



The Commonwealth Season Opener Invitational Debate & Speech Tournament

Friday & Saturday, October 7 – 8, 2016
Hosted by Fairfax County Public Schools
at Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, VA

Dear Coaches:

With a nod to Col. Roger Reeder and Dr. Virginia O’Keefe, please join us for the inaugural Commonwealth Season Opener Invitational Debate & Speech Tournament on October 7-8, 2016. The tournament is proudly hosted by Fairfax County Public Schools at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Virginia. We will hold Novice and Open (JV & Varsity) competition in all of our events. This provides a great opportunity to get your entire team started for the new year.

Please join us for a weekend of debate and speech competition in a safe, secure, and welcoming environment. Our tournament is held in a Fairfax County Public School building; no weapons of any kind are allowed on campus.

All public and private schools are invited to attend. All schools from any area are invited, this is not a Virginia-Only tournament. Students must be in grades 7 through 12 and enrolled at the school they are representing. “Hybrid” and “Maverick” entries will not be allowed. Each school entry must be accompanied throughout the weekend by an adult chaperone authorized by your school administration.

We will hold a Judge’s Clinic on Saturday morning. All participating schools are invited to bring any persons interested in judging this year that haven’t done it before for the Saturday session. We’ll provide instruction in the different events and arrange for everyone to watch a round of competition, and then discuss writing the ballot for the round afterwards. We hope that everyone can benefit from this throughout the year. Please register these persons in the New Judge’s Clinic category.

Please use Tabroom.com to enter your teams and judges. Entries are due by October 6.
The entry link is here: <http://vaseasonopener.tabroom.com/>

With our sponsorship by Fairfax County Public Schools we will only need to charge \$10 per student per entry. Duo, Public Forum, and Policy Teams will be \$20 each. We will allow double-entry in speech, though we encourage that option to be used by only your veterans. Double-Entries will cost \$10 per entry.

All teams will need to provide judges. Current high school students cannot be judges. A very limited number of hired judges will be available for \$150 per judge.

One judge will be required for:

- Two Policy Debate entries, or fraction thereof (two are required if entering three teams);
- Three Public Forum Debate entries, or fraction thereof;
- Three Lincoln-Douglas Debate entries, or fraction thereof;
- Five Congressional Debate entries, or fraction thereof;
- Five Speech entries, or fraction thereof.

We will be using online balloting and will distribute pairings via email and text. Please be sure your judges and student have tabroom.com accounts linked to their entry information.

All checks should be made payable to: Hayfield Secondary School. Please note "Speech & Debate" in the Memo Line.

A well-stocked Judges Lounge will be provided throughout the weekend. Students and Judges can purchase breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack items, and drinks throughout your stay with us.

Trophies will be provided to all elimination round participants.

All events will use NCFL time limits and speech order.

- Public Forum Debate will flip for sides and speaker order.
- L-D and Public Forum Debate will use the appropriate NSDA October topic.
- L-D Novice Debate will NOT use the Novice Topic, they will use the regular NSDA topic.
- Policy Debate will use the NFHS Topic for 2016-2017.
- Congressional Debate will use topic areas that will be posted not later than September 11. Each student should bring 30 copies of their legislation to distribute to their chamber.
- Congressional Debate will follow NCFL rules and procedures.
- Impromptu and Storytelling will use VHSL rules and procedures.
- Double entry is not allowed in debate or congress.
- Double entry is allowed in Speech.

Tournament Schedule, Friday:

- 1:30pm – 3:00pm On-Site Registration at Hayfield Secondary
- 4:00pm – 5:30pm Round 1
- 5:45pm – 7:15pm Round 2
- 7:15pm – 8:00pm Dinner Break
- 8:00pm – 9:30pm Round 3

Tournament Schedule, Saturday:

- 8:30am – 10:00am Round 4
- 10:15am – 11:45am Round 5
- 12:00pm – 1:30pm Round 6
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm Lunch Break
- 2:30pm – 4:00pm Quarters / Semis
- 4:15pm – 5:45pm Semis / Finals
- 6:00pm – 7:30pm Finals
- 7:30pm – 8:00pm Awards

We are looking forward to a great weekend of competition in a welcoming high school building. We do not have a block of hotel rooms at any particular hotel. There are several hotels convenient to Hayfield Secondary. They are:

- Comfort Inn on Van Dorn Street is the closest;
- Comfort Inn in Springfield on Loisdale Ct;
- Courtyard in Springfield on Commerce St;
- Extended Stay America in Springfield on Metropolitan Center Dr;
- Residence Inn Springfield on Old Keene Mill Rd;
- Towneplace Suites Springfield on Brandon Ave;
- Holiday Inn Express Springfield on Brandon Ave;
- Embassy Suites Springfield on Lonsdale Rd (this is the furthest away).

We hope you'll be able to join us!

Thank you.

Roland E. Burdett, III
Tournament Director

Meghan Nugent
Tournament Director

