



# 57th ANNUAL HOLLY SPEECH FESTIVAL

Dear Coach:

The Natick High School Speech Team cordially invites you and your team to the 2017 Holly Speech Festival, to be held at Natick High School on Saturday, December 16, 2017. The Holly is a state-qualifying tournament for the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Tuesday, November 28 at 5:00 PM:** Holly Pentathlon registration deadline

**Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 PM:** Registration deadline at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)

Twenty-three events will be offered as well as our Holly Pentathlon, which is open to one student from each participating school. (See details below). Double entry is permitted with certain restrictions. Also subject to restrictions, students may enter Multiple as a third event.

Please make note of the following entry restrictions:

1. Students may enter only one prep room draw event – Extemporaneous Speaking (VX), Novice Extemporaneous Speaking (NX), Radio Broadcasting (RB), TV News Team (TVNT).
2. Students entering Group Discussion may not enter a prep room draw event – EX, NX, RB, TVNT.
3. Students in a prep room draw event (VX, NX, RB, TVNT) or Group Discussion (GD) may double enter or enter Multiple (MULT), but not both.
4. As we like to encourage diversity at the Holly, students may enter only one Children's Literature (KL or XKL), Oratory (INFO, OO) or Poetry (PO, OP, PROG PO) event.
5. Each school may enter up to two students in Drama Audition (DA).
6. Students participating in Student Congress (SC) may not double enter, nor may they participate in Multiple (MULT).
7. Each school may enter up to two Multiples and two TV News Teams. We will have a wait list for additional entries. Holly Pentathlon competitors may not participate in Multiple or TV News Team.

Double-Entry Awards will be offered to the top students entered in any combination of events from two of the categories below:

Interpretation Events: KL, DP, DUO, NR, PL, PO, PR

Public Address Events: DEC, OO

Limited Prep Events: VX, GD, IMP, NX, RB

Holly Specials: DA, XKL, INFO, OP, POI, PROG PO

Holly Pentathlon competitors will not be eligible for double entry awards.

Team awards will be presented to the top finishing schools based upon the best single entry in each of the twenty-three events plus the next two highest scoring individuals. Therefore, a total of twenty-five scores will contribute to the sweepstakes total. (Because of double entry and the Holly Pentathlon, however, it takes as few as eleven students to receive these twenty-five scores.) The Holly Pentathlon winners will earn extra sweepstakes points for their teams as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place – 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 7 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 3 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point.

We project that we will be using Natick High School to its absolute capacity. As a result, we are imposing a limitation of eight entries in each event per school, with the exception of Drama Audition, Multiple, and TV News Team, which are limited to two entries per school.

Each school is guaranteed only one Holly Pentathlon entry. This year one additional student may be indicated as a waitlisted entry. When Holly Pentathlon registration closes on November 28th, we will determine whether we are able to accommodate waitlisted students. Holly Pentathlon competitors will not be counted in each event that they enter as one of the entries for the purposes of the cap.

All students and judges should plan to be in attendance for the duration of the tournament. A representative or designee from your team must be present to collect the packet of results at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. Packets will not be available at any other time.

**REGISTRATION** is online at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com) and will be available through **5:00 PM on TUESDAY, December 12, 2017**. Please email any drops to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net) on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. You may also text or call in any drops to 508-397-5143. Drops called in after 5:00 PM on Thursday will incur a \$5.00 drop fee. **EVERY TEAM MUST TEXT OR CALL 508-397-5143 BY 7:30 AM ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT TO CONFIRM THEIR REGISTRATION; THIS ASSISTS US IN GETTING THE TOURNAMENT STARTED ON TIME.** When texting, please remember to identify your school. Please include the coach's emergency contact phone number (cell or home) with your initial online registration, should tournament staff need to contact you outside school hours or while you are en route to the tournament.

**Holly Pentathlon registration** should not be completed online. Please email the student's name and events to Joyce Albert at [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net) by **5:00 on TUESDAY, November 28, 2017**. Waitlist registrants should also be communicated by this deadline. We will confirm if we are accepting waitlist entries the evening of November 28.

Registration Fee: \$6 per entry (discounted to \$15 total for each Holly Pentathlon competitor)

Judging Requirement: One judge for every six entries (or fraction thereof), based on the total number of entries when registration closes on December 12. Holly Pentathlon entries will not be counted for judge requirement purposes. Extra judges are welcome! ***However, all judges listed on the entry when registration closes will be scheduled to judge and will incur dropped judge penalties even if the judge requirement has been satisfied.*** Please note that all judges are expected to be present at the judges' briefing at 8:15.

A variety of foods, including bagels, sandwiches, pizza, salads, sodas, juice, snacks and candy, will be available throughout the day.

## TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

• Mandatory Call-in Confirmation of Entry	By 7:30
• Registration	8:00
• Judges' Briefing (all judges)	8:15
• Ballot Distribution, General Assembly and Postings	9:00
• Preliminary Rounds	9:30-4:30
• Final Rounds	4:30-6:30
• Awards	7:30
• Departure	8:30

The following events will be offered at the Holly:

• Children's Literature Reading	• Group Discussion	• Poetry Reading
• Declamation	• Impromptu Speaking	• Program Oral Interpretation
• Drama Audition	• Informative Speaking	• Programmed Poetry
• Dramatic Performance	• Multiple Reading	• Prose Reading
• Duo Interpretation	• Novice Extemporaneous Speaking	• Radio Broadcasting
• Extemporaneous Children's Literature	• Novice Reading	• Student Congress
• Extemporaneous Speaking	• Original Oratory	• TV News Team
	• Original Poetry	
	• Play Reading	

## CATEGORY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Drama Audition** (*maximum of two entries per school*): This category is intended to simulate the audition process and will consist of a memorized humorous monologue (one character), a memorized dramatic monologue (one character), and up to two minutes of music – either sung or danced. These selections combined cannot exceed six minutes. You must provide your own accompaniment if you wish to have it. The tournament will provide a speaker for any device with a standard headphone plug. Vocalists are reminded that only instrumental accompaniment is permitted. This restriction does not apply to dancers. A chair or stool may be used, but otherwise props and costumes are not allowed. Competitors will be called upon to compete in one initial audition during preliminary rounds. Call-backs will be posted during the normal finalist posting times.

**Declamation** (*ten minute maximum*): Speeches originally written for forensic competition are not acceptable in this event.

### Group Discussion Topic:

Questions will be drawn from the themes covered in Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot and the Battle for the American Dream by Joshua Davis, which is available from [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and other online booksellers as well as at public libraries throughout Massachusetts in hard copy or ebook format.

**Informative Speaking** (*ten minute maximum*): Students deliver a self-written speech on a topic of their choosing. Limited in their ability to quote words directly (150 words maximum),

Informative Speaking competitors craft a speech using evidence, logic, and optional visual aids. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. The speech is delivered from memory.

**Original Poetry** (*six minute maximum*): The contestant is given six minutes to read his/her original poetry. All alumni, judges, coaches, and students are invited to compete. Please note, though, a judge who is competing in this category is asked to follow the tournament schedule. This may mean speaking first in order to be at a round that he/she is assigned to judge on time.

**Programmed Poetry:** Each contestant is handed a program of poetry prepared by the tournament staff. The material is read from the manuscript with only a small preparation time. Selections from the following poets will be used in this category: Tracy K. Smith, Oliver Wendell Holmes and the lyrics of Harry Chapin.

**Extemporaneous Children's Literature:** Each contestant is handed a brief selection of children's literature prepared by the tournament staff. The material is read from a manuscript with only a momentary preparation time.

**TV News Team** (*maximum of two entries per school, five minutes exactly*): A team of three or four contestants prepares a news broadcast based upon news stories drawn in the prep room which includes news, weather, and sports. All material presented must appear in the packet. There is a thirty-minute preparation time. Judges will consider delivery as if the presentation were being broadcast on a television screen. There is a five minute speaking period with a five second grace period in either direction – the broadcast length must be between 4:55 and 5:05.

**Multiple Reading** (*twelve minute maximum with a maximum of two entries per school*): Students entering in Multiple may not enter Student Congress or the Holly Pentathlon. Students in a prep room draw event (EX, NX, RB, TVNT) or Group Discussion may double enter in another individual event or enter Multiple (MULT), but not both. Multiple Reading does not count toward double entry awards.

**Program Oral Interpretation** (*ten minute maximum*): Using a combination of Prose, Poetry, and Drama, students construct a program using at least two out of the three genres. With a spotlight on argumentation and performative range, Program Oral Interpretation focuses on a student's ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Competitors are expected to portray multiple characters. No props or costumes may be used except for the manuscript. Performances also include an introduction written by the student to contextualize the performance and state the titles and authors used in the program.

**Student Congress:** The 2017 Holly Speech Festival Student Congress will convene during the full day. Students entering Student Congress may not double enter or participate in Multiple Reading. The Student Congress will debate bills which have not been debated at previous MSDL tournaments and which have been designated for the Holly Speech Festival by the MSDL Student Congress Chair. Bills will be available at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com) prior to the tournament.

All other categories will follow standard MSDL rules and regulations.

**THE HOLLY PENTATHLON** is open to one student from each participating school. As described in the invitation, waitlist entries may be accepted. The guidelines for the Holly Pentathlon are as follows:

1. Each Pentathlon competitor must participate in one event in each of the following four areas:

Platform: VX, NX, RB, OO, DEC, IMP, INFO

Memorized/Interpretation: DP, DUO, DEC, OO, INFO

Reading: PR, PO, PL, KL, NR, OP, POI

Holly Special Events: DA, OP, PROG, XKL, INFO, POI

*Please note that students participating in the Holly Pentathlon may not compete in Multiple, Group Discussion, Student Congress, or TV News Team.*

2. Several of the events are included in more than one area; students should enter four different events and must use different material in each event. Students are restricted to one Children's Literature (KL, XKL) event, one Oratory event (INFO, OO), and one Poetry (PO, PROG, OP) event.
3. The fifth event is a creative platform event in which each student will be making a pitch to a group of angel investors. Tournament staff will provide specific instructions and background materials; students may not bring additional materials for use in the prep room except that a note card or sheet of paper may be used during the preparation and presentation. Each student will have 15 minutes to prep for a 2-minute presentation followed by a brief question-and-answer session.
4. The registration fee for each Holly Pentathlon competitor will be a flat \$15 instead of the standard \$6 per entry. Judge requirements are waived for Holly Pentathlon entries.
5. Holly Pentathlon registrations will be required by **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017 AT 5:00 PM**. Holly Pentathlon registrations should be emailed to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net) and should include the student's name and the 4 events the student will be entering.  
**Coaches should not try to enter their Holly Pentathlon student through the website as those registrations will be restricted to double entry.** We may also accept up to one waitlist entry from each school for the Holly Pentathlon. Confirmations of acceptance from the waitlist will be emailed to coaches on the evening of November 28.
6. For the purposes of sweepstakes, Holly Pentathlon competitor scores will count in each of the four individual events (Platform, Memorized/Interpretation, Reading, Holly Special Events). The Pentathlon will not be a separate sweepstakes event, although bonus sweepstakes will be awarded to Holly Pentathlon winners as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place – 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 7 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 3 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place- 1 point.

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette will be abided by at all times.

We look forward to your participation in the 2017 Holly Festival!

*Sarah Donnelly*  
Tournament Chairperson

*Joyce Albert*  
Tournament Director

*Aditya Ramachandrababu*  
Student Tournament  
Chairperson

**Directions: Natick High School is located at 15 West Street, Natick, MA 01760. [Click here for directions.](#)**

**TEXT OR CALL TO CONFIRM ENTRY BY 7:30 AM: 508-397-5143**