



2011 – 2012

**Pine City
High School**

**Speech Team
Handbook**

Head Coach: Ms. Beth Steinleitner
Assistant Coach: Ms. Amanda Thompson

Coaches and contact information

Ms. Beth Steinleitner (Head Coach)

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Mrs. Amanda Thompson (Assistant Coach)

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Where to get information:

All announcements, tournament information, bus times, and team notices will be posted outside Ms. Beth Steinleitner's office (guidance office), in the announcements, and on the Speech website. Practice schedules will be posted outside Ms. Beth Steinleitner's office. There will be a monthly team meeting where information will be given, and you have this handy dandy handbook to answer your most pressing questions about speech.

How do I practice?

Speech Team Members are required to participate in the following.

1. A minimum of 5 individual practices with a coach (December - April)
2. Team Practices/Meetings (December - April)

Individual Practices will be 20 minutes in length, and will be a one on one (duos count as one) practice with a coach. Typically coaches will listen to the speech and then give and work suggestions on the delivery of the piece.

Team Practices/Meetings will be held after school. Please note them on your signed practice schedule or the master calendar posted outside of Ms. Beth's office. You are expected to be at all team practices/meetings. Conflicts will be dealt with on an individual basis. If you are in another activity that practices at this time please bring it to our (both activities coaches) attention.

Eligibility:

As a Minnesota State High School League Activity, the speech team requires that you read the handbook, abide by the rules governing MSHSL competitors, and remain academically eligible as set forth by Pine City's Activities Policy. You must also return the form on the back of this handbook signed by both yourself and your parent or legal guardian.

What is this going to cost me?

The Current activity fee for the speech team is \$25.00. This must be paid to the activities office before you can compete at a meet. There will be additional cost to those who have unexcused absences to speech meets. Please turn in fine arts eligibility and fees to the office.

What happens if I miss a meet after I have been registered?

There is a drop fee that needs to be paid to Ms. Beth in the event you do not show up for a meet you are registered to attend. You are not charged a drop fee for meets on your conflict sheet, or meets that you let Ms. Beth know about at least 10 days ahead of time. The fee covers the cost of your registration. If you choose not to pay the fee or discuss the problem with Ms. Beth, you will be ineligible for any future meets and ineligible to letter.

How do I find a piece/category?

First year members will be guided by the coaches. You may be assigned a category by the coach. Students with more experience in a category will be give preference as to the category they end up in. Second, third, and fourth year members can find their own material and consult a coach as needed. Coaches will give advice, but will not cut or write your speeches for you. Prior to the first meet scripts must be approved by a coach. *Check the speech schedule - there will be group*

research, intro-writing dates to attend in the beginning of December.

What is the schedule of a typical speech meet?

Most speech meets take place on Saturdays between February and April with the exception of a few meets on weekdays. The bus will typically load between 6 – 8 a.m. (depending on location of the meet). The bus picks up and drops off at the front doors of the high school.

We try to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of draw events. The captains typically pick a location for the team to congregate and meet - a balloon will be in the location to help you locate the team. The team typically remains in this area until Ms. Beth or another coach returns with codes for rounds and a schedule of the events for the day.

Rounds take place. Rounds are typically 60 minutes (although most categories are done before the end of this time period). The schedule will direct you to the exact length. Every meet will have 3 rounds. If the meet does not have final rounds, students will wait for awards to begin. If there are final rounds, students will wait for postings to see where they should go to compete. All students, regardless of placing, should attend a final round either as a competitor or spectator.

After awards, we will pack up and go home. Please be respectful of the host school and clean up the area that we have been in. Once the bus is loaded, critique sheets will be distributed. Speech meets are typically, but not always an all day event and we do not return to the high school until late afternoon or evening.

Be prepared for after speech meet dinners. Although this is not a guarantee, depending on the day, the team will typically stop on the way home to have dinner. Bring along cash if you wish to eat (this goes for concessions at the speech meets as well).

What does one wear to a speech meet?

Speech Meets are considered "dress-up" events. This means that your appearance should be clean and tasteful at all events. "Dress-up" clothing would include suits and tie, or dress pants, button shirt, and tie for the guys, and suits, dress pants and blouse, skirt and blouse, dresses, etc. for the gals. Gals, please be mindful of how short the skirts are and how low the shirt collars go. Hats are not allowed for anyone. Headphones and other non-speech related items should not be carried into rounds of competition. When you are competing in a round, you are also being judged on the visual performance, which should be positively accented by your dress.

How does one act at a speech meet?

You are an ambassador of Pine City High School. Everything you say and do at the meets reflects upon the school. Please act in a way that shows dignity, courtesy, and civility. In rounds, you should be polite and attentive to the other speakers. You should not leave the round before it is over except in case of emergency, or if you are double entered in another category and have informed the judge a head of time.

Invitational Meets

1. All Invitationals in February and March are open to high school teams, so tournament sizes will vary from 10-20 schools, and 100-300 competitors.
2. All Invitationals include competition in all 13 MSHSL events. Occasionally there will be specialty events. Ms. Beth will make you aware of these.
3. Students are ranked by a single judge against the other members of their round.
4. Students will be judged by people with a variety of experience at Invitationals. You will receive written critiques at the end of the round, or the end of the meet.
5. Students must ride the bus to and from the event in order to compete. Alternate plans require permission from the activities office.
6. All Invitationals have registration limits. If we have too many students who wish to

compete, decisions will be made by the coaching staff based on preparation and work accomplished during the season.

7. Registration to Invitationals occurs at least one week, and usually two weeks in advance. Once you have been registered for an invitational you will be responsible for the drop fee if you cannot attend. Registration sheets will be posted in Ms. Beth's office (guidance office), and students must double check to make sure they are appropriately signed up for meets.

What do you mean I get to compete? What is a category? Aren't I just giving a speech?

There are actually 13 events to compete in. The categories are as follows:

1. Creative Expression
2. Discussion
3. Duo Interpretation
4. Extemporaneous Reading
5. Extemporaneous Speaking
6. Great Speeches
7. Humorous Interpretation
8. Informative Speaking
9. Original Oratory
10. Serious Drama Interpretation
11. Serious Poetry Interpretation
12. Serious Prose Interpretation
13. Storytelling

Students will start the season in a category best suited to their style and of presentation, abilities, and desire. You might receive guidance from Ms. Beth or Ms. Thompson as to an appropriate category. You may want to try more than one category during the year, and this is encouraged.

Some Invitationals allow for contestants to enter in more than one event. Double-entering will only be allowed at coach(s) discretion.

What other awards am I eligible for?

All Conference Team

You must be the champion of your category at the Great River meet.

Team Captain

Captains are voted on by the entire team and are appointed by the coaches at the Spring Awards Banquet. Captains will be responsible for helping other members find/write speeches, lead team spirit, and assist the team at meets. They will also be the ones who pick up the team trophy at Invitationals. Other responsibilities may include Bus Breakfast sign up, weekly balloon signup, newspaper article, and school announcements after a meet, etc. Captain is a prestigious role. Captains who show that they do not have the integrity it takes to perform duties as assigned by the coach may be asked to give up their title.

Banquet Awards

There will be other students recognized at the Team Banquet in the spring. Some of the awards will be voted on by the team members, other awards will be chosen by the coaches and or captains.

Dragon Speech Lettering Policy

Who qualifies to letter?

- Any student who is eligible to speak on the Senior High Team may earn lettering points.
- Any student grades 7-9 who has participated on the junior high speech team in the current season may participate on the Senior High Team.
- Any student grades 10-12 who meets with the Head Coach at least 1 time before the first meet they compete in.
- Letters will be awarded at the discretion of the Head Coach.

How many points do I need to letter?

- In order to receive a letter each year, the student must earn 25 points.
- Once the student receives their letter, they will receive medals for each additional 25 points they earn. The first medal is bronze, second is silver, and the third is gold. Any additional medals will also be gold.

Are there other requirements to meet in order to receive my lettering points?

- Must meet with the Senior High Coaching Staff a minimum of 5 times during the regular season.
- Must attend 60% of the Invitational Meets (5 scheduled meets/must attend 3)
- Must attend the Conference meet.
- Must attend the Sub-section meet.
- If you have a valid reason for missing a required meet, you must talk with the Senior High Head Coach prior to the conflicting date.
- Awards may also be withheld if the student does not reimburse the Speech budget for meets they registered for, but did not attend.
- Attend 80% of the team/category meetings

How do I earn points?

- You receive 1 point for each Senior High Meet that you attend.
- You receive 1 point for each "A" (95% or higher) that you receive.
- You receive 1 point for each Final Round Evaluation sheet that you complete at an Invitational, Conference or Sub-Section meet.
- You receive 1 point for each junior high meet that you judge.
- To qualify to judge a junior high meet you must:
- Be a 10-12 grade student.
- Competing with the senior high speech team.
- Have competed in speech for at least one season.
- Attend a judging workshop and one junior high team practice.
- Additional points can be earned at Invitationals by placing in the top 6:
1st Place = 5 pts 2nd Place = 4 pts 3rd Place = 3 pts 4^t -6th Place = 1 pt

PERMISSION SLIP

My Name: _____

I have read the speech handbook and I understand the commitment, procedures and obligations necessary to be a part of the Pine City High School Speech Team.

- This slip needs to be returned to Ms. Beth Steinleitner **before** you can participate in practices or compete or at first Team Meeting.
- Please indicate any conflicts you are aware of on the schedule and hand back to the coaches.
- Conflicts with athletics and other fine arts activities will be resolved on an individual basis according to school district policies.

As part of a team, it is expected that you are at ALL scheduled events. Excessive absences or inability to attend meets may result in you not being allowed to participate. In the event your schedule changes, and there is a meet you need to change your availability for, you need to notify Ms. Beth at least 10 days ahead of time, so you can be registered or dropped. **If absence is not cleared within a week prior to the meet, a charge will be fined to the student to cover registration. If a student neglects to pay a fee they will not be able to attend the following meet nor letter for that year.**

"I have read and thoroughly understand the expectations to be a member of the PCHS Speech Team."

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date