

Okemos Debate 2017 Invitational

Dear Colleagues,

You and your team are invited to the Okemos Invitational Debate Tournament on October 13th and 14th, 2017. Divisions of Policy Debate will be offered on Friday and Saturday, while both Public Forum and Legislative divisions will operate on Saturday.

Like last year, the tournament will NOT be held at Okemos High School. Instead, we will hold the tournament at the downtown campus of Lansing Community College.

FORMATS

Two-person Policy Debate (Friday/Saturday) - Policy debaters will participate in five rounds of swing debate. The last three preliminary rounds will be power paired. The number of elimination rounds will depend on the number of entries. Varsity, JV, and Novice divisions will be offered. However, if we do not receive enough JV entries we will run an Open division with a JV elimination round breakout. The Time format for Policy Debate rounds will be 8-3-5. Prep time will be 8 minutes for each team.

Two-person Public Forum Debate (Saturday only): We will offer 5 preliminary rounds, with the possibility of an elimination round. Two divisions will be available: Novice and Open. Prep time will be limited to two minutes per team in Public Forum.

Legislative Debate (Saturday only): We will offer 2 rounds, plus a super session. Two divisions will be available: Novice and Open. Legislative debate will use MIFA rules. The Docket will be a blend of national and competitor-generated bills. **All Bills are due to wmrharris@sbcglobal.net no later than Thursday, September 28, at 5:00 PM** so that a complete docket can be sent to registered schools by Monday, October 2. Each school attending the tournament MUST submit at least one bill. Students must be entered by full name, with an indication of Varsity or Novice, and students with PO experience should be designated with an asterisk (*) after their name.

FOOD/SNACKS/REFRESHMENTS

Snacks and other prepackaged refreshments will be available for purchase through the first elimination round. Food and snacks available at no cost for coaches and judges in the Coaches/Judges Lounge during the course of the tournament. However, LCC has requested we refrain from bringing food into the classrooms.

Dinner on Friday (for policy debate) and Lunch on Saturday will be available at the tournament in order to minimize delays to the schedule.

AWARDS

Each team advancing beyond preliminary rounds will receive a trophy. Speaker awards will be awarded in each division, based on the number of individuals entered. Presiding officers in the Legislative super session will receive a gavel. Teams are encouraged to stay for awards, if possible, to help celebrate the accomplishments of other teams.

JUDGES

Policy Divisions: You must provide *one* qualified judge *per two teams* (or fraction thereof) in each division (i.e., one judge covers two teams, and please don't bring 3 varsity teams and then cover them with two novice-only judges).

Public Forum Division: You must provide *one* judge *per two teams* or fraction thereof. Lay judges are encouraged, although judges must at least be high school graduates.

Legislative Division: You must provide one judge *per 8 entries*, or fraction thereof.

For both Policy and Public Forum divisions, **JUDGES ARE OBLIGATED ONE ROUND PAST YOUR TEAM'S ELIMINATION!** Please note any preclusions. Hired judges for policy divisions are limited (first come, first serve) at a cost of \$80 for a half-judge and \$160 for a full judge. Hired judges for Public Forum or Legislative debate are available for \$90 per judge. If you know of people who want to judge, have them let us know as soon as possible.

Additionally, all judges, including hired judges, are required to write complete ballots whether or not they voluntarily decide to provide oral critiques. Schools whose judges do not write all preliminary round ballots will NOT receive their ballots and result packets.

FEES

Policy Debate: \$40 for each two-person policy debate team.

Public Forum: \$25 for each two-person public forum team.

Legislative Debate: \$5 per student.

Please make checks payable to **Okemos High School**.

If you are a new program or are undergoing severe financial difficulties, please contact us regarding a reduced financial commitment. UDL debate programs do not have to pay entry fees. However, all programs are responsible for meeting judging commitments or hiring judges.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In an effort to prevent significant delays in the schedule, the tournament will enforce a forfeiture rule. We'll be using a version of the 15 minute forfeit rule in that if your debaters and/or your judges are not in present in their rounds by 15 minutes past the announced time for the round to begin, the round for the offending team (or debaters of the offending judge) will be forfeited. We will build a reasonable amount of time into the schedule for food and time between rounds.

The tab room/tournament administration will not enforce MIFA, NFL or NCFL rules or guidelines regarding disclosure of decisions, reading of evidence, prompting or "tag teaming," paperless debate or evidence citation. Judges may, of course, enforce certain rules, guidelines and preferences in individual debate rounds. We only ask that judges announce their preferences to the debaters prior to the beginning of the rounds.

The tournament administration, upon investigation, reserves the right to remove from the judging pool adjudicators whose personal behavior is inappropriate or offensive. The school which has provided the removed judge will be financially responsible FOR ANY UNCOVERED DEBATES. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to: leaving the room during speeches, including cross-examination; rude or intemperate written or oral comments to debaters; undue familiarity/favoritism shown to a team in a round; evidence of bias or hostility exhibited towards competitors or harassment of any nature.

Smoking on the LCC campus, whether by debaters, coaches or judges, is prohibited by school policy and they are somewhat rigorous about enforcing it. Please inform any judges you may bring of the policy.

ROUND SIX FOR POLICY NOVICES

For policy debaters not advancing to elimination rounds, the tournament will offer the opportunity to participate in a 6th round of debate. Novice debaters not breaking to an elimination round will be able to debate a 6th round, with judging by varsity debaters who have not advanced to an elimination round. A sheet will be available at registration for coaches to indicate the willingness of any debaters to debate (novice) or judge (Varsity/JV). The sheets will be due at the end of Round 3, before you leave on Friday. There is no additional charge for participating in Round 6, and participation is not mandatory. While judges will complete a ballot, anything pertaining to Round 6, including speaker points and any win or loss, will NOT be considered when computing speaker awards or any other awards or advancement. The round is intended to offer novice debaters an additional round of debate and offer Varsity/JV debaters an opportunity to view debate through a different lens.

ENTRY DEADLINES

Entries must be received by Wednesday, October 11th, 2017 at 5 pm. Fees are frozen at 5 pm Wednesday, October 11th, 2017.

All Legislative Debate bills are due to wmrharris@sbcglobal.net no later than Thursday, September 28, at 5:00 PM so that a complete docket can be sent to registered schools by Monday, October 2.

Entries for all divisions should be submitted via tabroom. For students in Legislative Debate, please remember to add an asterisk to the name of any debater with prior presiding officer experience.

Drops after 5 P.M. on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 will be assessed their original fees. Drops which involve judges hired at the coaches' request by the tournament will be assessed their full fee for the judge regardless of the time at which the drop occurs.

CONTACTS

I can be reached at (517) 242-1154 (cell) or at dzcmsdebate@yahoo.com.

LODGING

There is only one hotel close to the tournament: the Radisson. The hotel is two blocks from campus and quite nice, but moderately expensive compared to other hotels within a comfortable driving distance. A number of hotels are located within 3-4 miles of Lansing Community College, all located along thoroughfares such that transportation to campus is less than 10 minutes. Fortunately this year there is no home football game at MSU to swallow up all of the rooms. However, we have not negotiated a preferred rate with any of the hotels listed. Below are the hotels closest in proximity to Lansing Community College.

Quality Inn University	3121 E Grand River Ave	Lansing	517-351-1440
Courtyard by Marriott	2710 Lake Lansing Rd.	Lansing	517-482-0500
Hyatt Place Lansing/Eastwood	2401 Showtime Dr.	Lansing	517-679-7600
Fairfield Inn & Suites Eastwood	3320 Preyde Blvd.	Lansing	517-374-6500
Holiday Inn Express	2924 West Rd.	East Lansing	517-333-0300
Hampton Inn	2500 Coolidge Rd.	East Lansing	517-324-2072
Candlewood Suites	3545 Forest Rd.	East Lansing	517-351-8181
Red Roof Inn	3615 Dunckel Rd.	Lansing	517-332-2575

TENTATIVE POLICY DEBATE SCHEDULE

Friday	2:30-3:00 pm	Registration (Gannon Building Cafeteria)
	3:00 pm	General meeting
	3:15 pm	Round 1
	5:15 pm	Round 2
	7:00 pm	Dinner
	7:45 pm	Round 3 pairings
	8:00 pm	Round 3
Saturday	8:15 am	Round 4 pairings available
	8:30 am	Round 4
	10:30 am	Round 5
	12:15 pm	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Elimination Round I/Round 6 Novice (see above) pairings
	1:45 pm	Elimination Round I/Round 6 Novice (see above)
	3:45 pm	Awards
	4:30 pm	Elimination round II
6:30 pm	Elimination round III (if needed)	

TENTATIVE PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULE

Saturday	7:30-8:00 pm	Registration (Gannon Building Cafeteria)
	8:15 am	General Meeting
	8:30 am	Round 1
	9:30 am	Round 2
	11:00 am	Round 3
	12:00 pm	Lunch
	1:30 pm	Round 4
	3:00 pm	Round 5
	5:00 pm	Awards
	6:00 pm	Elimination round (if needed)

TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE DEBATE SCHEDULE

Saturday	7:30-8:00 pm	Registration (Gannon Building Cafeteria)
	8:15 am	General Meeting
	8:30 am	Round 1
	10:30 am	Round 2
	12:30 pm	Lunch
	1:45 pm	Super Session
	4:30 pm	Awards