Dear Coaches and Moderators,

It gives me great pleasure to (re)invite you and your team to the **Sterner Steel City Invitational** on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, PA. Registration will be in front of the Bookstore on the Main Floor (as you enter from the Quadrangle and Parking Lot) and will run from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin as close to 5:00 p.m. as possible. We are happily looking forward to hosting schools from the Pittsburgh NSDA and CFL Districts, as well as from the PHSSL and beyond.

In addition to the dozens of campus improvements from new ramps and outdoor staircases to an expanded parking lot, an exciting feature of this year’s tournament will be the presence of the recently dedicated Zupancic Family Center (STEM) adjacent to the Main Building. There is much that is terrific about this new venue, not least of which are the nearly 20 new classrooms/competition spaces that we can use during the tournament. Unfortunately, the sparkling state-of the-art elevator has not worked since day one! This has to do with the discovery of some heretofore unknown underground river that keeps flooding the bottom of the shaft. We apologize in advance for this annoying inconvenience. At the same time, you will be pleased to learn that the new construction has caused to be initiated the long overdue implementation of various ADA requirements, including the installation of an elevator in the main school building. Said elevator will not be available this year, of course, but the promise of its advent will undoubtedly keep you coming back to future tournaments to see if it’s true!

**EVENTS:**

* Lincoln Douglas Debate (March-April Topic)
* Public Forum Debate (April Topic)
* Policy Debate
* Parliamentary Debate (depending on number of entries)
* Congress
* Extemporaneous Speaking (Mixed)
* Dramatic Interpretation
* Humorous Interpretation
* Duo Interpretation
* Oral Interpretation (Prose/Poetry Combined, this means your students will need to have a prose piece and a poetry piece prepared for this event)
* Original Oratory

**REGISTRATION CAPS:** We will make every effort to accommodate every school and the total number of competitors who are registered. Along those same lines, we will be seeking to single flight those events depending on registration numbers and room availability. Consequently, there will be a temporary cap of six (6) PF teams or LD debaters per school.

**CONGRESS:** Please submit all bills and resolutions by Monday, April 24 to andrew.klabnik@gmail.com. Please include “Sterner Congress Bill” in the subject.

**FEES:** Please find all of the tournament details and registration information on the Tabroom.com website. The registration fee is $5.00 per student and $10.00 per school. Please make all checks payable to **Central Catholic High School.** Breakfast and lunch will be available to students for purchase and to judges and coaches as a courtesy of our parents’ association.

**JUDGING OBLIGATIONS:** In speech, the requirement is 1 judge for every 4 entrants (or fraction thereof); in debate, the requirement is one for every two LDers or for every two Policy, Parli, or PF teams.

**PARKING:** Cars and vans should park in the main lot behind the school. Buses should park along Fifth Ave. in front of the school.

**RESTROOMS**: We are proud to be the only tournament where this is a concerning issue. In the main building, there are men’s rooms on every floor, but ladies’ rooms can be found only on the first and third floors. HOWEVER, in our new ADA compliant STEM building, ladies’ rooms can be found on every floor.

**SCHEDULE:**

Registration 7:30 – 8:00

**Debate**

Round 1: 8:30 AM

Round 2: 9:45 AM

Round 3: 11:00 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

Round 4: 1:00 PM

Final: 2:30 PM

Awards: 4:30 PM

**Speech**

Extemp Draw: 8:30 AM

Congress Morning Session: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Round 1: 9:00 AM

Round 2: 10:30 AM

Lunch: Whenever you have time

Round 3: 1:00 PM

Congress Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Finals: 2:30 PM

Awards: 4:30 PM

So, please plan to send your team for what promises to be a great conclusion to the 2016 calendar year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

*Brother Kevin*

Director of Forensics