you will find your meaning. THAT is where you will forge your meaning. THAT is what we will use to propel us into the future. Our experience is what drives us – those wins, those losses, those cheers, those upsets – channel themselves into our existence. As humans, we become linked with how we experience events in our lives. What we have done this year is amazing. It takes that momentum, that resilience, and that confidence to carry this into next year. It takes strength, hope, and perseverance to keep on going. And despite these big setbacks this year – I am confident in our ability to rise up like the Phoenix from the flames – rebirthed, refreshed, and anew to

continue our work for next year.

My Seniors, I understand how disappointed you must be. For some of you, State may have been your last tournament of your career. I understand how devastating this must be. But I want you to take some time and look back at the memories that you've had over these past for years and sit with them. Choose to forge meaning with them, because you have been a part of a community which would not be where it is now without you. You were and continue to be integral to the identity of CHSSA, whether or not State is held or not. That has not changed. So it is OK to be mad and pessimistic, it's OK to be a little selfish and pout or be pissed at the decision, but it's not OK to throw in the towel and just sit this out. You are still leading an important part of your team and an integral part of this community. Now, more than ever, is your time to step up and lead. Further, let me be clear, the door is always open. S&D is an activity that will affect you throughout your life. I remember the President of the NSDA, Pam Cady Wycoff, note last year, that the true "final round" will be those job interviews, Master/Ph.D. applications,

presentations, etc. that all of us will be a part of. So please, come back and support your team – check in on them, help cut cards once in a while, be open to allowing kids send you their speeches, stay involved, and give back. Hell, that's why I'm back coaching now!

For you Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen, I want you to talk this gut punch and turn it into something productive. We don't stop working, we don't quit, we don't put our flow pens down, and we don't stop practicing just because we hit a roadblock. We plow past it and we keep going. We stay resilient and we never look back.

When I got the news yesterday, I had just finished a swimming workout and had just finished rinsing myself off when my phone buzzed with an email from CHSSA. When I got that email, I sat myself down on a bench and I cried. Tears streamed down my face, and I held nothing back. A couple folks came by and asked me if I was OK – I responded no and declined to go into further detail but explained that I would be OK after a couple of hours. After talking with several other members of my own Team, Mr. and Ms. Cruz from Mitty, and the Tournament Director, Ms. Ronald, I began to feel slightly better. And after several hours

of thought and an email this morning by the CHSSA Executive Board, I came to the conclusion that although it was a painful and indeed, a tough, decision, cancelling State was the right one. Everyone's safety and livelihood come first, and even though we won't have a State Tournament, we are all safe, healthy, and alive, all things that we should all be grateful for.

For those still feeling a little down or disappointed, I want to leave you with a couple lines from my DI my Senior year. These lines have gotten me through the best and the worst of times and have reminded me about what was truly important:

Things get better.

They may not always get brilliant.

But they get better.

Trust me, they will,








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S

Although obviously heartbroken, we reflect on our opportunity to support the community that usually gives up their weekends for us. All the coaches, tournament hosts, judges and parents that support young voices. **It's our time to give up our weekend for you.** Because if cancelling a State Tournament means more time with coaches and grandparents who hug you whether or not you brought home a trophy; then we're ready to go **ALL IN.** Thank you everyone for your support, and because life lessons, growth, relationships, memories and moments > medals—
our seasons *never* end.

- Archbishop Mitty Speech and Debate

LELAND SPEECH AND DEBATE



2019-2020 TOURNAMENTS

Robert Garcia Invitational
Novice Icebreaker
Notre Dame Parli Warm Up
Stephen Stewart Invitational
Voices Invitational
CFL Speech 1
CFL Super Debate 1
CFL Congress 1
CFL Novice Speech
Panther Fun Invitational
National Parliamentary Invitational
CFL LD/PF 1
CFL Policy/Parli 1
CFL Speech 2
SCU Fall Invitational
Glenbrooks Invitational
Alta Silver and Black Invitational
CFL Congress 2
CFL Novice Debate
College Prep LD Invitational
Arizona State University Invitational
James Logan Invitational
CFL Super Debate 2
CFL Speech 3
CFL Congress 3
Golden Desert Invitational
Stanford Invitational
Cal Berkeley Invitational
CFL Policy/Parli State Quals
CFL Speech State Quals
CFL LD/PF State Quals
CFL Congress State Quals

**"SPEECH AND
DEBATE HAS GIVEN
ME A VOICE AND
TAUGHT ME TO
ADVOCATE FOR
WHAT I BELIEVE IN."**

- CINDY ZHAO, '22

**"I COULDN'T ASK
FOR A BETTER TEAM.
TO ME, THEY'RE
FAMILY."**

- KATHERINE CAI, '21

**"SPEECH AND
DEBATE SHOWED
ME A WHOLE
NEW MEDIUM OF
EXPRESSING
MYSELF."**

- OLIVER WANG, '22

2020 STATE QUALIFIERS

Adriel Lee • Alexander Lee • Aneesh Patel • Ariana Shahinfar • Ashley Lee
• Audrey Chiang • Ethan Soe • Hrishi Koushik • Jianna Wong • Joanna
Yang • Katie Spears • Leo Zhang • Michelle Qiao • Param Mehta • Parisa
Ansari • Peter Chong • Riddhi Kulkarni • Rishab Satyakaal • Riya Shukla •
Siddarth Sharma • Sidhart Krishnan¹⁸ • Sophia Lu • Su Oner • Tony Cao

A letter from Leland High School coach, and 1991 Hall of Fame Inductee, Gay Brasher

Dear Speech and Debate Community,

Nothing else holds the excitement and anticipation quite like stepping onto the host campuses on the first day of the CHSSA State Tournaments. It is a magical feeling - it's spring, the tournament season is ending and we look forward to spending the weekend with the community that has been a part of our lives for the past year, or past few years, or for some, fifty years of our lives. It may be the last tournament with our students who have worked and practiced to prepare. We see familiar faces of student competitors from other California schools; we may not know their names but they are part of the community we love. We greet our fellow coaches we may see only once a year at this time, but we converse easily as though we see each other regularly.

And I have experienced this powerful sense of community since my first year in California. You may not be familiar with some of the names I mention, but these coaches are the amazing members of our community who pioneered the first state tournaments and created and perfected what we do today. In the fall of 1970, Natalie Weber and Shirley Keller-Firestone greeted me warmly at a CFL tournament at Homestead H.S. which I attended to learn more about

California's events. My first qualifier to the California State Tournament was Anita Gonzalez Kimbrue of San Jose H.S. who still calls and writes several times a year. Donovan Cummings, Carmendale Fernandez, Larry Smith and Ron Underwood welcomed me to the CHSSA Council and there have been long friendships with Kim Jones, Tommie Lindsey and Hoon Ko, and years of coaching with Michaela Northrop, Chris Wardner, and many Leland alums, and membership in the always supportive Coast Forensic League. Last year Ron and Sharon Underwood and I developed CHSSA Middle School State. It was a lot of work but we kept acknowledging how much fun it was to work together again. There are so many others who have given so much to our community, and they have inspired and energized me!

And there is my strong sense of community over the years with the Leland students. But this year is different and it makes us particularly sad. They, like you, have that strong connection that each team develops within their own groups. And the students, particularly the seniors, will miss experiencing State with their teams. James Logan High School, the site of this year's CHSSA State Tournament will stand empty on April 24-26. And as we think about all we are missing,

we realize how the tournament becomes less and less about the competition and more and more about our community.

Two weeks ago, our principal sent out photos of the empty Leland campus and commented on how beautiful it looked. No one would ever say that Leland is a beautiful school, but he was right; it was beautiful in those photographs. We could see the deserted campus more than just empty buildings. You can't look at the photos without feeling a tug at the heart because the beauty of it all is so aligned with the community of students and staff who are a part of the school.

For now, California campuses stand empty, but the communities will return and the 2021 CHSSA State Tournament will take place - and I can't wait to see you all there.





Bellarmino College Prep

State Team 2020



Qualifiers and Alternates

Congressional Debate

Akshaj Dwivedula
Jason Cappelloni
Michael Lutz
Neal Dwivedula
Ethan Osier
Saket Budhia
Veer Juneja

Lincoln Douglas Debate

Ashok Ramkumar
Eric Gottlieb
Shobhan Mangla
Devansh Bansal

Policy Debate

Brendan Foody & Avi
Upadhyayula
Adarsh Hiremath & Surya Midha
Ram Gorthi & Akhil Iyengar
Arnav Bhau & Jay Vishwarupe
Anthony Reynolds & Andre
Gaviola
Majid Shabbeer & Nimai Talur
Jason Cappelloni & Fin Donovan
Ryan Alappatt & John Xu
Owen Thompson & Kush Narang
Saket Budhia & Veer Juneja
Iggy Chardos & Andrew Almeida
*Nihaar Charagulla & Saurav
Kumar*

Public Forum Debate

Majid Shabbeer & Nimai Talur

Dramatic Interpretation

Sherwin Lai

Duo Interpretation

Devansh Bansal & Finbarr
Donovan

Expository Speaking

Sahil Saoji
Nathan Palamuttam

Impromptu Speaking

Anuj Kothari¹
Surya Midha²
Adarsh Hiremath²
Brendan Foody²
Akhil Iyengar

International Extemp

Anuj Kothari
Ryan Alappatt
Ashok Ramkumar
Tarun Chiruvolu
Tyler Pineda
Anish Sundar
Akhil Iyengar

National Extemp

Brendan Foody
Adarsh Hiremath
Avi Upadhyayula
Surya Midha
Kush Narang
Jay Vishwarupe
Jason Cappelloni
Owen Thompson

Oratorical Interpretation

Ryan Milligan
Veer Juneja

Original Advocacy

Jaden Morgan
Arnav Bhau
Sahith Kudaravalli
Jeremy Wang
Armon Bhau
Purav Desai

Original Oratory

Will Florentino
Michael Lutz

Original Prose and Poetry

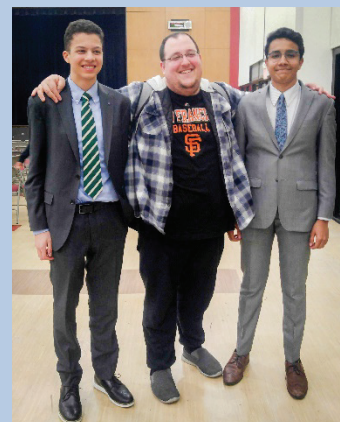
Nate Morgan

¹ Chooses International Extemp

² Chooses National Extemp

Coaching Staff

Aaron Langerman, *Head Coach,*
Policy, Platform
Vern Cleary, *Platform*
Matt DeLateur, *Lincoln Douglas,*
Platform
Johny Hong, *Policy, Platform*
Xavier Liu, *Interp*
Ani Prabhu, *Policy*
Deirdre Sullivan, Ph.D., *Extemp*



A letter from Bellarmine student and Interpretation Team Captain, Sherwin Lai

The day was Wednesday, March 11. I had just finished running our extra interp team practice for nat quals, the fifth of our 90-minute-long grinds. It had been a tiring day. As I was preparing to leave, I got a Slack notification. My fingers scrolled to and clicked on the notification, an invariable gesture that had been engrained into my muscle memory. State had been cancelled. More news kept coming shortly after. Later that night, I learned that school had been closed and nat quals was postponed indefinitely. Although I didn't process it immediately, I knew that my season—and as a senior, my career—was basically over.

I started speech and debate in sixth grade. Do the math—I've done it for seven years. From February 2014 until last night, I've basically never had a day off from speech and debate. Though as a two-time middle school state champion I enjoyed competitive success in my early days in speech and debate, things were not as easy during my time in high school. It wasn't until my junior year that I carded for the first time, and keep in mind this was already my sixth year in speech and debate. That year, I ended up triple-carding (quadruple if you count POI), and I finally felt that my hard work was going to pay off. But I ended up 15th seed in a disappointing finish at state quals. And when I didn't qualify to state last year, I knew that time was running out.

Sometimes, it felt that my hard work was going nowhere. But for me, going somewhere was never a reason to put in

hard work. That's why I kept at it for my seventh and final year, as an unsuccessful—in the eyes of results—interper. Interp had always been a small, less well-developed program at Bellarmine. But several things changed this year. When we weren't able to get an on-campus interp coach, I've had to spend more time as the interp captain doing things for the team and coaching everyone than I have on working on my speech myself. Though it was a lot, serving my team was one of the best and most rewarding things I have done in my time in high school.

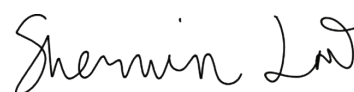
So when I finally qualified to the state tournament for the first time this year, I knew I wasn't going to waste this opportunity. But things happened. And now, after all the work I'd put in to finally get there, I won't ever be able to experience state myself.

I feel that we all get unlucky one way or the other. It's how you deal with it that makes you who you are. Even if I won't walk away from speech and debate having achieved great competitive success, I have no regrets about the work I've done for my program. Because I truly believe in what this activity does, and my satisfaction derives not from the pieces of hardware I collect but in the relationships I've built with everyone on the journey, and the investments I have put in in rebuilding my team nearly from scratch.

It is only appropriate for me to close in a spirit of gratitude. I thank my parents

for supporting me all the way, especially during the most challenging of times. They've definitely watched me perform my DI more times than all my teammates and coaches combined. No matter how long the route I took, their faith in me has never wavered even a tiny bit. I then must thank my coaches. Coach Xavier, thanks for always putting us at the forefront of your time and care. You have taught me what unconditional support means, something I hope my team and I will carry on even after I graduate. Thank you, Mr. Langerman, Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Cleary, Mr. Delateur, not only for coaching me but also for making me feel like I matter. And finally, I thank my team and the league. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a captain and an intern.

I've taken the long route, I've played the long game, and I hope no one's will not be as long. I've been tempted by, but resisted, the easy way out so many times. But trust the process. Trust that if you keep putting in the work, you will get something out of it. Do things that matter to you and that you care about. You won't know if something is worth it or not until after you've done it. You might even find "worth" in a different way than what is traditionally understood, as I have in my time in speech and debate.



Palo Alto Speech & Debate!

DEVAN SHAH



LD ALT.

CLAIRE CHEN



LD

MAYA LEVINE



CONGRESSIONAL

ETHAN BONEH



LD

RYAN WISOWATY



CONGRESSIONAL

STATE QUALIFIERS

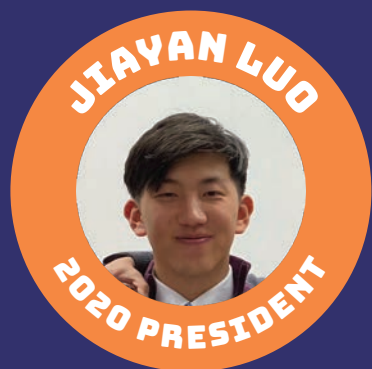


GO TEAM!





MOUNTAIN VIEW



MVLA

SPEECH & DEBATE



LOS ALTOS



"MVLA SPEECH AND DEBATE IS PROUD OF ITS 2019-2020 MEMBERS, NOT ONLY FOR THEIR COMPETITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT ALSO FOR THEIR STRIDES IN SUPPORTING EACH OTHER, INNOVATING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT, AND PERSEVERING IN THEIR GOALS IN THE FACE OF A GLOBAL CRISIS. CONGRATULATIONS ON A BANNER YEAR, EVEN IF IT WASN'T WHAT WE EXPECTED! BEST OF LUCK TO THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES!"





speech and debate team

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."

- JK Rowling



Golden Gate Speech Association

State Qualifiers 2020

Dramatic Interpretation

Gabrielyn Kieh-James Logan
Shanmugesh Raja-Monte Vista
Layla Goldberg-Monte Vista
Michael Schoonover-Quarry Lane
Jessica Milmoie-Miramonte
Sahana Hedge-James Logan
Lauren Staelin-Miramonte
Muskaan Gupta-Monte Vista

Duo Interpretation

Santos/Le-James Logan
Seymore/Abraha-James Logan
Bhide/Gupta-James Logan
Dawar/Hegde-James Logan
Adler/Heaslip-El Cerrito
Kalyanaraman/Kukreja-James Logan
Flowers/Hairston-El Cerrito
Kaur/Bhat-James Logan

Humorous Interpretation

Jonathan Nunez-James Logan
Christina Kim-Monte Vista
Ariv Gupta-James Logan
Nupur Agarwal-James Logan
Ronit Batra-Monte Vista
Anmol Bhide-James Logan
Rosalie Zuckerman-El Cerrito
Madison Peters-Miramonte
Sruthi Gade-Dougherty

Oratorical Interpretation

Wisdom Kunitz-James Logan
Anakha Ganesh--James Logan
Evelyn Howard-San Ramon
Ramanjot Singh--James Logan
Gloria Zearett-El Cerrito
Shaina Bustos-James Logan

Program of Oral Interp

Zaid Fattah-Monte Vista
Alan Chen-Monte Vista
Poorna Hegde-James Logan
Peter Le--James Logan
Kyla Watkins-Las Lomas
Leah John-Dougherty
Kalden Amag-El Cerrito
Mia Thorp-El Cerrito

Original Prose & Poetry

Ayushi Srivastava-James Logan
Alyssa De La Torre-James Logan
Marcus Williams-James Logan
Palak Sharma-James Logan
Lucy Gong-James Logan
Brian Leong-Monte Vista
Leonard Magat-James Logan

Student Congress

Preston Nibley-Miramonte
Athena Davis-Miramonte
Divya Mehrotra-Dougherty
Audrey Kamena-Monte Vista
Khushi Wadhwa-Dougherty
Ryan Gottschalk-Miramonte
Rachel Eizner-Monte Vista
Arshia Mehta-Dougherty
Rushil Roy-Monte Vista

Student Congress PO

Charlie Gu-Monte Vista
Alyssa Brown-Monte Vista

Policy Debate

Goel/Narasimhan-Dougherty
Dubey/Maram-Dougherty
Kumaravel/Rao-Dougherty
Bhasin/Menotti-James Logan
Patel/Patel-Dougherty
Bhat/Kapoor-Dougherty
Madaraju/Yadav-Dougherty
Rawat/Shaiikh-James Logan

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Mrudhula Nithiyakumar-Monte Vista
Lisa Leung-Monte Vista
Vaidehee Durgude-Monte Vista
Siya Sharma-Monte Vista
Edward Tak-Monte Vista
Oliver Johansson-Monte Vista
Arham Habib-Monte Vista
Sean Celestial-Rodriguez
Alisha Bhat-Irvington

Public Forum Debate

Keene/Yadav-Benicia
Broderick/Carlson-Miramonte
Barmmer/Morganstein-Miramonte
Sandhu/Chandra-Dougherty
Junio/Ayubi-James Logan
Kuang/Srinivas-Dougherty
Spargo/Su-Dougherty
Blazona/Khan-Miramonte
Pamidmukkala/Kotadia-Dougherty

Parli Debate

Finnessey/Wang-Dougherty
Nagarjuna/Soti-Monte Vista
Ahuja/Yang-Dougherty
Singhania/Xin-Irvington
Wong/Levine-Piedmont
Jian/Ananthan-San Ramon
Barnell/Gibson-El Cerrito
Mishra/Kulkarni-Irvington
Kavalakatt/Gupta-Irvington

Expository

Frederick Meckes-Miramonte
Natie Feng-James Logan
Sarah Svahn-Miramonte
Shannon Zheng-Dougherty
Rithika Vatturi-James Logan
Mathew Chan-James Logan
Lisa Liong-Monte Vista
Charbel El Khoury Hanna-Miramonte

National Extemp

Arham Habib-Monte Vista
Mrudhula Nithiyakumar-Monte Vista
Josh Morganstein-Miramonte
Ella Say-Miramonte
Joyce Wu-Dougherty
Mira Bali-Dougherty
Amir Khan-Miramonte
Saikrishna Reddy-Dougherty

International Extemp

Grace Barmmer-Miramonte
Jackson Blazona-Miramonte
Sohum Gupta-Medishetty-Dougherty
Sanjana Ranganathan-Dougherty
Siya Sharma-Monte Vista
Arul Mathur-Monte Vista
Lisa Leong-Monte Vista
Leo Naylor-Miramonte

Impromptu

Aditi Raju-Dougherty
Sydney Brandeis-Monte Vista
Maya Kavuri-Dougherty
Meera Bathwal-Dougherty
Vivian Kuang-Dougherty
Sanjana Kotha-Dougherty
Owen Spargo-Dougherty
Roma Tivare-James Logan

Original Oratory

Gaurav Padture-Amador
Zoya Ahmed-Maria Carillo
Riya Kataria-Irvington
Nitiggya Taneja-California
Jasmine Aggarwal--Dougherty
Arhan Misra-Miramonte
Mythri Sekar-James Logan
Rish Bellakka-James Logan

Original Advocacy

Aishu Nagabhushan-Monte Vista
Thomas Quinnild-Miramonte
Sabrina Brandeis-Monte Vista
Fionna Lim-James Logan
Eesha Chakraborty-Dougherty
Astha Pandey-Dougherty
Atifah Shaikh-James Logan
Sachi Uppal-James Logan



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- TOPIC, STAFF, & GUEST LECTURES





To the California Speech & Debate Community,

We are Ascend Speech & Debate, a new speech & debate coaching company that is connecting motivated students with top-level private coaches all across the United States. Our goal is to help ensure that every student in this activity, regardless of their connections, natural ability, or location, has an equal opportunity to access world-class instruction from champion coaches via video calls. Our leadership team is entirely from California, and we all have fond memories of both competing at the CHSSA Championship and coaching students there years later.

These are certainly not the circumstances under which we thought we would introduce ourselves to you. During this period of uncertainty and fear we, and we hope you as well, have had the opportunity to reflect on our involvement in this activity and why we continue to invest into it so much time, effort, and emotion. We have come to the conclusion that through it all, the late nights writing evidence blocks, the weekends spent at the library looking for script material, and even the seemingly never-ending drives home from disappointing tournaments, what we love about this activity is that it never stops giving back to us. No matter your event, topic, or even level of competitive success, we have all been left better people by the values of hard work, respect, and ethics that this wonderful community has imbued in us. As we launch our company this summer and on into the school year, we hope that you will join us as we aim to give back to the speech & debate activity just a fraction of what it has given us.

In June, we are launching our inaugural Summer Program, which offers one-on-one coaching sessions with world-class coaches, live lectures from leaders in the speech & debate community, and access to our written and virtual databases, which contain resources ranging from tools to improve your performance to recorded lectures on a wide variety of topics. We offer all Speech events and Congressional Debate, and financial aid is available! You can find more info on the attached fliers, @ascendspeech on social media, or at www.ascendspeech.org.

#JointheAscension today!

Ascend Speech & Debate
Email: info@ascendspeech.org
Website: ascendspeech.org

AREA 2

A letter from Area 2 Chair, and 2017 Hall of Fame Inductee, Mikendra McCoy

The sudden halt of all routines and norms is difficult to deal with; I mean, the helter-skelter juggernaut we all have known as our daily lives has come to a screeching stop ... and while most of us have lamented the battle of being busy, uttered the wish to slow down and hoped for a vacation in the Bahamas; the wrenching change of quarantine seems to be more punishment than pause, more hurt than healing and more loss than lessons; all of which might be true, if this was not for it being 2020.

Follow me on this one ... 20/20 is a vision status, optometrists offer the idea that it is to see with clarity, while simultaneously, the common colloquialism says that "hindsight is 20/20 ..." so, if both of these things are true, then in the moment we are able to see with with precision and when we get through this, and we will, we will look back and see in perfect clarity.... to that end, I couldn't agree more ...

First, to the precision of the present We are seeing a few things ... one being that this stinks.

Yep, it's pretty clear. ...this virus, this pandemic, this ... is just "unfair." So, I will not tell you to place a "peppy patty perspective and put a smile on your face, as you "grin and bear it;" the sense of loss, coupled by fear, followed closely by frustration, is all too real. The amount of "what if's" that linger in the air are hard to grapple with.

You have the right to feel, the right to be upset; you can embrace those feelings; commiserate with one another and know that you are not alone; if it helps to hear, I too am struggling with this, and there is nothing beautiful about puffy eyes, perpetual snot and a really red face as I waffle through the stages of grief in our collective loss. ... remember that as you process through the pain ... you have not been forgotten ... in fact, you are all that we can think about.

Two, know that people can, and will, continue to amaze you ...

Look around ...people are offering all that they have to help ... from posting access to provisions for elderly and

everyone, opening hotels for the homeless, making masks for the medical workers, door dashing dinner from local dining facilities ... they are creative in the ways that they care for one another, block parties in driveways, teacher parades for communities and distance learning that is more about compassion than curriculum ... the best part of us, the human connection is clear! There is such power in simply being present, seeking joy, in the moments; it is my hope that you can take the time to create the memory and make the moments matter.

I think that we can take solace in the "anything can happen," phrase; we have seen it happen in our subjective, often biased, competitions that "anything can happen," so, why are we surprised that the "rule" can be applied in our day to day? It is in these times that I am pulled back to those catch phrases, that I quip all too often ... "it is not about the trophies, or titles, the tinsel dies at midnight, so talk, tell your truth..." this is the key to remember, this activity



has to be more than a competition; it must be about communication, about comradery and about the challenge..." it is about truth, your truth, spoken. That is what took you to state, and will take you anywhere ... cause anything can happen!

This is where we turn to the 2020 hindsight, when it is over ... what will we look back and see?

Perhaps it will be putting our priorities in place ...

Forced family time can reconnect strangers, in the same space ...

Gathering close, watching old movies, coloring, doing puzzles, reading, board games, cooking, actually talking to each other and actively listening! Who knew it would take this re-set to resort to such measures... restoring relationships and reconnecting with those that we care about? (Admittedly, too much family time can also be reasons to up the life insurance and watch Dexter on a loop for ideas ... fight the urge!) Remember, there are trophies that are worth more

than any silver and gold ... (debaters would argue "... it's a prerequisite for anything") ... like life; there is also integrity and compassion; embody them all to the fullest. Perhaps you will find an even deeper sense of joy than you came into this time with... this is a chance to redefine what "living" truly means.

Perhaps it will be understanding the gravity of choice.

Change is the only constant; the choice lies in whether we will come out for the better or the worse. We get to choose how we act and react, towards this moment and every moment that we are given. So, put into perspective that as you are making history, that your words are as contagious as the virus is ... with capabilities of contaminating the person next to you, be it in the grocery store or within the ranks of your team) ... and they have unknown affects (be it a souring of new people to the activity, a despair to those within the activity, or the reason that one begins or continues the activity) and can incubate for an unknown period of time (be it moments

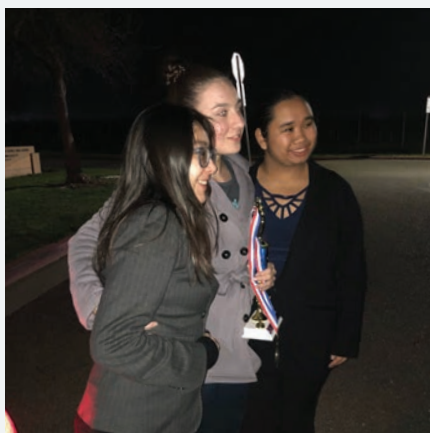
or lifetimes, once embedded in the soul) and they also have to the ability to kill, (be it the experiences you have had, lessons you have learned, relationships that you have formed or the personal insight and self advocacy that you have gained) be careful what you spread; your choices can and will affect others.

Final thoughts...

All things will be restored, it will take time, so be patient with yourself, others and the world. In the meantime, I challenge you, as I am challenging myself, to let this time soak into your very soul; enjoy this blessed interruption, seek the silver lining ...

Choose to see what is here and what is to come... May your vision be 2020.

WHAT A SEASON!



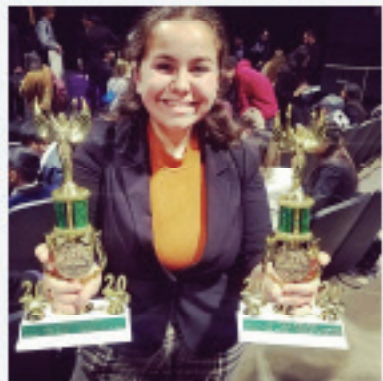
2019 - 2020

YOSEMITE FORENSICS LEAGUE



STOCKTON - MODESTO - ATWATER - TURLOCK - TRACY - MOUNTAIN HOUSE - LODI - WATERFORD







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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR QUALIFIERS!

Program Oral Interpretation

Noah Kopecki - Enochs
Gargi Rao - Modesto
Hania Adnan - Mountain House
Emma Lopez - Enochs

Dramatic Interpretation

Alisa Aistrup - Bear Creek
Duan Davis - Duan Davis
Emma Garber - Emma Garber

Oratorical Interpretation

Arianna Turchetti - Enochs
Janelle Barayuga - Bear Creek
Jayden Reyes - Bear Creek
Michael Balerite - Enochs
Sumaiya Alvi - Mountain House

National Extemporaneous

Manveer Parman - Modesto
Sahityasree Subramanian
- Mountain House
Rachel Thompson - Modesto
Noah Kopecki - Enochs

Expository

Ainslie Coughran - Turlock
Elizabeth Su - Mountain House
Gargi Rao - Modesto
Hannah Diep

Original Oratory

Astrid Mann - Mountain House
Snaefridur Bjargardottir - Turlock
Brenna Giva - Enoch
Genevieve Dietz - Buhach

Original Advocacy

Zainab Butt - Mountain House
Rithanya Sivasubrahmanian
- Mountain House
Ayisha Malick - Mountain House
Lucy Lamanna - Millenium

Impromptu

Nick Panyanovang - Enochs
Aashril Shazar - Mountain House
Stella Romeo - Turlock
Michael Balerite - Enochs

Congress

Summer LaBass - Chavez
Brennan Giva - Enochs
Nathan Weeks - Lodi
Rana Banankhah - Modesto
Jackson Patten - Lincoln
Genevieve Dietz - Buhach
Emma Johnson - Buhach

Presiding Officer

Jose Chavez - Delta Charter

Humorous Interpretation

Alex Asuncian - Enochs
Vishnu Matta - Mountain House
Grace Gremal - Bear Creek
Megan Tallcott - Enochs
Donovan McDaniel - Bear Creek
Amrit Mahal - Bear Creek
Summer Simmons - Millennium

Duo Interpretation

Asuncion & Sollitt - Enochs
Mahal & McDaniel - Bear Creek
Gupta & Dhanoa - Mountain House

International Extemporaneous

Logan Currin - Enochs
Aashril Shazar - Mountain House
Jared Hoffart - Buhach
Renisha Singh - Enochs

Original Prose and Poetry

Lillyana Perry - Turlock
Brogan Keener - Lincoln
Brianna McGee - Mountain House
Maya Parreira - Turlock

Lincoln Douglas Debate

Logan Currin - Enochs
Rachel Thompson - Modesto
Nick Panyanouvong - Enochs
Immanuel Victor - Mountain House

Policy Debate

Duenas & Wildes - Buhach
Singh & Stiles - Enochs
Prado & Ortega - Buhach

Parliamentary Debate

Coghran & Parneina - Turlock
Shazar & Kolikineni
- Mountain House
Knowlden & Malsack - Millenium
Lamanna & Souza - Millenium

Public Forum Debate

Thompson & Vijakumar - Modesto
Hayman & Hayman - Turlock
Romeo & Romeo - Turlock
Hoffart & Muldrow - Buhach





ENOCHS SPEECH & DEBATE

2019 - 2020



The cancellation of the state tournament was especially upsetting because this was going to be my first year attending. I was looking forward to finally seeing a state tourney and to the extra time I was going to spend with the team..

- Arianna

COVID-19 may have ended the speech and debate season, but it will never silence us.

- Nick



One of the best feelings of togetherness that Speech and Debate has brought to me was ended just too early. Yet with all of the heartbreak, it's more important than ever to be thankful for the memories we have all created together. So thank you to everyone who has helped make those memories I will never forget.

- Brennan



OUR STATE QUALIFIERS

Alex Asuncion - Duo
Ben Sollitt - Duo
Emma Garber - DI
Duan Davis - DI
Arianna Turchetti - OI

Noah Kopecki - NX
Emma Lopez - POI
Megan Tallcott - HI
Lydia Stiles - Policy
Brennan Giva - Congress

Michael Balerite - Impromptu
Logan Currin - IX & LD
Nick Panyanouvong - Impromptu & LD
Renisha Singh - IX & Policy



*A letter from Southern Valley Forensic League President, Oroshi High School coach,
and 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee, Karson Kalashian*

This season was one for the ages for the Southern Valley Forensics League (SVFL). Our league had 27 total schools become members of the California High School Speech Association, which is the highest number of schools we have ever had in one competitive season. We had many local tournaments during which we struggled to find enough rooms and judges to accommodate all the entries present due to the growth of the league, a problem we will gladly accept. Reaching out to new schools and trying to continue to provide opportunities for students in speech and debate that would not otherwise be present is a mission of the SVFL that we are proud of.

Another area of success for the SVFL this season was attendance and results at numerous invitational tournaments. Students from Stockdale High School, Clovis North High School, Bakersfield High School, Lemoore High School and Oroshi High School advanced to elimination rounds, including finals, of tournaments such as the University of Pacific Invitational, the La Costa Canyon High School Invitational, the James Logan MLK Invitational, and the UC-Berkeley

Invitational. For example, at the James Logan MLK Invitational the SVFL had over 20 breaks as a league to elimination rounds, with 18 coming from two schools alone! This level of success across the state made this year a very special one for the SVFL.

Something else the SVFL is proud of for this year was passing a rule that would exempt any school with an 80% or higher economically disadvantaged study body from paying local dues or entry fees. While this only helped a few schools this year we hope to use this as a recruitment tool to have even more schools join the league, not only for the growth of the league itself but as an intentional step towards continued involvement of marginalized students.

Stockdale High School won the Valley Championship in debate this season, making them the seven-time in a row champions, which is unprecedented in SVFL history.

Oroshi High School won the Valley Championship in speech this season, making them the back to back champions.

SVFL coaches feel awful that this year there will be no State Championships (as well as the loss of other physical competitions that were to be held, such as the NIETOC, etc.). As a league we will plan to do something (once we are allowed to again) for the students who lost out on the State Championships this year, especially the seniors. It is our hope that

CHSSA will also think outside of the box and find ways to allow students who did not have an opportunity to compete this year compete again in the future, since the students and the opportunities they have are why the SVFL and CHSSA exist.

To the coaches of the SVFL: know that we are proud of you, and proud of the effort you put into coaching teams and traveling and teaching (since many of you are teachers). We know this job can cause a difficult balance with work, team and family and we know you do it (and do it well!) for some of the neediest students in the state, and we thank you.

To the students of the SVFL: know that we love you. Thank you for letting us work with you and coach you, and for always trying your best no matter how the odds may be stacked. To overcome and still be positive, to still shine, makes us all smile. We will always protect you.

Karson Kalashian



CONGRATULATIONS,
STATE SPEECH & DEBATE
QUALIFIERS!

HAZIM AHAMED: LD

ALYSSA FU: POI, OPP

ROAN GORDON & MEEROS
KHATTAIE: PARLI

SRUSHTI PATIL: NX

REGINE VILLARMEA:
VALLEY CHAMPION, OO

UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL
FRESNO, CA



CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2020!
WATCH OUT ,WORLD. HERE
THEY COME!

HAZIM AHAMED
MEEROS KHATTAIE
SRUSHTI PATIL
ALEXANDER RAMÍREZ
REGINA RIVERA
REGINE VILLARMEA
GAGE WEBER





Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

DEAR UNIVERSITY HIGH SPEECH AND DEBATE COMPETITORS,

WE COULD NOT BE PROUDER OF OUR TEAM.

SPEECH AND DEBATE ACTIVITIES ARE CHALLENGING, COMPETITIVE IN NATURE, AND REQUIRE REGULAR PRACTICE, COACHING, DEDICATION, AND HARD WORK. SO MANY OF YOU DECIDED TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF THIS YEAR: NOT ONLY TRYING NEW EVENTS, YOU STEPPED OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE & FACED YOUR FEARS ABOUT PUTTING YOUR OWN WRITING INTO THE PUBLIC. YOU DEDICATED COUNTLESS HOURS TO FINDING, CUTTING, PRACTICING AND MEMORIZING SCRIPTS; AND RESEARCHING, WRITING, PRACTICING, AND RUNNING DEBATES. MANY OF YOU ALSO DEDICATED HOURS TO TEAM SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP: TEACHING UNDERCLASSMEN THE NUANCES OF SPEECH AND DEBATE, ANSWERING QUESTIONS, READING CASES, AND RUNNING DEBATES. YOU TRULY EMBODY OUR SCHOOL MOTTO "AD ASTRA PER ASPERA". WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF EACH OF YOU: WHO YOU ARE NOW AND WHO YOU ARE CHOOSING TO BECOME.

SINCERELY, YOUR COACHES,

MRS. SMITH

MRS. IBRAHIM

MS. MCKNIGHT

LORAINNA CARTER

AUBREY DER TOROSIAN

ROMAN ROMERO

We are so proud of Ridgeview High School's CHSSA qualifiers!

Parliamentary Debate

Hector Cabrera & Leonard Delgadillo

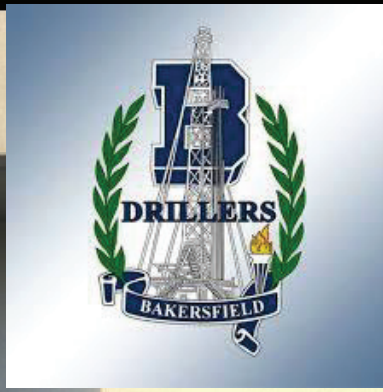
Impromptu

Leonard Delgadillo

Original Prose & Poetry

Inderpal Singh





**It takes a team.
Thank you BHS Speech & Debate for a
year to remember!**





Stockdale High School is proud of all of our 2020 CHSSA qualifiers! Go, Mustangs!

Policy Debate

Nora Scully & Tiberius Hernández
Jonathan Ipe & Alex Puga
Mukul Anand & Daniel Bazmi
Aiden Park & Andrew Shenouda

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Rishi Shah
Gurman Dhaliwal
Harshini Ravi

Public Forum Debate

Mahima Kunani & Miller McCraw
Pratham Goswami & Audrey Greene
Sagar Gupta & Jaskaran Singh
Ishaan Brar & Zachary Cadiz

Parliamentary Debate

Elias Abadi & Insiyah Merchant
Rishabh Bose & Aayushi Kapadia
Samantha Alphonso & John Weirather

Original Oratory

Aayushi Kapadia

Original Advocacy

Harshita Ravi

Original Prose & Poetry

Griffin Hurst

National Extemporaneous

Nora Scully

International Extemporaneous

Elias Abadi
Tiberius Hernández
Alex Zhang
Ishaan Brar

Oratorical Interpretation

Emilia Pashayeva
Mason Boerger

Dramatic Interpretation

Sammi Jiang

Duo Interpretation

Brock Bownds & Broderick Bownds





A letter from Capitol Valley Forensic League President and Mira Loma coach, Josh Stinson

As Capital Valley Forensic League's President I have been very proud of how this season's tournaments were held. We saw our league add several new teams and instead of having them feel like they were "new kids on the block" you cheered at their successes and helped fold them into our local culture. It made us all (coaches, judges and parents) proud to see how seriously you took on social justice topics, how earnestly you presented your cases and how much hard work you all put into your preparation for tournaments.

I was too thrilled that the new coaches in our league had been so thoroughly prepared and supported by student team-captains. The level of commitment by the students in our league is inspiring and why so many coaches within our league have continued to stay year after year. It is also why the season's abrupt ending by the COVID-19 outbreak was so saddening. While we had thankfully completed our State Qual tournaments and recognized our Orator's Cup Recipients, I know that our league's success was cut short but the cancelation of State!

I know that in Union City, at James Logan, you would have again made us proud! It is lastly to our Seniors like Tanushree, Rhitishah, James Hu, Cedric Hughs, Rohit Jhawar, Nathaniel Mills, Faraaz Godil, Joseph White, Jake Van Leerdam, Cheyenne Demille, Amanda Simon, Katie Gibson, Sarrah Ayar, Ipsha Pandey, and Alex Alvarez that we truly feel sorry that we didn't get to see you compete this last time so show the culmination of years of practice, growth and experience. We, nevertheless, celebrate your dedication and talent and are most assured that this will not be the last time we get to see you on a stage or the last time we get to celebrate you. We will miss your contributions to our league and to the competitions of Speech and Debate.

To our Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen, we thankfully get a chance to continue. Next year when we start our season, it will be with a hunger to finish this year's season, to make it better than this year and see each other at State.

I hope you all stay physically healthy, mentally sharp and ready to take on a new season!

Josh Stinson



AREA 3

A letter from Area 3 Chair, Jennifer Nguyen

This has been a tough year, maybe even two years, for the kids and adults in Area 3. We've had fires, a school shooting, and now a pandemic. Through it all, the voices of our students haven't been silenced. Some have taken this time to use their voice to showcase their struggles while others have used it to find an oasis outside of the chaos.

Speech and Debate is about what you learn. It's a place where you learn to express yourself, how to take and evaluate criticism, how to persevere, and so much more. It's a family where we get to share our joys and our sorrows, our wins and our losses, and we get to be ourselves. We are accepted here, regardless of how "odd" we might be. In fact, that oddness is often celebrated here. It's a place where we get to be excited when a student finds their voice because that will be with them for the rest of their life. It's a place where we get to not only guide students but also learn from them.

And so I hope amongst all the chaos in the world and the loss of many of the culminating activities that you take your voice and shine. Nobody can take your voice away from you. You might've lost the chance to attend the end of year tournaments but you can still grace the world with your voice.





A Letter to the SCDL

Dear SCDL Coaches and Students,

First of all, I want to thank you all for your depth of commitment, your continued support and advocacy, and your fine spirit of hard-work and competition that goes into our important activity of Speech & Debate. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve you as your league president.

Thank you to Gabrielino (Derek Yuill), Arroyo (Terry Colvin), San Marino (Matt Slimp), Millikan (Kevin Fielder) and Arcadia (Ashley Novak) for hosting our League Tournaments and for being such consistently organized and gracious hosts. Thank you to Matt Slimp (San Marino), Brian Walker (Crescenta Valley), Nicole Dalton (Westridge/Flintridge Prep) and Jennifer Nguyen (Garfield) for shepherding our Debate and Speech tournaments and running our tabrooms. Thank you to Kevin Tong and his army of volunteers from Alhambra who helped to host at East Los Angeles College and Pasadena City College. Thank you to all of the coaches who stepped up to work at all of the various jobs that need to be done in order for our tournaments to run so smoothly. I've had the pleasure of speaking to parents who have complimented us on how well our tournaments are run. I'm grateful to all of our coaches for all of their hard work. It really does take a village!

Thank you to all of the students who competed at our league tournaments. I'm glad you had the opportunity to showcase your talents and be honored for your hard work and performances at League Tournaments up to and including our State Qualifying Tournaments. It broke all of our hearts to cut the competitive season short and to deny qualifiers the opportunity to compete at State. I hope, by now, you all understand the necessity to do that and that the decision was made because we care for you and your families. I look forward to seeing you all (even graduating seniors) at the tournaments to come.

Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the SCDL Executive committee – our league is SO LUCKY to have you!! Both Ashley Novak and Jennifer Nguyen have served as League president and they've brought all of their wisdom and experience to the forefront to help me in my first year as league president as well as efficiently performing their duties as Vice President and Treasurer. And kudos to our League "Rockstar" Jessica Wilkerson, who as secretary not only created and manages our league's new website and handles the regular duties of secretary, but also is our friendly, optimistic and ALWAYS helpful League cheerleader. I am grateful to be working with you and grateful to call you friends.

May you all stay safe, stay healthy, and stay kind,

Leilani McHugh
SCDL President I9-20



WE LOVE YOU, SCDL QUALIFIER'S

Alhambra High School

Coach: Kevin Tong

Ada Duan
Aishani Sellathurai
Grace Yee
Hayley Chang
Jaylen Luc
Kyley Chang
Nam Nguyen
Nicholas Andrian
Sam Luo
Sariah Perera
Serena Lin
Xin Yu Huang

Arcadia High School

Coach: Ashley Novak

Alice Zhang
Andrew Luo
Andrew Li
Anthony Chiang
Anvitha Marlapati
Christina Feng
Evelyn Lo
Filbert Aung
Jason Chan
Kevin Wu
Lawrence Sung
Michelle Lee
Oishika Chattopadhyay
Perry Lu
Rukan Saif
Sarah Chao
Shinjini Das
Sarah Wang
Tiffany Lien

Arroyo High School

Coach: Terry Colvin

Rose Rocco

Aveson Academy

Coach: Rick Payan

Sarah Khan-Neal

Crescenta Valley High

Coach: Brian Walker

Conner Eubank
Ellena Kim
Jad Soucar
Joseph Hyung
Kyle Pak
Lucy Rickey
Miriam Awan
Shyla Summers

Gabrielino High School

Coach: Derek Yuill

Alex Lai
Alexis Lay
Andrew Gamba
Annica Wu
Bai Felicia Tang
Benicio Corona De Flores
Blu Lua
Brendan Kim
Ceres Black
David Alvaro Campos
Eunice Kay
Francesca Pondevida
Emily Has
EZ Zhang
Gabriel Frank-McPheter
Geraldine Ly
Halina Kwan
Hana Thai
Helen Benitez
Jaden Raymundo
Katherine Xie
Katie Do
Kayla Tran
Kaylin Lebo
Kayson Tang
Khin Han
Kristie Tan
Lauren Hamamoto
Lin Knudsen
Luccia Yacoub
Melanie Hsiang
Noemi Liu
Raquel Chavez
Sarah Vuong
Sharon Noh Liu
SV3 Villescasc
Thien X Le
Tiffany Troung
Trish Tanaka

La Canada High

Coach: Ronit Lieberman

Connor Lee
Timmy Park

Maranatha High

Coach: Patrick Mesisca

Joel Turk

Flintridge Preparatory

Coach: Nicole Dalton

Ashwin Sivakumar
Bailey Hobey
Colin Mequet
Colin Ng
Elaine Cheng
Gabi Varga
Nolan Costin
Samuel Sullivan
Taylor Delgado
Will Gunter

Flintridge Sacred Heart

Coach: Leilani Mc Hugh

Isabella Rucker
Catherine Bauer

Pasadena Polytechnic

Coach: Rashad Evans

Dario Soatto
Benji Fernandez

San Gabriel High

Coach: Jessica Wilkerson

Emily Chen

San Marino High

Coach: Matt Slimp

Colin Mach
Elaina Lee
Ethan Yi-Fang Wang
Jacon Chon
John Thomas Chon
Justin Jang
Mark MacDermott
Rediet Retta
Zhaojing Lu
Zihao Wang

South Pasadena High

Coach: Mark Zavidow

Kenny Schultz

Westridge School

Coach: Nicole Dalton

Cara Wilson
Charisma Chen
Clara Chen
Hanna Odawara
Juliana Fong
Katie Evenfield
Katherine Northrop
Layla Hoffman
Lily Nelson
Shania Baweja
Simone Kang
Sophia Rubbo

FLINTRIDGE SACRED HEART

Celebrates its 19-20 Speech & Debate Team

So Proud of our TOLOGS!!!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STATE QUALIFIERS
(IMPROMPTU): ISABELLA RUCKER '21 AND
CATHERINE BAUER '20
1ST PLACE SCDL DIV 3 SWEEPSTAKES IES
TEAM CAPTAIN: SAMANTHA GODINEZ '20**

A letter from Flintridge Sacred Heart coach, and SCDL President, Leilani McHugh

Dear TOLOG Speech & Debate Team Members,

I promise you we will gather together in one banquet room sometime in the months ahead and what a celebration that will be! In the meantime, I am grateful to the CHSSA leadership for giving us the opportunity to celebrate your accomplishments in this program.

Highlights of the year to always remember:

- one of our debate teams won a tournament championship! (Meg & Catherine at De Toledo)
- we said goodbye to assistant debate coach, Levon, whom we cherish and hello to Sophie who we look forward to working with in the times ahead.
- we had TWO League Champions! (Catherine in SPAR at Fall Varsity and Bella in Impromptu at State Quals)

- we had TWO debate teams trophy in the last round of a League tournament (Victoria & Lily and Meg & Jocelle at Spring Debate)
- our Impromptu Squad DOMINATED several tournaments (Spring Varsity, Screamin' Eagles, Fall Varsity)
- we had fun and performed exceptionally well the first year we ever competed in SPAR (awards at Stanford, Spring Varsity and Fall Varsity)
- our team members won awards in General Interp and Oral Interp! (Mei Han at Spring Varsity and Alice at Dio de los Muertos)
- And we had great weather *and* a wonderful time at both Stanford and Berkeley with the team taking home awards in Impromptu and SPAR!

Because of all of you, our team won several SCDL Sweepstakes trophies in our Division:

1st Place at Fall Varsity IEs

2nd Place at Spring Varsity IEs

1st Place at State Quals IEs

Seniors, you've been great mentors to the juniors and freshmen on the team. I know they will carry on your legacy of camaraderie and teamwork. Please stay in touch, come back and visit! Juniors and freshman, I look forward to seeing you compete next school year. You've all grown so much in skill and confidence!

Congratulations, TOLOGS!! Thank you for being the cohesive, enthusiastic and caring team that you are. I am so PROUD of YOU!!!

With Love and Respect,



A letter from Flintridge Sacred Heart student and Team Captain, Samantha Godinez

To the Current Freshmen:

I remember the speech and debate weekend workshop like it was yesterday. It was your first week of high school and for many of you, your first time speaking in public. And because of that, you had no idea what you were doing. You had so much going on in your brain and so much you wanted to say, but no way to say it. Your first speeches were chaotic, but each of you showed incredible promise. The next time I saw you was at our first impromptu speech practice and I think all of you cried. And although that wasn't the last time there were tears shed during practice (I'm talking to you, Ally), each of you grew a little bit more each week. It honestly blows me away to see how much progress you've made in only a year. More than that, I'm blessed to have been a part of your path to finding your own voices, both literally and metaphorically. When at first I saw anxious freshies, now I see women whose voices exemplify confidence, intelligence, and compassion.

To the Rising Seniors:

For most of you, we've been on the team together for three years. We grew and matured together. Although I'll be leaving on a new journey, I leave in good faith that you will all succeed and keep reppin' the impromptu squad. Abbie, you'll be a leader in the team and everywhere you go. Bella, I know you'll be the next Don Draper. Maddy, I look forward to seeing where your artistic soul takes you. Christina, every time I go to Target I will remember your speech about underwear. You've all become my friends and squeezed parts of yourselves into my heart. Thank you for being in this fun thing we call speech and debate with me, I'll miss you and I'm so proud of you.

Samantha Godinez



A letter from Flintridge Sacred Heart student, Abbie Toth

Dear Impromptu Squad,

Thank you all for making speech and debate so fun! I am so glad we were able to be on this team together. Of course, I enjoy the actual act of giving speeches, but the moments I spend talking with you all are my favorite part of speech and debate. Because of speech and debate, I was able to get to know each and every one of you. I am so grateful that I was able to be part of the team leadership this year. Novices, thank you for joining the team! Over the course of this year, you all have grown immensely. I am so proud of you all! You made this year more fun, and I hope you choose to join the team again next year. My fellow juniors, you make practice and tournaments more enjoyable! I am so glad I have been able to get to know you better through speech and debate. I really enjoyed spending time with you at tournaments, especially at Stanford and Berkeley. Seniors, I will miss you so much next year! You were all so welcoming when I first joined the team. I greatly appreciate all of the advice you have given me over the years. You helped me to become a better public speaker. You are such great role models, and I am so thankful I was able to be on the team with you. Impromptu squad, I am so happy I got to spend many afternoons with you all. Overall, we had a very successful year because we were able to give each other advice and grow together. Thank you all for so many fond memories!

Love,

Abbie Toth





Gabrielino Class of 2020

State Qualifiers



A. David Campos
Raquel Chavez
Khin Han
Brendan Kim

HI
DI
OO
OO

Lin Knudsen
Francesca Pondevida
Jaden Raymundo
Felicia Tang

OA
OPP
DUO
EXPOS

Samuel Villescasc
Sarah Vuong
Katherine Xie

CONG
EXPOS
POI

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE ALL CHAMPIONS

GABRIELINO SCREAMIN' EAGLES

2019-2020



CONGRATULATIONS 2020 STATE QUALIFIERS

26 YEARS AS A SCHOOL

25 YEARS AT STATE

Helen Benitez	OA
Ceres Black	POI
David Campos	HI
Raquel Chavez	DI
Benicio CoronaDeFlores	HI
Katie Do	DI
Gabriel Frank McFrank	USX
Andrew Gamba	DUO
Emily Haas	CX
Lauren Hamamoto	EXPOS
Khin Han	OO
Melanie Hsiang	POI
E.U. Nice Kay	OI

Brendan Kim	OO
Lin Knudsen	OA
Halina Kwan	OA
Alex Lai	DUO
Alex Is Lay	POI
Thien Le	HI
Kaylin Lebo	USX
Noemi Liu	HI
Noh Sharon Liu	CX
Bianca Bluah Lua	POI
Geraldine Ly	DUO
FrannyP Pondevida	OPP
Jaden Raymundo	DUO

Kristie Tan	IX
Trisha Tanaka	POI
Felicia Tang	EXPOS
Kayson Tang	EXPOS
Hana Thai	OO
Kayla Tran	EXPOS
Tiffany Truong	OPP
Sam SV3 Villescas	CONG
Sarah Vuong	EXPOS
Annica Wu	LD
Katherine XIE	POI
Lucccia Yacoub	IX
Eric E.Z. Zhang	OI

You All Are Truly Champions This Year!!!

alhambra

HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE



SERENA LIN - NX
JAYLEN LUC - IX
SAM LUO - DI
NAM NGUYEN - OI
XINYU HUANG - OPP
HAYLEY CHANG AND KYLEY CHANG - DUO
ADA DUAN AND AISHANI SELLATHURAI - DUO
SARIAH PERERA - CONGRESS
NICHOLAS ANDRIAN - CONGRESS
GRACE YEE - CONGRESS

CONGRATS TO THE
STATE QUALIFIERS



Dear Speech and Debate community,

When hearing that the thing you have worked so hard for, qualified for, prepared and researched for is cancelled, the first feeling is one of heartbreak. It was really difficult for all of us at Westridge to hear that state was cancelled because we know that everyone who qualified has worked really hard all year in their events, at Westridge, in our district and across California. But, because of that, we can also recognize that this one tournament, or any big tournament isn't what defines our successes for that year. We have worked hard at every other tournament, we have put time and passion into our events, experienced our own small triumphs and tragedies throughout the year. So, yes, we may not be able to go to state and show off all of that work, but it doesn't mean that that work isn't still worth celebrating and appreciating. We want every single speech and debater across California to know that they are still being celebrated for their achievements and their journeys this year!

From Westridge with love.





Aveson's S.A.D.

speech and debate



stay out of
the sandlot!



Our small team
competed beautifully
this year and reached
state for the first time!

We know Sarah
would've done great.
Big thanks to the best
coach, Payan!



SMALL SCHOOL, BIG HEART, KILLER DEBATE TEAM



Celebrating Success! *Arcadia High School's Speech* *and Debate Qualifier*

Individual Events

Dramatic Interp

Sara Chao 4th
Anvitha Marlapati 2nd

Oratorical Interp

Sarah Wang 1st
Shinjini Das 2nd
Lawrence Sung 7th
Kevin Wu 3rd

Humorous Interp

Andy Li 1st
Filbert Aung 2nd

Original Prose Poetry

Rukan Saif 3rd

National Extemp

Alice Zhang 6th

Original Advocacy

Sarah Wang 1st

Debate Events

Policy Debate

Perry Lu and Anthony Chiang 5th
Jason Chan and Michelle Chen 3rd

Lincoln Douglas

Christina Feng 3rd

Congress

Oishika Chattopadhyay 3rd
Evelyn Lo 5th

Parliamentary Debate

Andrew Luo and Tiffany Lien (auto
qualifiers)

Big Question Debate Pilots

Chelsea Ju
Anabell Xu
Olivia Chen



IE-2nd place sweeps
Debate 1st place sweeps



A letter from Beverly Hills High School coach, David Finnigan

The necessary cancellation of the 2020 CHSSA State Championship is one of the sad truths of this Coronavirus reality. Competitors who qualified for State instead have seen Covid-19 obliterate months of all manner of forensics preparation.

Some online tournaments are scheduled over the next two months, but Impromptu Speaking and Public Forum Debate via Skype are not the same as people talking to other people, in person.

Interpersonal communication is our business, but now that skill set exists primarily on the sterile screens of smartphones, laptops, desktops. The simple gesture of shaking an opponent's hand has been lost for now, a human reflex not readily replicated by the thumbs-up we give each other at the close of a Zoom chat.

Gone, too, are what could have been 2020 State memories: taco trucks that Congress speakers will race towards after a morning round; seeing Alhambra Coach Kevin Tong and Orosi Coach Karson Kalashian try mightily to

decipher a smudged ballot with (again!) an unintelligible signature; the pushed waiting in the Parli prep room for topic announce; visiting between rounds with those angelic comfort dogs; the drafty hallway where an Exemp round's fourth speaker paces, whispering to herself as she nails the perfect inflection for that epic Economist quote about Putin; and parents watching their twins in Duo Interp, caring little if they make it to Finals but instead just ecstatic that their kids are – so exciting! – at State!

Gone. For this year. We are sad but we see the necessity through the disappointment, and thus we quote The Dude from *The Big Lebowski* – “This is a bummer, man.”

It is all sad, but one of my Team captains is heading this Fall to Cornell University and the other one, who qualified in Congress for State, just got into Tufts. So, we are fine. Sad. Safe. Moving on.

I am blessed to work for a great school district with great staff and parents who do not ask me for my Team's trophy count but instead ask – “Are the kids happy?” Yes. I have fantastic, happy kids who put Speech and Debate in perspective, always reminding themselves that it is just Speech and Debate, one of many extracurricular activities and neither the curriculum nor the heart of their high school lives.

The ultimate lesson for the Loss of 2020 State is a hard one but a very important one:

Life Is Full of Disappointments.

Olympians must wait until next year to fulfill lifelong dreams in Tokyo, and this year we will not be at State.

Life Is Full of Disappointments.

This life lesson is best learned when young, and the graduating seniors will remember it decades after they have packed away their trophies in attics, gathering dust.

This spring's Loss of State is not just another memory of another Loss alongside Wins.

This Loss, in time, will become a Muscle of Wisdom, helping to keep all of us young – and wiser.

David Finnigan



AREA 4

A letter from Area 4 Chair, Don Etheridge

I write this letter to you all from a southern California home that I have resided in and not left for over two weeks now. It feels like it's been months.

The more we're exposed to in this world, the more we realize how little we know or understand. That said, please take what's useful from this advice and leave behind what is not. You will create your own journey which makes each of you unique.

Speech and Debate is a rewarding activity that has enhanced your communication skills for life. Your parents and your team have gone through so much together this year! We have learned to be tolerant and respectful of others' opinions. We may not always agree, but we have learned that all opinions matter! As Voltaire

once wrote, "I disapprove of what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

While at home, we have binged watched many shows, but have also watched political parties work together to formulate new policies based on the needs of the citizens, the government has patched up the inadequacies and filled the voids more efficiently and effectively than we have previously seen. Yesterday there was a ninety-six to zero vote to extend immediate financial help to our citizens. Perhaps all of us are becoming better versions of ourselves!

I am so proud of all of you. This change in our lives has shown us that winning is not everything, but the effort put in is. Thank your parents for all the time and energy they have put in this year as well - they deserve to know they are appreciated.

I know all of us were heart broken when state championships were cancelled. I choose to look at disappointments as opportunities. This time has given me

insight into slowing down with restful introspection. You are the future leaders of this world and perhaps later in life we will look back and see that you were able to learn who you truly are during this time of forced isolation. As Ralph Ellison said: "When I discover who I am, I'll be free."

Seniors, you are awesome! You are resilient and you are the best of us!

Underclassmen, I will see you at state championships in 2021.





San Diego Imperial Valley Speech League





I am so absolutely proud of our speech team here at Middle College High School in Santa Ana! You have surpassed my expectations and are making a name around the league for yourselves as respectful, hard-working, and challenging competitors. I want to recognize every one of you as contributing members of this team: Dasha Cordon, Aaron Cueller, Alan Cuevas, Reyna Ediss, Ryan Garcia, Rebeca Gonzalez, Jose Guerrero, Franklin Guevera, Marielena Mendoza, Ali Naqvi, Izel Ocampo, Andreanela Ordonez, Isabel Ortega, Leslie Portillo, Alex Prado, Nicholas Ramirez, Rodolfo Ramos, Cecy Rivera, and Tina Vu.

I also want to highlight some of our accomplishments this year:

- All of you have volunteered your time to judge middle school speech tournaments
- Andreanela Ordonez and Isabel Ortega were invited to the State Tournament
- In the State Quals, 10 of our 15 entries broke as Semi-Finalists or beyond
- Isabel Ortega, Nicholas Ramirez, Alejandro Prado, and Andreanela Ordonez competed in travel tournaments across the country.

Thank you again for all your hard work and it has been my pleasure to have you as a part of this team! I also want to send a big thank you to our coaches and everyone who played a part in the Speech Program at SAUSD who are making a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

-Mr. Curtis



What does La Costa Canyon Speech & Debate mean to you?

"To me, Speech and Debate is a place for me to express myself. It's a way for me to speak about topics I'm passionate about in a comfortable setting. This program has personally helped me become more confident as a person as well as in my speaking. Speech and Debate is like a family; we all care about each other and want to see each other succeed. I think the best part about this program is watching people come out of their shells and express who they really are."

—Katie Kelley, c/o 2023

"Speech and debate has given me many opportunities to travel and visit schools. It has also given me a lot of friends that made high school an overall better experience. I like speech because I am free to talk about whatever I find important to me. I like being able to voice my opinions and see what people have to say about them. I think the speech team has turned into more than friends; we are a family now."

—Reece Marcello, c/o 2022

"Speech and Debate, as well as our team, means everything to me. It was the one place where I could be myself. I got out of my comfort zone and made friendships that will last a lifetime. We truly are a family and I wouldn't trade any of those weirdos for anything. I love Speech and Debate wholeheartedly and I love our team."

—Trinitie Moreno, c/o 2021

"Speech and debate is a place where you can express your views and tell your story. I really like speech and debate because you learn a lot of new things and meet a lot of people who you get really close with."

—Naomi Paget, c/o 2021

"Speech and debate has been a big part of my life for three years now. I was first drawn to the class because I've always loved to argue, and in my head, that's what I thought I'd be doing. Instead, I figured out arguing makes me want to cry but I love seeing people act. Hearing personal experiences and different points of view made me more knowledgeable about the world around me. That is what I love about speech and debate; the fact that with every speech I am educated on a topic I previously knew nothing about. Furthermore, I am so grateful to have met everyone on the team. I can truthfully say that each and every person has positively affected me. While making friends wasn't my original intention of joining speech and debate, it's one of the reasons I come back every year."

—Sydney Estrin, c/o 2021





"Speech and Debate has been such a staple in my high school career. I've made so many of my lifelong friendships on my team. Speech and debate has taught me to never give up; it has taught me that hard work pays off. More importantly, speech and debate has taught me how to teach and lead for the benefit of a team. Speech and Debate has given me a platform, allowing me to use my talents while creating awareness for important social issues. I am so glad that I decided to join this amazing organization that has made me the speaker, and the person, I am today."

—Mobina Riazi (Officer), c/o 2021

— — — — —

"Speech and Debate, for me, has been more than an extracurricular activity. It has been a community of unparalleled thinkers who radically redefine the art of communication. It has been a platform built to uplift the voices of marginalized communities. And, most importantly, it has been a family. Everyone on the LCC team has demonstrated unrivaled character, compassion, and perseverance; I firmly believe that everyone on this team has the capability to go far in this world, to become something bigger than themselves. The intermingling of a plethora of personalities has truly created the greatest team dynamic I have ever seen. We are truly a family, and I will miss everyone. I will miss the laughs shared over haphazardly made choreography routines performed while everyone gawks at us at tournaments. I will miss the early morning car rides filled with the overlapping euphony of recitations of speeches. I will miss seeing fellow teammates stand proudly on the award stage, basking in the fulfillment of many evenings' hard work. I will miss the first pangs of nervousness as I stand to present my speech in front of a sea of strangers. I will miss everything that is the La Costa Canyon Speech and Debate Team, more than words can convey. I couldn't ask for a better team. Speech and Debate has been a catalyst for personal growth within my own life, and I am so proud of the person I've become through this activity. I've learned how to delegate, how to manage a team, and how to believe in myself and my capabilities. I believe that confidence can propel me into a range of opportunities, break down walls, and kill any insecurities regarding my competency before I started this activity. I don't regret a single moment of these past three years. I wish I could replay it all again. Nonetheless, I am so glad I could be a part of this amazing family. I will take all the lessons I've learned and the friendships I've made with me wherever I go. I am thankful to each and every person on my team for pushing me to be the best version of myself I can be, and I truly wish the world for all of you. Thank you."

—Chloe Wayne (Team Captain), c/o 2020



2019-2020 Qualifiers

Congratulations to
Helix Charter High School Speech & Debate
for a fantastic season!



2020 State Tournament Qualifiers

Seniors: Lainie Alfaro, Eva Anderson, John Garcia, Will Harris, Ashley Simmons, Danika Zikas
See you next year: Ruby Anderson, Owen Dahlkamp, Stone Eastman, Lucas Osborn, Grace Roche, Rachel Sharp

A letter from Otay Ranch High School student, Ainsliegh Lloyd

One thing I've loved about Speech is the sense of a community I've felt with people from other schools. In a finals round for OO this year, I was in a room with all female competitors and the majority of judges were female. All these incredible ladies were intelligent and passionate; and this strong empowering energy shone through. It's one of the things that stuck with me the most this year, especially since my speech was about female empowerment. I got to know all these ladies as we were all consistent finalists and I deeply admire them all. I even keep in touch with some of them and hope to see them at State next year!

Ainsliegh Lloyd



CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL

2020 State Qualifiers



“ Now more than ever, it is important to remember that we are a whole team.

As a team, we will support each other through these times, and come out stronger than ever. ”

- Minnia Curtis
Carlsbad High Speech & Debate Coach



★ Top 1% in the nation ★ 27 State Qualifiers ★ 6 Academic All-Americans ★

A letter from Carlsbad High School student, Catherine Allen

Dear California Speech and Debate community,

I never thought my four years in speech and debate would end like this. But it has taught me something invaluable. Across the state, something we all share is the immense joy we feel from speech and debate when we realize all our hard work has paid off. While the state tournament may be canceled, our hard work will not go unrewarded. Although coronavirus has taken away our tangible rewards- the state tournament, our chance at a state trophy, or a ranking- it cannot take away the intangible dedication, passion, and appreciation we have for speech and debate. This time will remind us that the real reason why we work as hard as we do is because of these intangible rewards.

The competition season may be done for the year, but just because we cannot go into round, doesn't mean we stop doing what we do best: starting the conversations society needs to have right now. As communicators, advocates, and leaders, we work as hard as we do in hopes that, one day, these skills will help better the world in some way. This is what we have really been preparing for, and now we have the opportunity to show these skills off. This time offers us an opportunity to put what we stand for into action.

Continue speaking up for those who need it right now: the students struggling to keep up with their education, the first responders risking their lives, the families struggling financially now more than ever before, and anyone else in our community who needs support. Continue raising awareness for the issues you care about, and continue being the leaders every

community needs right now.

Another pillar of debate is considering alternative perspectives. Coronavirus has put us outside our comfort zones, but in doing so, it has redirected our perspective. We have the time to appreciate what really matters in speech and debate- your personal satisfaction, sense of accomplishment and self-improvement that got you to where you are now. It's a stressful journey to State, but remember why you put yourself through it in the first place! The love and gratitude we have for this activity isn't just summed up in a state competition or a trophy. Remember your why. If you have a good reason, you will make it through this tumultuous time and come out the other side as an even stronger competitor, communicator, advocate, leader and individual.

I am so grateful for speech and debate and all it has done for me throughout high school. Thank you to all of the competitors, opponents, coaches, judges, and speech and debate families that have made this amazing community available to California high schoolers. State may be cancelled, but the journey is not over. We're simply setting forth on a new path.

Sincerely,

Catherine Allen

A letter from Carlsbad High School student, and Team President, Edward Burns

The rise of Coronavirus confirmed a sneaking suspicion of mine, that we are living in unprecedented times. In almost every field imaginable, from Health, to Economics, to Climatology, to Technology, our generation is faced with seemingly insurmountable problems of unimaginable scope. For this reason, I am grateful for Speech and Debate. This program has equipped me with the knowledge to help tackle these issues and the voice to make my ideas heard. Now more than ever, we need Speech and Debate in order to educate, motivate, and inspire the people who will be solving these problems in the future.

I would have never thought that I could give speeches about the merits of Universal Healthcare, the best Anti-Poverty measures, policies to combat climate change, and how to prepare for Automation, but here I am. Not all of us are going to grow up to be lawyers or politicians, and our professions might seem very distant from the seats of power that can change the course of our future, but we should all remember what we've learned from this Speech and Debate, that we all have a voice, no matter who we are.

Undoubtedly we sit at a crossroads. Our future is all but certain and it is up to us to decide whether humanity enters a period of unparalleled prosperity. And to whoever is reading this right now, you have the ability, no, the responsibility to persuade everyone around you to fight for that better future, to not give in to apathy or despair.

The world is large and the whims of fate appear beyond our control, but individuals set the course of history. We all have a part to play in fixing a world gone awry, and the most important factor could be you.

Edward Burns



A letter from Carlsbad High School student, Tanya Edquist

As a senior who has competed in Speech and Debate for four years, I would like to end my career by sharing some valuable things that I have learned from this activity. To celebrate the end of this year's season we should all take some time to reflect on the valuable lessons that we have learned from Speech and Debate and how we can use this to improve our lives.

My first piece of advice is to take nothing for granted. Every round (win or lose) and every performance (your best or your worst) are all valuable memories. No matter the event or tournament, we are all incredibly lucky to be able to participate in such a unique activity that we love.

The next thing I would encourage you all to do is speak your truth. There will only be a few moments in life where you are guaranteed the attention of an audience who has to listen to you. I wish I had learned to use this audience sooner to speak on issues that I truly cared about. Whether it be an original advocacy speech, a humorous interp, or a speech in a debate round, we can use this platform to help teach others. By sharing uncommon narratives we can all spread stories and information which usually goes unheard in our everyday lives.

My final piece of advice is to support your fellow competitors, no matter what team. In 2020 it is really easy today to pretend that everything is okay, that gender inequality does not exist, that racial inequality does not exist, but this isn't always the case. Debate has taught me that it's ok to admit that things aren't perfect and that we must work to make things better. No matter the circumstance we find ourselves in, there will always be an opportunity to learn. Debate has reminded me that we are in a world that is still growing, we have to play our part in contributing to positive change. By supporting one another and growing our collective speech and debate family we can make this activity truly accessible and equal for all.

The skills we have learned from this activity will last a lifetime, as will our memories of all the fun we have had together. Thank you to my coach, my fellow competitors, and my teammates for helping me become the person I am today.

Tanya Edquist



This past season was Francis Parker's first year with an established speech and debate team. Every student worked hard and contributed immensely to make this an extremely successful year as we grew and flourished as a team. Thank you so much to Coach Epley who, with the support of our assistant coach Mrs. Sheres and our student officers, built our program from the ground up, organized every tournament, gave us helpful advice along the way, and brought us all of the cookies we needed. None of this would have been possible without their countless hours of work, mentorship, and guidance.

Francis Parker School Speech and Debate Team



State Quals

At State Qualifiers, 5 Parker Parliamentary teams advanced to the second day, with Mark Rifkin and Alec Sheres ('22) advancing to the sixth round, finishing in the top 13 teams



Trevor DePodesta ('22) placed 4th in National Extemporaneous and Impromptu at two league tournaments.



Jayna Wadhwa ('22) placed 6th in National Extemporaneous and 1st in Impromptu at State Quals, becoming the first Parker Student to qualify for the state tournament.



Alec Sheres (Team VP, '22) and Jayna Wadhwa ('22) were quarterfinalists in Parliamentary debate at the La Costa Canyon Winter Classic. Sophia Epley was an octofinalist for Lincoln-Douglas debate.



Sophia Epley (Team President, '21) went 3-1 in multiple league tournaments for Lincoln-Douglas debate.

A letter from Francis Parker High School coach, Selena Epley

"Success is a journey not a destination. The doing is usually more important than the outcome. Not everyone can be Number 1." - Arthur Ashe

It is 1982. I am a very sheltered and insecure ninth grader at a large public school. At the age of 14 I had already managed to fail to live up to my mother's strict definition of success by being a decent but not brilliant student, an average but not Olympic level swimmer, a mediocre piano player and a hospital volunteer with no passion for the medical field. Then I discover my high school's speech and debate team and I find my people. I start with platform events and soon find that I most love the spontaneous speech events (particularly Extemporaneous which in those days required you to speak on both international and national topics while carting around boxes of newspaper articles in file folders) and debate.

I thus not only found an activity which I loved to do but also one in which practice, preparation and risk-taking were rewarded. And those rewards were not limited to breaking into elimination rounds and trophies (though of course those were fun and exciting accomplishments). My confidence in my ability to do hard things in life progressed as I was doing hard things in speech and debate. I learned that practice and preparation are great levelers. By reading the news, keeping up with current events and traveling to tournaments all over California (and to Oklahoma for Nationals) I learned that there was a whole wide world out there which inspired me to keep pushing through a challenging childhood. I developed analytical, communication and argumentation skills that would serve me well in my academic studies all the way through law school and in my career.

I also learned some valuable life lessons through a tumultuous Policy Debate partnership. For some reason, my partner thought that telling me how unattractive my clothing and appearance were constituted an effective way to inspire me to be a good debater. Over time, I realized that I did not deserve to be treated so poorly and ended our debate partnership. We both became Lincoln-Douglas debaters with an intense rivalry. At a travel tournament, we hit each other in the LD finals. The room was packed with our teammates. I realize now that all of his unkindness towards me had undermined my confidence when it came to him and that I lost the final round before I had even walked into the room. I lost the round primarily because I did not believe that I could win that round. And I learned that that result was my doing, not his. I learned that if you do not believe it, you cannot achieve it. I learned that even what felt like crushing failures were survivable.

My life came a full circle when my daughter decided to join the speech and debate team at Bonita Vista High School where Eric Helle, the coach, had developed a fantastic team. He showed me that with good coaching, interested students, committed officers and supportive parents the sky is the limit for a speech and debate team. When my daughter was deciding for reasons separate from speech and debate whether to transfer to Francis Parker School as a 10th grader she hesitated when she learned that there was no formal speech and debate team at Parker. Over the years there had been debate clubs on and off at Parker with students competing in the San Diego Imperial Valley Speech League (SDIVSL) but that at that time it was not clear if any Parker students would be competing in speech and debate. My daughter decided to transfer to Parker after being told that we could start a debate team. So we did. In fall of 2018, we had one student (my daughter) competing in SDIVSL tournaments. But then we connected with some students and parents who became very dedicated to speech and debate, got a volunteer assistant coach and had the help of the wonderful SDIVSL leadership as well as other coaches who were all kind and generous in answering my ten million questions about how to grow a team. One year later we had 29 students competing in tournaments. While it was fun and rewarding to see kids break into elimination rounds and win medals with one student becoming the first student at Parker to qualify for State, it was equally fun and rewarding to see kids fall in love with speech and debate, take risks, and grow as competitors and as people. The students' selfless willingness to help each other develop skills and confidence was extraordinary. I tell my students that the number one fear of people is public speaking so their ability to get up in front of judges and other competitors to discuss and debate complex topics or to give a memorized speech makes them super brave and accomplished kids. And I keep reinforcing that if they believe in themselves, they can do anything. After all, it is not about the destination, it is about the journey and the rewards are there for everyone courageous enough to compete in speech and debate, not just for those who finish as number 1.

Selena Epley

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Mission Vista High School Speech and Debate Team

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CONGRATS TO OUR STATE QUALIFIERS!

Marco Carrasco

Kai Catapang

Julia Conley

Aiden Gaddis

Katie Kelsey



Malia Krassim

Cipriana Rodriguez

Brenna Schnedar

Bailey Ungaro

Thank you so much for such an amazing year! It was filled with so many different adventures and memories! We wish everyone luck for the upcoming years and thank you for making this year one to remember!



A letter from The Bishop's School co-presidents, Tim Kelly & Tommy Sottosanti

Dear CHSSA,

We are Tim Kelly and Tommy Sottosanti and it gives us great pleasure to write this letter on behalf of The Bishop's School Speech and Debate Team. We are incredibly proud of the hard work of the team, our home away from home for the past four years. This year, our school had a team record number of competitors qualify for the state tournament, with 12 students making it in their respective events: Tim Kelly and Dennis Li in Impromptu, Quinn Rodriguez in Extemp, Elena LeTourneau in Lincoln-Douglas, Tommy Sottosanti as a Presiding Officer, and Schuyler Capita, Kyle Berlage, Jeffrey Wang, Whitney Hejmanoski, Andrew Bender, Tobey Shim, and Iraj Moradi in Congress. All of these hardworking individuals are incredibly sad they can't compete in the state tournament this year, but they recognize the gravity of the situation at hand.

Beyond the state tournament, our team has seen tremendous growth. Seven years ago, our team was restarted with just two students. In the 2019-2020 season, we had over seventy students participate on our team, making us the largest team (academic or non-academic) on our campus. Naturally, there have been some growing pains along the way, like figuring out where to run so many Parli rounds at once! Yet despite our growth, our team's culture has remained consistent. One important facet of its culture is the way our seniors form incredibly close bonds with our novices. Our seniors pride themselves on having light-hearted attitudes and being approachable, and many novices find inspiration in the various speaking styles of our veteran

members. We even invented our own speaking exercise that we call "Rumsfelding" (named after former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld) that hones our skills in answering difficult questions in a smooth manner. The different, and sometimes provocative, approaches seniors take to this exercise rub off on our eager freshman.

The success of our team depends on many factors, but truthfully we would not be able to do what we do without the countless hours spent and hard work done by our coach, Matthew Valji. Mr. Valji, aside from being an unmatched organizer and planner, provides our team, especially our novices, with an unwavering voice of confidence in the face of the anxiety that comes before tournaments. He reminds us that while medals and trophies can be fun to win, they are ultimately inconsequential when compared to the skills we build and the knowledge we gain from researching and debating complex issues in the first place. We all owe our speaking skills and intellectual growth to Mr. Valji, and for that we are overwhelmingly grateful. The seniors will miss the team greatly next year, but we know that the success and growth of this team will continue.

With Gratitude,

Tim Kelly & Tommy Sottosanti

FULLERTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE



In the 2019-2020 competition season, Fullerton Speech & Debate team attended more than ten tournaments and placed at every one. Each of our 63 lovely speakers have worked tirelessly by incorporating their passion for this activity into each of their pieces. We are endlessly proud of everything they have achieved. TYFS!

A letter from Fullerton Union High School student, Amelie Heying

Dear Members, Coaches, and Administrators of CHSSA,

I think we all can agree that this year has been something else. To be honest, as a freshman I was super excited to be introduced to the league and figure out the competition at States this year, and I can't help but feel that a huge portion of what I have dedicated the last year of my life to has been somewhat compromised. However, this is nothing compared to what the seniors must be feeling. I have three more years to compete and have fun and speak out about the issues I am passionate about, but the seniors who have dedicated four years to this practice get nothing. That's obviously a terrible and a huge weight on the conscience of all.

Despite this, I would like to remember this year for what it taught me in speech. This year was the first year I really felt comfortable in a class of peers; the first time I could openly talk to people about politics without worrying that my entire character would be defined by even knowing where Iran is. This is the first year that I could talk to a coach and trust that they were actually listening. I mean, this is probably the first year that I have been able to look up to the amazing people surrounding me and not synonymously feel less than or that I wasn't worthy of the people around me. And even though I have been preparing to compete among you all at States this year, taking every spare second to adapt and perfect my script and performance (as I'm sure the rest of you have), I won't let this pandemic take away all of the small moments with my team that make me love Speech and Debate.

Speech and Debate is the sport? Activity? Thing? That you can never really know until you're crying in POI or DI round or laughing in an HI round or running from a debate round. The people are intelligent, kind, and deeply involved in the community. We support each other, even at low points in the season, and there is nothing like seeing your name on the breaks list or hearing it called on stage. So while this pandemic may have taken our State Championship, it cannot take every working moment until now, fighting for our message to touch someone in the audience who needs it. Because at the end of the day, we speak for those who can't, and every opportunity to do so is an honor.

Amelie Heying



A letter from Otay Ranch High School coach, Bernadette Siscon

As a student, I spent three years competing in various Interp events, making my way to the state competition twice. To this day those are some of my fondest high school memories; long days at various high school and college campuses, performing, educating, and ultimately learning how to communicate in a world that increasingly lacks the ability to do so.

When I became a teacher, I knew that the lessons I learned over the course of those years were ones I wanted to pass on to my own students. Then as if by chance, my colleague reached out to ask me to help coach our high schools' speech and debate team.

That first year, having come in at the tail end of the season, I took one student to a single tournament. Two years later, and our team has grown to 15, with 3 State Qualifiers, and 2 alternates.

To see the passion that these students have for Speech and Debate is one of my greatest joys. In them I see all the best parts of myself, magnified by the amazing talent and dedication of these young men and women.

This year has been one of growth and learning, both for myself as a coach, and for my students. I am so proud of all

they have accomplished this season, and while I will not get to see them compete at State, I know that the friendships they have formed this year, and the memories they have made will be carried with them throughout their lives.

To my seniors, who will not have another chance to compete, you have all blossomed in the time that I have known you. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to, and I will miss seeing you perform, both onstage and in speech. Also, wherever you go, check out your school's collegiate speech and debate team!

To my underclassmen, whether you are missing out on the opportunity to compete at State this year or not, I hope that you don't take this as a set back, but as motivation to prepare for next year and return even stronger. You are all incredible, and I know that whatever the future holds, you will make it work. When you stand together you can succeed in whatever life throws at you.

Bernadette Siscon

CBSR had several exceptional rookie coaches this year. We can't pick just one of them.

CBSR's Rookies of the Year are:

Alexcess Zamora – Citrus Valley

Alexcess took over the program at Citrus Valley High School and was a real asset to our league as helping in the tabroom and keeping the Citrus Valley team competitive.

Fares Abdullah – Bonita High School

Fares was a very successful debater a few years back at Vista Murrieta High School and is now on the debate team at the University of LaVerne. For several years the LaVerne debaters have coached Bonita High School's team. This year Fares took over the role of head coach and continued that successful program.

Natalie Jones – Chaffey High School

Natalie restarted the team at Chaffey High School and began building a great program with a group of enthusiastic novice debaters. With no experience in debate Natalie has had to learn it all from scratch and has done an amazing job.

Lee Graves – Santiago High School

Lee started a brand new debate program at Santiago program, had a good deal of success with a novice team, and has been an enthusiastic helper at our tournaments. We expect great things from Santiago in the coming years.

Whitney Schiller – iPoly High School

Whitney isn't really a "rookie" in the true sense of the word, but she is back after taking a couple years off to focus on being a new mom. Now she's back and this year coached the first iPoly kids to ever qualify to the CHSSA State Championship.

CBSR's Rock Star is David Chamberlain

Honestly, Dave has been the rock star of our league for twenty years. He really deserves the award every year, but I think in past years we have chosen a "Rock Star" who has done great things in a few



events for that year rather than the guy whose team does great things in every event every year. Usually when Dave's name is considered the other coaches tend to think "hasn't Claremont gotten enough awards already?" Well they do get a lot of awards, thanks to Dave. He took over a smallish program twenty years ago and built it into the biggest and most successful team in CBSR and among the top teams statewide. Dave has also been a mentor to every coach that has come after him, including me. I was a high school debater but got re-involved in debate when my son was a freshman at Claremont. I became a coach with his encouragement and support and I'm still learning from him fifteen years later. Dave is loved by his team, by the parents of his students, and by the coaches who get to work with him every weekend.

Thanks, Dave. You're a Rock Star!

Erik Pielstick
CBSR President

Parent of a former Claremont debater

Citrus Belt Speech Region

We picked our **BEST**



Public Forum Debate

Jimmy Shi & Isabela Galoustian Riverside STEM
Rachel Bahk & Grace Jang Los Osos
Emily Yepez & Pricilla Valdez International Polytechnic
Chaerim Kang & Jannelle Liu Claremont
Catherine Duan & Martina Daniel Redlands

Parliamentary Debate

Edward Rumbos-Perez & Alex Walburg CHS
Sarah Pino & Charlie Warren Claremont
Eden Lawson & Tristan Philip Redlands
Luis Luna & Yulissa Sanchez Cajon
Mohammed Maarouf & Anthony Rumbos CHS
Zaid Hintzman & Tayseer Hilo Redlands

Policy Debate

Cat-Minh Huynh & Ethan Driscoll Redlands
Hamzah Bashir & Rishi Sreedhar Redlands
Michael Judson & Simon Nasser Claremont
Hyun Cho & David Zhang Claremont

Lincoln-Douglas

Kamran Sheriff CHS Benjamin Huang Claremont
Joseph Opp Los Osos Gordon Krauss Claremont

Student Congress

Ashley Park Claremont Melissa Glover CHS
Charlie Abbott CHS Rohan Chowdhury LOHS
Alex Patterson Bonita Thiana Aklidikou Redlands
Enzo Panem Claremont

Presiding Officer

Shannon Farren-Stroud Los Osos

Original Advocacy

Bridget Brodie Claremont
Ireh Kim Claremont
Audrey Nguyen Los Osos
Jannelle Liu Claremont
Laura Noronha Redlands

Expository

Charlie Warren Claremont
Mercer Weis Claremont
Sherry Xiao Claremont
Michelle Clark Redlands
Guiliana Sicolo Cajon

International Extemp

Nathan Wong Bonita
Ronnie Hafez Los Osos
Gina Park Los Osos
Alex Abarca Claremont
Kamran Sheriff Claremont

Oratorical Interp

Hana Doueiri Cajon
Shantanu Sinha Redlands
Rohan Shivaram Claremont
Pranav Madabjushi RHS
Anagha Satish Redlands

Original Prose & Poetry

Gordon Krauss Claremont
Tristan Philip Redlands
Maya Garcia Claremont
Mathias Qilon Redlands

Duo Interpretation

Derek Santamaria & Hugh Cockeram Redlands
Luis Luna & Isis Beaven Cajon
Cat-Minh Huynh & Sidarth Kulkarni Redlands
Reneh Shammo & Tayseer Hilo Redlands

Original Oratory

Roshan Rajesh Redlands
Audrey Taylor Yucaipa
McKinley Durham Redlands
Tyler Martin Yucaipa

Impromptu

Ruby Berke Claremont
Zaid Hintzman Redlands
Eden Lawson Redlands
Zack Kreines Claremont

National Extemp

Joseph Opp Los Osos
Angelo Thomas Claremont
Camille Leung Bonita
Joshua Bahk Los Osos

Program Oral Interp

Damani Pride Carter
Katelyn Miller Carter
Leslie Melchor-Palacios Cajon

Dramatic Interp

Keona Winkler Redlands
Claire Judson Claremont
Addison Walburg Claremont
Nidhi Kejriwal Redlands

Humor Interp

Kyle Marshall Claremont
Tasnim Kazi Redlands
Siddarth Gummadi CHS
Asher Lawson Redlands



Congratulations State Qualifiers!



STATE QUALIFIERS OF REDLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

CATHERINE DUAN
MARTINA DANIEL
EDEN LAWSON
TRISTAN PHILIP
ZAID HINTZMAN
TAYSEER HILO
CAT-MINH HUYNH
ETHAN DRISCOLL
HAMZAH BASHIR

RISHI SREEDHAR
THIANA AKLIKOKOU
LAURA NORONHA
MATHIAS QUILON
KEONA WINKLER
NIDHI KEJRIWAL
DEREK SANTAMARIA
HUGH COCKERAM
SIDARTH KULKARNI

RENEH SHAMMO
ROSHAN RAJESH
MCKINLEY DURHAM
MICHELLE CLARK
SHANTANU SINHA
PRANAV MADABHUSHI
ANAGHA SATISH
TASNIM KAZI
ASHER LAWSON

Congratulations!



Congratulations Priscilla Valdez and Emily Yepez!

These two fabulous ladies were headed to the CHSSA State Tournament in Public Forum. They were the first to ever qualify from IPoly High School. Although they are unable to compete due to the current circumstances, I am so proud of them and can't wait to see what they can do next year!

Whitney Schiller
Coach, IPoly High School

Los Osos High School *Speech & Debate*



These awesome people were our team's qualifiers to the CHSSA State Championship. Although they missed the opportunity to compete at State this year due to the extraordinary circumstances, all of these kids will still be on our team next year!

Shannie Farren-Stroud - Presiding Officer

Rohan Chowdhury - - - -Student Congress

Audrey Nguyen - - - - -Original Advocacy

Ronnie Hafez - - - - -International Extemp

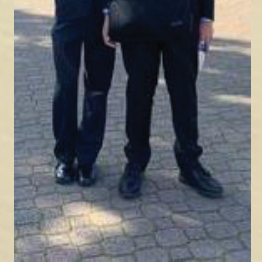
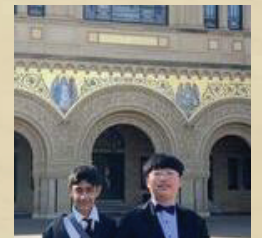
Gina Park - - - - -International Extemp

Joseph Opp - - - - -National Extemp

Joseph Opp - - - - -Lincoln Douglas

Rachel Bahk

& Grace Jang - - - - -Public Forum



WE WILL BE BACK!



A letter from Los Osos High School student, Joseph B. Opp

Speech and Debate is a diverse emotional concoction; a rapid, roller coaster of an experience. It can at once be exhilarating, wild, and euphoric and then disappointing, sobering, and humbling. The drive to a tournament, with all of its unspoken rituals, can be thick with both anxiety and excitement. The tournament itself is often energizing and exhausting in equal measure. We all, regardless of our differences, have walked wearily back into our homes after a long day of competition and realized in that moment just how overwhelmingly exhausted we are. We've all felt the primal joy of breaking at an all-important tournament. We've all had the serene experience of walking a campus at night, having come out of a round that inevitably ran late. These experiences and countless, individual, others are what make debate the centerpiece of our high school memories.

Each year brings new challenges, experiences, and opportunities. This year was no different. This year has seen new bonds of friendship, old bonds strengthened, and the continual pleasure of braving the tempest of tournament after tournament. The doldrums between rounds and the post-tournament exhaustion, the trophy clutching pride and the pre-debate anxiety are all now tinged with melancholy. The season wasn't over, we were hotly anticipating the pleasure of

debating with our teams again, of catching up with opponents that have become dear friends, of delivering moving speeches, of that supreme act of creative expression that manifests in the heat of the speech. These were things to look forward to. But, for our own safety and the safety of others, the season had to be cut short. It's a decision I commend, it was necessary and precautionary. But it remains disappointing.

A friend once told me that we of Speech and Debate "wield words like swords or paint brushes." Seniors, take pride in that legacy. Take pride in these memories, and push onward with the skills you've accrued. Those of us who will be back next year: look forward, with an excited ambition, to what's in store. It will overwhelm whatever sadness you feel now. Speech and Debate is a united community of intellectuals, artists, rhetoricians, actors, dramatists, writers, orators, and every possible combination of these. We prove our strength with frequency, weekend after weekend. We will prove it again, and emerge from this crisis stronger than ever before.

Joseph B. Opp



Coached By: Mr. David Chamberlain,
Ms. Rachel Wear, Mr. Aaron Nichols,
Mr. Michael Daugherty & Ms. Brittany Berg



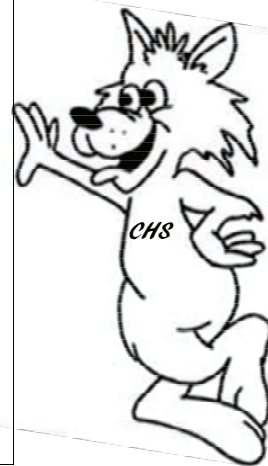
Congratulations

C.H.S.S.A. State Qualifiers

Representing

Claremont High School

1601 N. Indian Hill Blvd. Claremont, CA



Missy Glover '20
Edward Rumbos-Perez '20
Alex Abarca '20
Alex Walburg '20
Angelo Thomas '20
Jannelle Liu '20
Chaerim Kang '20
Ireh Kim '20
Siddarth Gummadi '20
Enzo Panem '20
Eli Kupitz '20
Ruby Berke '20
Claire Judson '21
Kamran Sheriff '21
Charlie Warren '21
Charlie Abbott '21
Gordon Krauss '21

Congress, Imp*, IX & Policy
Parli*, PO* & NX
IX & NX
Parli* & IX*
NX & Imp
PF & OA
PF
OA
HI & Policy*
Congress
OO & OI
Imp
DI
LD*
Parli & Expos*
Congress & Policy*
LD & OPP*

Ashley Park '21
Benjamin Huang '21
Sarah Pino '21
Mohammad Maarouf '21
Michael Judson '21
Kyle Marshall '21
Maya Garcia '21
Zack Kreines '21
Sherry Xiao '22
Anthony Rumbos '22
Mercer Weis '22
Rohan Shivaram '22
Simon Nasser '22
Hyun Cho '22
Addison Walburg '23
Bridget Brodie '23
David Zhang '23

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Also Bargain Belt Invitational on October 17, 2020 & Wolfcub/Big Wave Dave on April 17, 2021!

A letter from Los Osos High School student, Joshua Bahk

On the day of September 14th, my debate career began through the medium of student congress. Little did I know that later that year, I would qualify to the state tournament in that very event. And even less did I know that later that year, the CHSSA state tournament would be canceled (just like Youtuber James Charles). Nonetheless, my first year doing debate has been a positive one. Although winning massive, shiny trophies was always a great experience, what was far more valuable were the life skills I learned and the many friends I made along the way. Tournament after tournament, we laughed, we cried, we slept, we sighed.

Throughout it all, the memories and experiences my fellow teammates and I had were priceless. Although I'm sad that the debate season has been cut short, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to do debate in the first place. Many schools in our district do not have people like our coach Mr. Pielstick to offer them a debate program. My one wish is that more students will be given the opportunity to participate in this great event. That more students will be able to have the same great experiences that I had.

Joshua Bahk





The #ISDDifference is going online!



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June 27 - July 10

Session 2

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To the California Speech & Debate Community,

We hope this message finds you and your family and friends safe and healthy during these difficult times. There is no doubt this is not the spring any of us expected. This time of year is usually one of celebration and appreciation – not only within our community, but for our seniors, the Class of 2020, as the end their high school chapters and look to their next adventure in their educational or professional journey.

Yet, the coronavirus outbreak and the challenges that have come with it place us in an uncertain and troubling period. Around the world, governments are struggling to contain the outbreak. Many, if not all of us, know friends or family who have already been impacted by this virus and in the coming weeks, that number will surely grow. Our first responders and medical professionals are on the front lines – providing the best medical care they can with limited resources. Beyond that, our economy faces unprecedented challenges, with still many more experiencing great hardships.

At times like this, it is ok to feel whatever you are feeling. This is not a normal time. It is hard to predict what will happen tomorrow, or next week, or next month. That level of uncertainty is never easy. Here is what we do know though: the speech & community is resilient, and we will get through this, together.

It is said that necessity is the mother of innovation – and our we are seeing that play out in the speech & debate community right before our eyes. Tournaments, coaches, parents, judges, and students are innovating daily to create speech & debate opportunities for thousands of young people around the country and the world. Just recently, the Tournament of Champions occurred online and later this summer, the NSDA National Tournament will do the same. These tournaments are not perfect and there are certainly barriers that still exist, but it is wonderful to watch our community join together to make the best of a bad situation and create a platform for students to use their voices and share their stories.

At ISD, we have been forced to innovate as well. The future of our in-person institutes for 2020 is still unresolved, but by launching ISD: Online we know for sure that no matter what happens between now and this summer, hundreds of students will be welcomed into the ISD Family and we are excited to share the #ISDDifference with them.

One quality that has always set ISD apart is that a professional educator leads every lab. That is more important than ever as we plan for ISD: Online. Our senior instructors are experienced with remote instruction and are spending hundreds of hours with their own students in online settings as schools have closed for the remainder of the school year. Our faculty will bring that expertise with them to ISD: Online and ensure each student receives the high-quality individualized instruction you have come to expect from ISD in every event.

We're not sure where we will be in a month or six months' time, but what we do know is that our speech & debate community is strong and we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. At a time like this, it gives us hope to know that the young people in this activity are empowered to use their voices and share their stories. You will be ready to lead our world as we tackle whatever challenges lie ahead. From our ISD Family to yours, we wish you well and hope you remain safe and healthy.

See you soon,

Jason Kline, Jonathan Peele, and Chase Williams
The ISD Directors

Apart but never alone; we are in this together.

