



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Business Office

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Christopher Berdnik

August 21, 2017

RE: William Tennent Invitational
November 4, 2017

Dear Coaches:

On behalf of Superintendent David Baugh, Principal Dennis Best, the Tennent debate team, and assistant coach Donato Luongo (c'14), it is my pleasure to invite you to the 2017 William Tennent Invitational held November 4, 2017 at William Tennent High School 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.

Registration

Tournament registration will be through www.tabroom.com. Registration will close October 31st 5:00 PM, with fees frozen on November 1st 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.

Schedule

On-site registration will open promptly outside of our library at 8:00 AM and close at 8:30 AM on November 4th. 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.

There will be three rounds of Speech, breaking to finals; three sessions of Congress (or two and a final session); four rounds of PF and LD, breaking to semifinals; and four rounds of Policy. Additional elimination rounds will be held should numbers warrant.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM. We started the awards ceremony 20 minutes early in 2016.

Events

The following events will follow NCFL rules:

- Declamation (9th and 10th grade only)
- Dramatic Performance (JV and Varsity)
- Duo Interpretation
- Extemporaneous Speaking (JV and Varsity)
- Lincoln-Douglas (JV and Varsity)
- Oral Interpretation (Varsity only; Prose and Poetry separately for JV)
- Original Oratory (JV and Varsity)
- Policy Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Public Forum (JV and Varsity)

The following events will follow NSDA rules:

- Congressional Debate (JV and Varsity)
- Informative
- Program Oral Interpretation

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. Congress will use the PCFL legislation packet plus any legislation submitted to cberdnik3@gmail.com by October 23 at 5pm.

New for 2017

Big Questions debate will be offered as a supplemental event in the afternoon for those students not advancing in speech, Lincoln-Douglas, or Public Forum. As a courtesy and to assist us in planning, we ask that you pre-register students via Tabroom that would like to compete in Big Questions in the event that they do not clear to elimination rounds. Judges will be drawn from any and all available pools. Registration may be capped at room capacity.

Questions

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 441-6000, x11010 (work), (412) 992-8472 (cell), berdch@centennialsd.org (work), or cberdnik3@gmail.com (personal).

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Berdnik
William Tennent High School