

Gulf Breeze High School Speech and Debate Team Information 2022-2023

Students involved in competitive speech and debate improve their oral communication skills, critical thinking skills, organizational skills, research skills, writing skills, evidence-based argumentation, and their capacity to think quickly. Among extracurricular activities, colleges list debate participation as one of the most valuable high school activities!

At GBHS, only debate team members will be enrolled in the debate class. Members of the team will participate in interscholastic individual or team debating or individual speaking events. Debate events include: Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Congressional Debate. Individual speaking events include: limited preparation events such as impromptu and extemporaneous speaking, platform speaking events such as original oratory and informational, and oral interpretation events such as dramatic, humorous, duo interpretation, and program oral interpretation.

Team members compete in the following tournaments:

October/November - GBHS Emerald Coast Invitational @ GBHS

October - Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament, **Gainesville, FL**

December - Isidore Newman Tournament, **New Orleans, LA**

February - State Qualifier, Niceville

March - State Tournament *for those that qualify* (usually Central Florida)

*tournaments and dates are subject to change

IMPORTANT – There are limited spots available on the team. Students must tryout and submit information requested on the application. Debate is a time-intensive activity that will require travel and expenses. **Students will be expected to compete in the above tournaments. It is important to note the time and financial commitments involved in the debate program.** In order to offset the costs of league fees, brief fees, tournament fees, travel (bus, hotel), judge fees, etc., it is important that families join the Dolphin Barristers Club (our support organization) and make a \$250 dues payment at the beginning of the year to help cover their fair share of expenses. Additionally, away tournaments require the payment of costs to cover the trip (usually \$150 per trip). The Barristers Club heavily subsidizes tournaments which on average cost the team \$9,000. However, the team cannot compete without the payment of fees by members. Team scholarships are available (contact Mrs. De Valcourt to apply). Further, the team relies on parent volunteers to help at tournaments. Families are expected to help with 2 tournaments (usually they will be judging events – we will provide training!).

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I have read the above GBHS Debate Team Information and understand the time and financial aspects of the team.

Parent Name

Student Name

Parent signature

Date

NOTE: In order to try out for the Speech and Debate Team, you must do the following:

1. **APPLICATION AND PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Fill out the application below and have your parent read and sign the Parent Acknowledgement. Turn this page in to **Mrs. De Valcourt in Room 544 by April 13th 3:45 p.m.**
2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Have your current English teacher and another teacher of your choice fill out the attached teacher recommendations. Your teachers will return them to me.
3. **TRY OUT:**
 - A. Sign up for a tryout time slot the day you turn in your application (in person or by email devalcourtm@santarosa.k12.fl.us). Tryouts will take place in **Room 544 Monday - Thursday April 20-22 from 3:45 - 4:30.**
 - B. Perform a 1-2 minute speech on a topic of your choosing. Be prepared to answer questions about your topic.
4. **BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE CLASS:** Debate students must register to take Debate 1 as an elective (satisfies Fine Arts credit).

Gulf Breeze High School Speech and Debate Team 2022-2023 Application

Student Name: _____ Grade next year: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Student or Parent Email: _____

1. List your current extracurricular activities:

2. List all possible extracurricular activities for next year (include all you are planning to try out for):

3. Why do you want to be a part of Speech and Debate? What do you think you can add to the team?

(You may attach a typed response.)

Gulf Breeze High School Speech and Debate - English Teacher Recommendation

Student Name: _____

Dear teacher,

Thank you for taking the time to work on this recommendation. Please fill out this form to the best of your knowledge and be as candid as possible. We would appreciate any additional comments or insight into the student. **This is confidential.** When completed, please return it to Mrs. De Valcourt's mailbox at GBHS. If you are a middle school teacher, please email me a screen shot or scanned copy of this form. devalcourtm@santarosa.k12.fl.us

High School Speech and Debate is demanding and can be intense. Candidates should be ethical, responsible, and have strong work habits.

Please evaluate the student on the following:

1. Public Speaking Skills

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

2. Writing ability

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

3. Work habits

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

4. Citizenship/Academic Integrity

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

5. Anything else you think will help us make a decision?

Teacher Printed Name: _____

Subject Area/School: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____

Gulf Breeze High School Speech and Debate - Teacher Recommendation

Student Name: _____

Dear teacher,

Thank you for taking the time to work on this recommendation. Please fill out this form to the best of your knowledge and be as candid as possible. We would appreciate any additional comments or insight into the student. **This is confidential.** When completed, please return it to Mrs. De Valcourt's mailbox at GBHS. If you are a middle school teacher, please email me a screen shot or scanned copy of this form. devalcourtm@santarosa.k12.fl.us

High School Speech and Debate is demanding and can be intense. Candidates should be ethical, responsible, and have strong work habits.

Please evaluate the student on the following:

1. Communication Skills.

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

2. Work habits

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

3. Citizenship/Academic Integrity

Weak 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

4. Anything else you think will help us make a decision?

Teacher Printed Name: _____

Subject Area/School: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____