

MERCER AREA MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS
545 West Butler Street
Mercer, PA 16137

Michael Piddington
PRINCIPAL

Hugh P. Ringer
DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS

January 2, 2016

Dear Forensics Coach:

Your forensics team is cordially invited to attend the 42nd Annual Mercer Individual Events Trophy Tournament, sponsored by Mercer Rotary, on **Saturday, January 30, 2016.**

You will note that we will once again offer a wide range of individual events, including a separation of oratory into Informative and Original Oratory (persuasive). We will also offer a division in "extemp" events--Mixed Extemp and Commentary. By popular demand, we will again have competition in both Public Forum Debate and Student Congress.

Note that registration is being conducted on the www.tabroom.com website. Click on Mercer Rotary Tournament to register, beginning January 4, 2016.

Please read the following details closely...

Categories: The following P.H.S.S.L./C.F.L./N.S.D.A. events will be offered...

- 1) **Original Oratory (Persuasive)** (10 minutes maximum)
- 2) **Original Oratory (Informative)** (10 minutes maximum)
- 3) **Mixed Extemp** (7 minutes maximum/30 min. prep/alternating domestic & foreign topics in prelim rounds/a mix in Final Round)
- 4) **Commentary (P.H.S.S.L. rules apply/5 minutes maximum/30 min. prep)**
- 5) **Prose** (10 minutes maximum- with scripts)
- 6) **Poetry** (10 minutes maximum- with scripts)
- 7) **Dramatic Interpretation** (10 minutes maximum)
- 8) **Humorous Interpretation** (10 minutes maximum)
- 9) **Duo Interpretation** (10 minutes maximum- NFL rules apply)
Regardless of registration, ALL of the above events will be separate.
- 10) **Public Forum Debate** (P.H.S.S.L. time limits and rules apply)
- 11) **Student Congress**

Number of Entries: Each school may register **up to six (6) entries in each of the above events.** No double entries are permitted in speech events. *Requests for additional entries may be made by contacting Hugh Ringer.*

Congress: Any school wishing to participate in Congress should electronically submit at least one bill as a Word document. Please email copies of legislation to Beth Young, North Catholic HS...byoung14@gmail.com. Bills must be received by **Thursday, January 21, 2016.** Copies of bills will be posted online at Mercer's tabroom.com site.

Next page, please>>>

Entry Fee: \$4.00 per student, the same fee as we have assessed for the last eleven years. Please note that the fee for each Duo Interp team and a Public Forum Debate team is \$8.00. The fee does not include lunch and must be paid on or before the day of the tournament.

Make checks payable to: Mercer Speech Boosters.

****Note that refunds will NOT be given for drops that are made after on-line registration closes on Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 PM.****

****Please do your best to avoid late payment of entry fees!!****

Judges: One qualified adult speech judge must be supplied for every five (5) speech entries or fraction thereof. (i.e.- 5 entries= 1 judge; 8 entries = 2 judges, etc.)

In **Public Forum Debate**, supply **one judge for every two (2) teams or fraction thereof.**

In **Congress**, supply **one judge per six (6) entries or fraction thereof.**

- High school students may not be used as judges.
- Some judges listed as “speech” judges may judge a round or two of Public Forum Debate, and Public Forum judges may also judge one or more speech rounds. If a judge prefers to be listed as **not qualified** to judge Public Forum, please note that on your registration.
- All judges are expected to remain for the duration of the tournament.

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each event. Once again this year, distinctive medals will be presented to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh place winners in each event, including Public Forum and Congress.

Sweepstakes trophies will be presented to the first, second, and third place teams in the 9 "speech" events. The top two schools in the "debates" events (Public Forum and Congress) will also receive sweepstakes trophies in what we will call the "debates" division.

Speech Sweepstakes Participants: At registration, each school will be asked to indicate the eight (8) speakers (Public Forum Debate entries and Congress entries are NOT to be listed.) who will count toward your school’s SPEECH sweepstakes total. No more than 3 speakers (or 3 duo teams) may be designated in a given event.

Tournament Format: All speakers will compete in three preliminary rounds. The top 5-7 speakers in each category will then advance to a final round. Three judges will be used in the final round.

Public Forum Debate may hold up to four rounds, depending on the number registered. Congress will hold two or three sessions, depending on time constraints.

See next page>>>

Lunch: The Mercer Rotary, beginning its fourteenth year as our sponsor, will be selling a hot lunch and drinks during the lunch break. Prices will be reasonable.

- Lunch tickets will be sold outside the auditorium during registration. Tickets should be purchased by students and judges prior to the beginning of Round I.
- There are no fast-food restaurants close to the high school, so we expect everyone to remain in the building for lunch.
- Coffee and donuts will be served to coaches and judges before Round I.

Time Schedule: In keeping with tradition, we intend for this tournament to run on time! With everyone's cooperation, we can adhere to this time schedule for all events...

7:30-8:30 AM...Registration (high school office)

8:35 AM.....Extempers and Commentators report to the large group instruction room

8:45 AM.....Opening Assembly (auditorium) **Congress Schedule:**

9:20 AM.....Round I 9:00-10:45 AM First Session

10:45 AM.....Round II 11:00-12:45 PM Second Session

12:00 NOON.....Round III 12:45-1:30 PM Lunch

12:30-1:45 PM....Lunch (cafeteria) 1:30-3:15 PM Third Session (time permitting)

1:45 PM.....Finalists for speech events posted outside the auditorium

2:00 PM.....Final Round/Round IV in Public Forum Debate (if needed)

4:00 PM.....Awards Assembly (auditorium)

Delays or Registration Changes: If you have any travel problems—and any drops-- the day of the tournament please call Hugh Ringer's cell phone #...**724-699-2390** between 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM with so that adjustments can be made in the schedule. We plan to begin Round I as scheduled and we intend to begin the awards assembly on time.

Also, please report any changes in pre-registration after the pre-registration deadline (below) to Hugh Ringer by e-mail at (hpr@zoominternet.net).

Pre-Registration Deadline: **3:00 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016**

Because of limited space, especially since we are offering both Public Forum and Congress and a ninth speaking event, registration will close when we reach our capacity so **complete your registration as early as possible on-line at www.tabroom.com.**

Create an account if you don't already have one, then go to the list of tournaments and click on the Mercer Rotary tournament. You can then begin your registration.

If you wish to make changes to your registration, you may do so on the tabroom.com site until Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 PM. **NOTE WELL: Payment of registration fees is expected for any and all drops made after 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 22.**

Final reminders...next page>>>

****REMINDER: *Tournament registration begins at 7:30 AM on Saturday morning (1/30). Call Hugh Ringer's cell phone (724-699-2390) between 7:00 and 8:30 AM that morning to report any last-minute drops or travel delays.*****

We look forward to seeing you and your speech team at Mercer High School on Saturday, January 30th.

HUGH RINGER'S HOME PHONE: 724-662-3094 / CELL PHONE: 724-699-2390
(8:30 AM- 12:15 PM or 6:30 PM-10:30 PM)

HUGH RINGER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: hpr@zoominternet.net

Sincerely,
Hugh P. Ringer, Director of Forensics