

Welcome

Dear Debate Coach,

The Blake School Debate Team is honored to extend to your school an invitation to attend the 53rd Annual John Edie Holiday Debate Tournament, December 18-20, 2015. We are looking forward to an extremely competitive pool in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional Debate and World Schools. New in 2015 is a Extemporaneous Speaking division!! We are pleased to announce that **Tournament of Champions bids will be awarded to the octofinalists in Policy and Public Forum and quarterfinalists in Lincoln-Douglas and the top six in Congressional Debate.** All debate rounds will be held at the tournament hotel, the Hyatt Regency, located in downtown Minneapolis. Most of the preliminary rounds will take place in hotel rooms. The rooms used for rounds will not be rooms that people stay in overnight.

We are pleased to offer the 8th Annual Blake School Twin Cities Public Forum Round Robin. This round robin will invite several of the finest public forum teams in the country to compete. As in past years, we will run this event on Sunday following the regular public forum division tournament. We plan to use some of our best Hyatt meeting rooms and provide 2-3 judges per round. Our goal is to invite community members from the Twin Cities to provide a diverse judge pool and highlight the activity of debate to all of the Twin Cities. The goal for this event is great competition and high visibility. We will use the NFL January 2016 Public Forum Topic.

We will also host the 5th Annual Blake School Congressional Debate Round Robin on Sunday. By invitation, twelve excellent congressional debaters and their coaches will face a challenging format of committee hearing, debate, and a crisis simulation.

We sincerely hope that you and your teams will be able to join us this year. Add to your tournament experience a visit to the Mall of America and some of our finest downtown dining establishments. 2015 welcomes the Holidazzle Village, an exciting new twist to the event. Minnesota may be cold in December but we hope to keep you warm with a variety of activities. The tournament staff will be more than happy to make suggestions for good food and fun experiences while you are in town.

We hope that we can provide you with an enjoyable tournament experience. Everyone should expect the same great tournament this year at Blake. Your questions can be answered by calling Shane Stafford at 952-988-3747 or my cell phone 612-385-1796. You can reach me by email at sstafford@blakeschool.org

Sincerely,

The Blake School Debate Directors and Coaches

Shane Stafford – Tom Pacheco

Reka Fink - Donnie Grasse – Kevon Haughton

Michael McGrath - Alex McVey – Jordan Simundson

Christian Vasquez - Saloni Singhvi - Hannah Stafford

General Information

DATES:

December 18-20, 2015

LOCATION:

All Policy, LD, Public Forum, World Schools, Congressional Debate and Extemp rounds are held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel located at 1300 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis.

DIVISION INFORMATION:

Six divisions will be offered: Varsity Policy, Varsity Public Forum, Varsity Lincoln-Douglas, World Schools Debate, Varsity Congressional Debate and Extemporaneous speaking.

- In policy, the national topic on Surveillance will be used.
- **In Lincoln-Douglas, the national January-February 2016 topic will be used.**
- **In Public Forum, the national January 2016 topic** will be used.

You may enter a **maximum** of **six entries** in any division.

- If you are entering World Schools division, email me if you are entering more than two teams.
- We can often go above these limits; please contact Shane if you need additional entries beyond our entry limits.

Scheduling Issues:

- Octofinals of policy and LD will be held on Sunday.
- In policy, there will be seven preliminary rounds and a break to double octofinal following round seven.
- Lincoln-Douglas will break to partial-triples after round six, advancing all 4-2 LD students. In LD we will not go beyond a full triple.
- In Public Forum and Congressional Debate we will announce an appropriate number of eliminations rounds as entries come in.
- In policy, the first two rounds we will preset randomly using an A-B format.
- In LD and Public forum, the first two rounds will be preset randomly.
- Remaining rounds in all divisions will be powered high-low within brackets.
- **Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum will be flighted** through the preliminary rounds.
- Depending on the number of entries in each division, the above schedule is subject to change.

- Speech time in policy will be 8-3-5 with 10 minutes prep time. Time limits in Lincoln-Douglas will be 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 with 5 minutes prep time. Public Forum will use the NSDA time rules with 4 minutes prep, and will observe a coin toss.

ROUND ROBIN APPLICATIONS:

The tournament will make the final decision on invitations to the Congress and Public Forum Round Robins. If you would like to be considered for either the Congress or the Public Forum round robins, you can send information to Shane Stafford. Records from last year and this year would be appropriate information to submit.

CRITICAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

- Our new contract with the Hyatt provides free internet in all sleeping rooms.
- An outstanding coach award is presented each year. Please consider an appropriate nomination. Forms for this will be available at registration.
- All debates are open to any observers – they may watch and flow.
- We encourage disclosure of decisions and discussion of all debates within the constraints of keeping the tournament on schedule.
- Low point wins will be allowed.
- Maverick policy and public forum debaters will be allowed to win but will receive a maximum of 30 speaker points and will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds. Mavericks should only occur as a result of last minute sickness or other emergencies.
- No independent entries will be allowed. My definition of independent is when your school does NOT want to approve your representing that school. We need approval from your school. We will ask that all schools provide documentation from a school administrator that the students have permission to compete in the tournament.
- Hybrid rules – No Hybrid teams, you must attend the same school. The one exception to this rule is if your state organization recognizes the combination of two schools in debate then the coach can contact me. The example is the Walter Panas – Lakeland example. Don't assume you can compete unless you talk to me first.
- In Policy Debate and Lincoln Douglas – We will have a goal of strike cards for quarters and semi-finals.
- All panels will be constructed to maximize the participation of people of color and women. There may be a panel of three white males that gives the teams a panel rank of 3, but the tab room will preference a panel of a higher rank total if it is able to maximize diversity on the panel. The tab will seek to provide a close to mutual preference panel that represents diversity.
- Final round judge panels for all events will be preset by the tournament from a combination of hired judges, Blake coaches and local judges who I know will still be here for finals. The final round panels will be constructed seeking a diverse set of peoples and views on debate.

- Judge Preferences – we will use MJP for policy and LD debate. All varsity judges are required to post their judge philosophies on the wiki by December 1st (5pm CST); the judge philosophy wiki can be found at <http://judgephilosophies.wikispaces.com/>. Public Forum will get three strikes from the judge pool.
- We will institute a “entourage” rule with all team coaches contributing 2 rounds to the judge pool. This rule means that if you are at the tournament and a coach of the school, you should contribute two rounds of judging even if this means the school is contributing more than their minimum requirement. The “entourage rule” applies to all divisions.

Judging

JUDGING:

One judge must be provided for one or two policy teams. Two judges are required for three or four policy entries. A half-time judge will be obligated to judge 4 rounds. Public forum will require one judge for every three teams, or fraction thereof. Because of flighting in Lincoln-Douglas, you will need to bring one judge for every three LD debaters, or fraction thereof. Congressional Debate will need one judge for every six entries or fraction thereof.

JUDGES are obligated one round past the elimination of their team and thru the first full elimination round. So Doubles in policy, Doubles in LD and Doubles in Public Forum.

We will have a **limited** number of judges available for hire at \$300.

If a judge fails to pick up their ballot at the tournament. There will be a \$50 per judge per round missed.

All judges must have a tabroom.com account and be able to enter an electronic ballot while at the tournament.

Registration and Fees

Registration will be available between 7:00 to 11:00 PM on Thursday, December 17th. We will provide a phone option for registration of local teams on Thursday night.

All entries will be automatically placed on a waiting list. Once the tournament director receives your fees or a copy of your submitted purchase order your entries will be removed from the waiting list and entered into the tournament.

2015 Fees

- Policy Debate \$120/team
- LD \$70/team
- Public Forum \$70/team
- World Schools Championship Debate \$100/team
- Congressional Debate \$25/entry
- Extemp Speaking \$25/entry
- Public Forum Round Robin \$175/team
- Congressional Round Robin \$130/entry
- School Fee \$40

A limited number of hired judges are available for hire, at the cost of \$300 per judge. Please email your intention of using a hired judge.

A hotel fee of \$100 will be added to each school's set of fees. If you stay at the tournament hotel I will remove that fee.

If a judge misses a round there will be a \$50 fee per judge per round missed.

REGISTRATION AND FEES DEADLINES: We are required to pay for the rooms that are used at the hotel for the actual rounds. Because we have to pay for the rooms, it is important that we know the number of teams you are entering as early as possible. After 5PM EST on Monday, December 7th, registration will close. I will take late registrations if we have room. Fees will be final after 5PM EST on December 7th, 2015. All fees must be paid no later than tournament registration. Any team whose fees are not paid at that time will not be allowed to debate.

Please send fees, in the form of a check (payable to The Blake School) to:

Shane Stafford
Blake Speech and Debate
511 Kenwood Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Hotel Information

The Hyatt Regency has offered a special rate of \$115 for 1-4 persons in a room. Their normal room is three times the special rate offered during the tournament. Rates are extended several nights before and after the tournament if you want to stay in town and do some last minute holiday shopping at the Mall of America.

To make your reservations at the Hyatt, call (612) 370-1234. Identify yourself as being part of the Blake School Holiday Debate Tournament. We have a limited number of rooms reserved so make your reservations early. Rooms at the \$115 rate are only guaranteed until Monday December 1. It is important to make your reservations as early as possible.

Below is the online link for guests to make their sleeping room reservations directly on-line.

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/Blake2015Debate>

The parking ramp adjacent to the Hyatt is city owned and is expensive. It cannot accommodate large vans or buses. If you want cheaper parking or have a large van, there is a parking lot a block from the hotel that has better rates.

Policy Debate

2015 Policy Debate Schedule

December 17, 2015 (THURSDAY)

7:00 – 11:00 Registration Available (Outside Mirage Room near Skyway A/B on 2nd Floor)

December 18, 2015 (FRIDAY)

7:30 Release Pairings – online Tabroom.com
8:30 Round 1–Policy
11:00 Round 2–Policy
2:00 Round 3–Policy
5:00 Round 4–Policy
9:00 Coach and Judge Reception

December 19, 2015 (SATURDAY)

7:00 Pairings released
8:00 Round 5–Policy
11:00 Round 6–Policy
2:00 Round 7–Policy
5:00 Awards (approx. time we are usually close)
6:30 Double Octofinals–Policy

December 20, 2015 (SUNDAY)

Elimination rounds - Emory tutorial style
8:00 Octofinals
11:00 Quarterfinals
2:00 Semifinals
5:00 Finals

Lincoln Douglas Debate

2015 Lincoln Douglas Debate Schedule

December 17, 2015 (THURSDAY)

7:00 - 11:00 Registration Available (Outside Mirage Room near Skyway A/B on 2nd Floor)

December 18, 2015 (FRIDAY)

7:30 Release Pairings – Online Tabroom.com
8:30 Round 1 - LD
11:00 Round 2 - LD
2:00 Round 3 - LD
5:00 Round 4 - LD
9:00 Coach and Judge Reception

December 19, 2015 (SATURDAY)

7:00 Pairings Released
8:00 Round 5 - LD
11:00 Round 6 - LD
2:00 Triples (Partial) - LD
5:00 Awards (approx. time we are usually close)
6:30 Double Octofinals - LD

December 20, 2015 (Sunday)

Elimination rounds - Emory tutorial style
8:00 Octofinals - LD (flighted)
11:00 Quarters - LD (non-flighted)
1:00 Semifinals - LD (non-flighted)
3:00 Finals - LD

Public Forum Debate

2015 Public Forum Debate Schedule

December 17, 2015 (Thursday)

7 - 11 PM Registration Available (Outside Mirage Room near Skyway A/B on 2nd Floor)

December 18, 2015 (Friday)

7:30 Release Pairings – online Tabroom.com
8:30 Round 1 - Public Forum
11:00 Round 2 - Public Forum
2:00 Round 3 - Public Forum
5:00 Round 4 - Public Forum
9:00 Coach and Judge Reception

December 19, 2015 (Saturday)

7:30 Pairings released
8:00 Round 5 - Public Forum
11:00 Round 6 - Public Forum
12:30 Elimination rounds will begin and finish Saturday night
 (all 4-2 records will clear. Judges are obligated thru the first FULL
elim round)
5:00 Awards Assembly
6:30 Elimination rounds continue

World Schools Debate Championship (WSDC)

The WSDC format is comprised of 3-person teams. During each round, each team will compete against another 3-person team from a different school. If the team is from the United States, they must represent the school for which they are currently enrolled, have principal approval to travel and compete as part of the school's official debate team and have an adult chaperone present at the tournament. If the team is international or represents Team USA, then all competitors for a team must be enrolled in high school (or an equivalent institution in their country of origin) and must have an adult chaperone/coach (at least 18 years of age and graduated from high/secondary school). This division may be limited in size so enter soon. We will start out with a cap of 20 teams but may adjust that depending on interest.

There will be a diversity of prepared and impromptu motions. These motions will be released by October 15th so that participants have ample time to prepare for the competition.

Also, instructional videos that you might find helpful in preparation can be found at <http://debate.uvm.edu/wsdcvideo.html>.

The schedule below is very tentative – I am still seeking advice. But this represents the general goals of the tournament. Additionally, we will be providing impromptu and pre-prepared motions which will be released soon.

2015 WSDC Debate Schedule

December 17, 2015 (Thursday)

7 - 11 PM Early Registration Available (Outside Mirage Room near Skyway A/B on 2nd Floor)

December 18, 2015 (Friday)

8:00 For teams that arrive Thursday evening – we will design some practice rounds of competition depending on interest during the day Friday
5:00 Late Registration for WSDC Tournament
9:00 Coach and Judge Reception

December 19, 2015 (Saturday)

7:30	Pairings released
8:00	Round 1
10:00	Round 2
1:00	Round 3
3:00	Round 4
6:00	Round 5

December 20, 2015 (Sunday)

Elimination rounds

8:00	Quarter-finals (if size of field is large enough)
10:30	Semi-finals
1:00	Finals

Congressional Debate

2015 Congressional Debate Information & Schedule

Legislation: Each participating school may submit up to two bills and/or resolutions by **5:00 p.m. CST, December 1, 2015** to blakelegislation@gmail.com, using the official templates formatted per NFL regulations (see <http://congressionaldebate.org>). Tournament staff will review legislation for pertinent, controversial and researchable issues, and post a docket to this page by December 4, 2015 (sooner if possible). Legislation characterized by seriousness of purpose is most likely to be selected, and to that end, delegates are reminded that **bills** allow for deeper debate, since they establish the mechanisms by which a proposed law will be enacted.

December 17, 2015 (THURSDAY)

7:00 – 11:00 Registration Available (Outside Mirage Room near Skyway
A/B on 2nd Floor)

December 18, 2015 (FRIDAY)

9-9:30 Opening Meeting
9:45-12:00 Session 1
1:00 – 3:15 Session 2
3 :30 – 5:45 Session 3
9:00 Coach and Judge Reception

December 19, 2015 (SATURDAY)

8:00 - 10:15 Session 4
12:30 – 4:00 Finals, Lakeshore A
5:00 Awards

Public Forum Round Robin

THE BLAKE SCHOOL 8th Annual Twin Cities Public Forum Round Robin 2015 Schedule

December 20, 2015 (Sunday)

8:00 – 8:30	Opening Meeting
8:30 - 9:30	Round 1
9:30 - 10:30	Round 2
10:30 - 11:30	Round 3
11:30 - 12:30	Round 4
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30	Round 5
3:00 - 4:00	Semi-Finals
4:00 - 5:00	Finals
5:15	Awards

Congressional Round Robin

THE BLAKE SCHOOL 5th Annual 2015 Congressional Debate Round Robin Information and Schedule

One, and only one contestant from each school will be invited to participate, and the Congressional round robin will feature 8-12 participants. Each school must provide a judge (preferably a coach), all of whom will judge the full session (and rank all contestants except his/her own). Once students are invited to participate, a specific problem area will be announced.

2015 TOPIC AREA – TBA NOVEMBER 1, 2015

DEVISING A SOLUTION

Be creative and persistent in your investigation of possible solutions. Include in your plan the agencies involved, projected costs, and steps and timeframe for implementation. Be prepared to defend your plan in questioning with credible research that addresses how it will overcome various barriers and challenges, and the extent to which it will mitigate or solve the problem you are addressing.

PREPARING LEGISLATION

You must write one bill (meeting NFL formatting guidelines, available at www.congressionaldebate.org) enumerating your plan, to be submitted to blakelegislation@gmail.com no later than **5 p.m. CST, Tuesday, December 8**. If you are interested in presiding, submit (using the same form, as a Word document in the second "legislation" upload field) a candidate statement of up to 200 words, explaining your qualifications and include a photo as a point of reference, if you wish.

COMMITTEE HEARING (SESSION 1)

Each contestant will have two minutes to succinctly speak to the details of a proposed plan of solution, *from their assigned, seated position*. The speech will be followed by two minutes of direct questioning by up to four delegates (segmented into 30-second blocks). That will be followed by four 30-second blocks of direct questioning by judges. Finally, up to one minute of traditional questioning from

observing audience members (one question per observer). Once the morning subcommittee hearing has concluded, all 12 delegates will cast a preferential ballot to determine the subcommittee's top priority of action. Tournament staff will tabulate to determine the specific bill to be debated during the late-morning legislative session.

DEBATE ON LEGISLATION (SESSION 2)

This session will feature one three-minute speech from each delegate, all with two-minute questioning periods featuring multiple delegate questions, ***as well as questions from judges***. Either contestants or judges may move to suspend the rules to continue direct questioning.

EMERGENCY SCENARIO (SESSION 3)

The situation will be announced during the second session. It will have some relevance to the public works infrastructure topic area. The session ends at 2:00, or once each contestant has had the opportunity to speak once.

PRESIDING

Each of the three sessions will be chaired by a different student presiding officer, elected by her/his peers. If there are not three presiding officers interested in serving, tournament staff will determine how the sessions will be shared by two presiding officers.

SCORING AND ADVANCEMENT

Each speech and session of presiding is worth up to six NFL points. At the end of the round robin, judges will rank their six most preferred contestants for the aggregate three sessions (and may not rank contestants from their own school). Thus, each student would receive 11 judge ranks or non-ranks (7s). Aggregate NFL point values will be converted to a rank scale (tied point values will become tied ranks, so if

three students have perfect scores of "12," the rank equivalent would be 1, 1, 1, with the next rank a 4, and so on through 7th place). The points to rank conversion is the 12th rank. Finally, each student will rank all delegates, the aggregate rank total placement of which will be multiplied by three to serve as the 13th, 14th, and 15th ranks. Ties in cumulative rank total will be broken first on most preferred ranks (i.e., judges' preference), then on inverse reciprocals, then on adjusted cumulative total with high and low ranks dropped, then on most preferred ranks of the adjusted ranks, then on inverse reciprocals of most preferred ranks, and if necessary, on the student ranking (which would serve as a parliamentarian ranking on the NFL Congress rank system).

SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 20, 2015 (SUNDAY)

- 7:30-8:15 Breakfast
- 8:15 – 9:45 Round Robin Session Hearing
- 9:45 - 10:00 Break
- 10:00 Announcement of Selected Legislation
- 10:15 - 11:30 Debate on Legislation
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch for Participants/Judges
- 12:30-2:00 Emergency Session Scenario
- 2:45 or ASAP Awards

Extemporaneous Speaking

Tournament Format – The tournament will be a mixed Extemporaneous Speaking Format with alternating rounds between Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking and International Extemporaneous Speaking. There will be 4 preliminary rounds of competition with the top 24 competitors advancing to quarterfinals. Each round will be themed and those themes will be announced 2 weeks in advance of the tournament.

Schedule

Friday December 18th

Round #1 – Draw @ 10:00 AM Speak @ 10:30 AM

Round #2 – Draw @ 12:00 PM Speak @ 12:30 PM

Round #3 – Draw @ 2:00 PM Speak @ 2:30 PM

Round #4 – Draw @ 4:00 PM Speak @ 4:30 PM

Saturday December 19th

Quarterfinals– Draw @ 8:00 AM Speak @ 8:30 AM

Semifinals – Draw @ 10:30 AM Speak @ 11:00 AM

Finals – Draw @ 2:00 PM Speak @ 2:30 PM

Awards – 5:00 PM