



Newsletter

Inside: Theatre Results | Debate Results | Expanding Debate | Middle Level Reminders | National Initiatives

Speech Checklist



- ✓ Jan. 2-14: Log into your SpeechWire account to make sure it's active. You may **update your roster** of students (these are just the students you could potentially register in contests).
- ✓ Wed., Jan. 15 (4pm): In SpeechWire, **book a time slot for State Speech**. Also begin **entering students in categories** (considered official registration for subdistrict).
- ✓ Be sure you **have enough certified adjudicators** for the season: generally 1 per 5 entries or *fraction thereof* (7 entries = 2 adjudicators). Enter adjudicators with registration.
- ✓ **Communicate all rules changes** to students and adjudicators (see right; p. 2, *Speech Handbook*; whsfa.org/speech-categories-topics).
- ✓ You will login to **confirm registration** before **District** and before **State**.

Instructions/buttons will be available at: whsfa.org/speech-contests.

Hosting a subdistrict?

See whsfa.org/speech-festival-managers and watch your inbox in January for more information.

Speech Changes/Reminders



Increase in Speech State Qualification Scores

An entry must earn at least two scores of **21** at the District Festival.



Worked Cited Rules Clarified

(See p. 2, *Speech Handbook* and whsfa.org/speech-categories-topics)



Squad Limit Increased

Schools may bring up to **30** entries; individual category limits still apply.



Nominate Colleagues

Give recognition they deserve! whsfa.org/educator-awards



State Speech School Awards Expanded

A new award for schools performing in the top 6-10% at State Speech will be awarded!



Dressing Alike in Group Categories

Remind adjudicators: matching attire by group members is **NOT** considered costuming.

What's in a word? Don't confuse "forensics" for "speech."

Speech: winter/spring season with speaking and interp. categories.

Forensics: all activities WHSFA sponsors (Debate, Theatre, Film, Speech).

Adjudicator Training

Be sure to recruit potential new adjudicators early, and have them enroll in the online course. They must complete 2 hours of content online before they will be allowed to register for a 3-hour, in-person workshop.

Milwaukee Theatre Debut

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee hosted the Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival (WHSTF) for its first time, bringing access to the more inner-city schools and students, Nov. 21-23.



▲ Students from J.I. Case lead an engaging workshop.
▼ Pulaski shows off their success.



A year ago, WHSFA took over full operation of festival programming, this year, adding showcases: Whitefish Bay's *All My Sons* and Reedsburg's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. More than 30 vendors exhibited, 39 schools performed one-acts, and 21 non-one-act schools came, for a total of 1,700+ students, plus another 100+ adults. Fourteen schools earned the esteemed *Critic's Choice* award:

School	Show	Director
Appleton North HS	<i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i>	Ron Parker
Badger HS	<i>The Amazing Angelman</i>	Andrew Stoltenberg
Bradford HS	<i>Violet</i>	Holly Stanfield
Gibraltar HS	<i>Theory of Relativity Musical</i>	Lizbeth Thomas
Homestead HS	<i>Tartuffe</i>	Amelia Figg-Franzoi
Indian Trail HS	<i>Brilliant Traces</i>	Robert Allen
Kettle Moraine HS	<i>The Brown Felt Hat</i>	Abigail Kean
Mosinee HS	<i>A Game</i>	Gary Sislo
Northwestern HS	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Michael Goodlet
Owen-Withee	<i>The 146 Point Flame</i>	Jeffer Scheuer
Pulaski HS	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Amy Tubbs
Waterford Union HS	<i>The Wrestling Season</i>	Leigh Birmingham
Waukesha West HS	<i>Proof</i>	Nathan Berish
Waunakee HS	<i>The Whole Shebang</i>	Rick Braun

Theatre Educator Conference



AWTE invites one-act directors to participate in their Conference, **Friday, September 18, 2020** at **Wisconsin Lutheran College**.

Some directors earmark performance revenue to cover substitute teachers

and mileage to the conference. Visit awte.net for more details, and for a letter from the DPI, advocating for professional development.

State One-Act Play Database

Thanks to Rick Braun from Waunakee HS, we have an updated and online-searchable database: bit.ly/oneactdatabase

Additionally, 16 Directing, 31 Ensemble, 13 Crew, and 68 Acting awards were earned. Ten students earned superior ratings in the Thespian Excellence Awards, earning qualification to the International Thespian Festival at Indiana University Bloomington. Finally, Dominican, Neenah, and DeForest were top-performing schools in the Tech Challenge (formerly, Tech Olympics). Full results are available: wisconsintheatrefest.org.

Next year, the festival is looking to add auditions and tech interviews with university representatives, along with an all-state cast musical, managed by Wisconsin Thespians, to serve as one of the showcase productions.

This spring, the WHSFA Theatre Advisory Committee will review feedback from the season as it continues to address and refine the evaluation/adjudication process to make it more meaningfully educational.

WHSFA Debate Contest

In partnership with the 21st Century Debate Association, WHSFA held its annual debate contest at Hortonville HS on December 14, 2019. With smaller attendance, a round robin format was used, and two teams emerged as the champion and finalist teams, respectively: Cedarburg's Kelsi Casey and Andrew Minerva, and Hortonville's Hailey Levantz and Jayme Olson. Placing third was Hortonville's Natalie Gatien and Madi Ross.



WHSFA Debate Advisor Kay Neal is coordinating an effort to recognize legends in WHSFA debate history to recommend an inaugural WHSFA Hall of Fame class in Debate. If you have names you'd like to recommend, please email neal@uwosh.edu.

Expanding Debate

WHSFA is considering various options to expand debate, including holding its annual open contest adjacent or concurrent with the State Speech Festival in April at UW-Madison.

Executive Director Adam Jacobi and his husband, Dr. J. Scott Baker (former speech/debate coach), are presenting on using debate in the classroom (and interscholastically) at the [Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies conference](#), March 15-16, 2020, in Madison.



Planning your school's prom, or reserving buses? The **Five Year Calendar** on our



website includes ACT Test dates, state dates, and windows for regional dates (check with your district/sectional chair for specific qualifying festival dates). Check it out at: whsfa.org/calendar.

Advertisement - Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English

Why I joined WCTE



I joined WCTE to build collaborative relationships with other English teachers. ~Miranda Moody



WCTE allows us to come together, share ideas and continually improve our field. ~Stephane Rau



WCTE supports English teachers with innovative best practice strategies. ~Shannon Venegas



I am a member of WCTE to help me gather new ideas and to keep my instruction fresh. ~Phillip Scheviak



WCTE lets me learn from others to grow my practice and empower my students. ~Amy Anti-Runnells



Nov. 2019 Twitter [#WCTEchat](#) was on **Speech and Communication in the English Classroom**. Search [#WCTEchat](#) on Twitter for great ideas.

Dec. 23, 8pm is the next [#WCTEchat](#) on what to read over the winter break.

Join us. We make each other better.

[Learn more >>](#)

Middle Level Reminders



Sample Presentations

New coaches/adjudicators could use sample presentation videos. Contact adam@whsfa.org if you have 9th/10th graders who were former middle level participants and are willing to be recorded!



Holding a Festival?

Reserve a Date on the *Middle Level Contests* webpage. About 2-3 weeks prior to your festival, **Request Materials** (if you're using SpeechWire, this can easily be done within your contest management area).



Document Participation

If you hold a private (invitation-only) festival (due to space), please still complete festival forms on the *Middle Level Contests* webpage so we can track participation numbers. This helps us promote middle level Speech across the state!



Middle Level Survey

Help us serve you better!
Complete our survey:

bit.ly/MLsurvey2019



Attending a festival using SpeechWire to collect registration, schedule rounds, and tabulate results? **Coaches of both middle and high school programs should use the same email address/account** in SpeechWire for both. Simply input middle school students' *high school graduation year* in your overall team roster.

WHSFA provides SpeechWire for **free** for any official high school subdistrict, or district; and any middle Level 1 or Level 2 festival. WHSFA offers a free online course to orient hosts/managers on how to use SpeechWire.

National Initiatives

Efforts contributed by Executive Director Adam Jacobi as a member of the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) Board of Directors:

- National committee of educators to determine **pedagogy underlying categories**, with an objective of aligning these to evaluation criteria.
- Group reviewing **learning standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy** as delineated by the National Communication Association.
- Working group to recommend **teaching/coaching standards** for speech and debate educators/coaches.
- Committee to draft and recommend an **equity statement**.

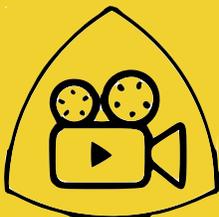
Adam will share perspectives learned from these efforts with WHSFA board and committee members.



NATIONAL
**SPEECH
AND
DEBATE**
EDUCATION DAY

March 6, 2020

speechanddebate.org/national-speech-debate-education-day/



Film Efforts Continue

The Film Festival steering committee meets in January to discuss standards and approaches for implementing the WHSFA's newest contest series in 2020-21. There's still time to get involved; email adam@whsfa.org.