



Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association

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Building confidence since 1895
(920) 710-1895 | www.wisdaa.org

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State Speech Contest Announces Students Earning Consecutive Awards

LA CROSSE, Wis. – Thirteen Wisconsin high school seniors earned the highest individual recognition – for each year they participated in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association **State Speech Festival**. This year, more than 3,050 students from 300 high schools participated.

Adjudicators rate each student or performing group. An elite number of students earn the contest's top score and honor of *Critic's Choice* – a **gold medal** – multiple times during high school career. This year's students earned the top score at the 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 contests. Those honorees are (sorted by school, alphabetically):

Sylvia VanDenPlas, Bay Port HS
Sydney Weber, Darlington HS
Jaidyn Evenstad, Darlington HS
Miriam Goldwasser, Fennimore HS
Jayden Ballard, Iowa-Grant HS
Meagan Cullen, Iowa-Grant HS
Berkley McInnis, Neenah HS
Daniel DuVernay, St. Mary Catholic HS
Claire Farnham, Superior HS
Portia Grade, Waunakee HS
Sean Hughes, Waunakee HS
Hanna Finer, Wrightstown HS
Audrey Schaumberg, Wrightstown HS

“Students in our academic sport practice long hours to hone their skills and meet the expectations upon which they will be evaluated,” said WISDAA Executive Director Adam Jacobi. “These young people have consistently earned our highest score and gold medal, and have done so during one of the most challenging times in generations. We honor these resilient young people as they prepare for their future beyond high school.”

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About the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association

Founded in 1895, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech & Dramatic Arts Association (WISDAA) has provided programming for middle and students in theatre, debate, and public speaking (archaically called “forensics”) activities. Each year, our nonprofit organization serves about 10,000 Wisconsin students from 375 high schools, and 150 middle schools in the longest-running high school speech contests in the nation. Our aim is to empower students to enhance their skills in presentation through interscholastic assessment. For more information, visit www.wisdaa.org.

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