



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Business Office

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Christopher M. Berdnik, PRSBA

September 21, 2016

RE: William Tennent Invitational
November 5, 2016

Dear Coaches:

On behalf of Superintendent David E. Baugh, Ed.D., Principal Dennis Best, Ed.D., the Tennent debate team, and assistant coach Donato Luongo (c'14), it is my pleasure to invite you to the 2016 William Tennent Invitational held November 5, 2016 at William Tennent High School located at 333 Centennial Road in Warminster, PA. We are very conveniently located to major transportation routes (76, 95, 276, and 476) and anticipate a strong regional draw from a two hour radius.

About Centennial School District and William Tennent High School

Our region boasts a rich history of education and innovation. In 1727, Mr. William Tennent founded Log College in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Log College was Pennsylvania's first college and one of the oldest in America. Its first graduates founded Princeton University and 130 other colleges and universities. Tennent led "The Great Awakening", an educational enlightenment that occurred and spread throughout the colonies. John Fitch invented the steamboat in Warminster, with the first successful trial run on the Delaware River in 1787. The American Space Program began at the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, which housed the Centrifuge where astronauts John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Scott Carpenter trained.

William Tennent High School was completely renovated in 2011. We served as a competition site for preliminary policy debate rounds of the National Catholic Forensic League's 2013 Grand National Tournament.

Tournament Staff

Mr. Jeff Kahn from Strath Haven High School will direct our tabulation room, while Dr. Barb Giuliano from St. Joseph's Preparatory School will coordinate hospitality for our guests.

Registration

Tournament registration will be through www.tabroom.com. Registration will close November 1st at 4:00 PM, with fees frozen on November 2nd at 5:00 PM. Fees are \$10 per student entry (e.g., a policy debate team is \$20).

Because we seek to single flight all rounds of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum, I do not anticipate having a pool of judges available for hire.

Additional information about lunch arrangements will be posted at a later date.

Events

The following events will follow NCFL rules:

- Congressional debate
- Declamation
- Dramatic performance
- Duo interpretation
- Extemporaneous speaking
- Lincoln-Douglas
- Oral interpretation
- Original oratory
- Policy debate
- Public forum

Declamation is open only to 9th and 10th graders. If demand is sufficient and space adequate, we may split Dramatic and Humorous, as we will offer POI and Informative. Should that be the case, those events will follow NSDA rules.

We are splitting junior varsity (freshman, sophomore, or brand new junior) and varsity (open) levels of competition where numbers warrant. For oral interpretation, at the junior varsity level, prose and poetry will be separate events. Small divisions will be collapsed.

Students in speech events may double enter (no double entry in debate).

Debate events will use the national NSDA topics for November. The Lincoln-Douglas novice topic will not be used.

Schedule

On-site registration will open promptly outside of our library at 8:00 AM and close at 8:30 AM on November 5th. Students and judges should gather in our cafeteria, which will serve as the tournament hub for announcements.

Round one (1) will start at 9:00 AM for all events.

We are offering three rounds of competition in speech, breaking to finals (perhaps to semifinals should numbers warrant). In congress, we will have two sessions, clearing to a super session. In Lincoln-Douglas and public forum, we are scheduling four preliminary rounds, breaking to semifinals. Four preliminary rounds will be held in policy debate.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM.

Questions

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 441-6000, x11010 (work), (412) 992-8472 (cell), berdch@centennialsd.org (work), or cberdrik3@gmail.com (personal).

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Berdrik
William Tennent High School