**2022-2023**

**Central High School**

**Speech and Debate Constitution**

Mission:

The purpose of the Central High School Speech and Debate Team is to study and practice the art of communication by working to improve communication, research, writing, performing and analytical skills by also having fun. We will fulfill our mission by **being an outstanding example at ALL times** and focusing on the team’s three pillars - **professional, respectable and responsible**.

Article I – Board Members:

* We elect new officers/board members each fall semester for the school year.
  + To hold an office one must fulfill the following requirements: 1. Have been an active member the previous year, 2. Be in one of the team classes, 3. Be academically eligible in all classes, 4. Submit the interview portfolio to Coach Evers on time, 5. Submit three teacher evaluations, 6. Submit a 2-4 minute recorded speech to share with the team.
  + The formula for determining officers will be as follows: 50% Team Votes (based off of each individual’s NSDA membership strength); 25% Interview Portfolio evaluated by coaches; and 25% three other outside teacher evaluation scores.
  + All officers must…
    - Be willing to dedicate time and effort to the entire team, successfully fulfill agreed upon duties, and remain supportive as well as a positive role model for all team members at all times.
    - Remain academically eligible.
    - Attend all meetings (one per month minimum with additional meetings to be added as necessary).
    - Attend every tournament unless his/her absence has been approved by Mr. Evers prior to tournament (including all district TFA, UIL, and NSDA tournaments).
    - Offer a minimum of **1 lunch and 3 after-school** **practice slots per week** during the TFA season. There must be an officer present during slots at all times. Three weeks (not necessarily consecutively) of failing to fulfill this obligation will result in dismissal of office.
    - Be responsible for assisting with team conduct while traveling.
    - Be responsible for an important assigned piece of our tournament, must help with the team showcase and end of the year banquet.
  + Officer Information:
    - * *Duties for the following offices include, but are not limited to what is written. Other duties could be added or changed in order to fulfill the team’s needs as the year progresses.*
    - **President:** To run for President, one must be a senior.The President and Vice-President will take the lead on hosting Central’s TFA tournament and should be prepared to work extensively on that task. He/She is also responsible for working alongside the coach on all major projects, makes sure all officers have 4 slots a week during the TFA travel season, arranges which officer is present after school on what day, checks that updates to the team website have been made weekly, double checks that all team computers are accounted for while traveling, makes sure the team gets off the bus at the tournament with the debate box, waters, computers, etc…, arranges board meetings and helps the coaches prepare the agenda, and works with Mr. Evers at least twice a week on team progress/updates/travel. The goal of this office is to keep the officers/team organized and running with the vision set in the constitution and by the coaches.
    - **Vice-President:** To run for Vice-President, one must be a senior or junior with the intention of participating on the team through graduation. The President and Vice-President will take the lead on hosting Central’s TFA tournament and should be prepared to work extensively on that task.He/She is also responsible to take over duties of the president when he or she is unable to be present, helps the president arrange board meetings, helps with computer checks when traveling, double checks that the board is being updated, submits member points after tournaments, and works with Mr. Evers at least once a week on team progress/updates/travel. The goal of this office is to keep the officers/team organized and running with the vision set in the constitution and by the coaches.
    - **Public Relations Officer:** To run for this office, you must be able to work a camera, be responsible enough to keep up with the team camera, and take pictures throughout the year of the team. He/She will also be responsible for taking care of all public media aspects of the team, submitting tournament announcements, submitting pictures and information to SAISD, taking the lead on all plans for the team Showcase in the spring, as well as assisting the Program Information officer with the team website. The goal of this office is to keep the community aware of all the good going on in our program.
    - **Program Information Officer:** To run for this office, you must be able to work a camera, be responsible enough to keep up with the team camera, and take pictures throughout the year of the team. He/She will also be responsible for taking care of the team bulletin board (bi-weekly updates at a minimum), the team website (updated weekly), twitter, remind, creating travel schedules, and taking the lead on end of the year banquet arrangements. The goal of this office is to keep those in our program aware of the good going on in our program.
    - **Volunteer Chair:** is responsible for reaching out to the community to set up volunteer hours, log team volunteer hours (for letter jacket approval and travel), and work with the team/community to develop volunteer opportunities. This year all members will be responsible for program development hours (ex. working our tournament, securing tournament judges, helping train the middle school competitors for their UIL tournament, etc…).
    - **Historian:** helps enter the team for tournaments, double checks team entries, documents meetings, and keeps all NSDA membership cards updated. This officer will assist on the team showcase arrangements. The Historian is responsible for making a travel journal for the year that keeps a record of success, travel numbers and expense of each trip as well as an end of the year cumulative log of the year’s totals. The goal of this office is to log and update anything that keeps our data and team organized.
    - **Treasurer:** helps take care of trip paperwork, updating fines and fees after every fundraiser, takes the lead with the set up and execution of all fundraisers. This officer will assist on the end of the year banquet arrangements. The Treasurer must organize, and present to the team, community service options for the spring final exam/extra credit, as well as give the board community donation/involvement options for allocated funds. The goal of this office is to assist with aspects of team spending and involvement linked to the team budget and/or activity account.
    - **Recruiter:** number one duty is to help and with freshman and newcomers at tournaments and in slots. Will come up with creative and impactful ways to recruit middle schoolers and other high schoolers to join team.
* Failure to uphold expectations may result in officer removal or dismissal from the team (subject to the coaches’ discretion). Expectations include: all duties listed as well as good choices on and off school campus. In the case of an issue, one warning will be given. If bad behavior or lack of effort is still a problem he/she will be dismissed.
  + Exception: A warning may not be given prior to dismissal should an elected officer/board member get into trouble with the law or violate CHS rules. At such time, CHS administration will advise.
* In the case of a dismissal a hand-selected member of the team will be voted on and appointed by the coaches and presiding officers to take the vacant office.
  + Exception: if an existing member of the board wants to take the open office, then the coaches and presiding officers will vote on the change of office.

Article II - Hosting a Tournament:

* Every year we host a TFA tournament for other schools to compete in*.* This year the tournament will be a swing and will run all day Friday, November 11th and all day Saturday, November 12th.
* All class/team members are required to assist with various aspects of hosting the tournament in its entirety. Finding judges is the most crucial part to making our tournament work. This is why filling judge slots is a team requirement and the effort to do so will have a grade attached.

Article III - Failure to Travel:

* All members of the class/team must travel (virtual tournaments count) to a minimum of two contests per semester; failure to do so may result in dismissal from the team/class (except the freshman class).
* If you are not able to attend a tournament, you must notify Mr. Evers at least one full week in advance **or** you will be responsible for paying drop fees as well as a portion of the hotel room. The only exception is personal or a family emergency that can be substantiated with paperwork (example: a doctor’s note). Failure to validate an absence will result in the student being responsible for listed fees.
* All members should check entries for EVERY tournament listed on the travel calendar. Always check and double-check your entries for accuracy. Being entered in the correct events is YOUR responsibility.
* All members must be entered in a minimum of two events (one state qualifier) to qualify for travel.
* The coach makes the final decision on who travels to tournaments. The decision is based on each team member meeting the standard requirements for competition as demonstrated through class work, practice, effort, and performance.
* The coach reserves the right to withdraw any individual on the team from traveling to a tournament or tournaments depending upon grades, attitude, behavioral issues, lack of dedication and/or preparedness.

Article IV - Eligibility:

* While participating on the speech and debate team is demanding in terms of time and commitment, the primary focus of the organization is and will always be the well-being of the student. Fostering success academically should be the number one priority of each student.
* Students are held to the UIL and SAISD standard of eligibility (“No Pass, No Play”). If a student falls below a 70 in any regular class they are ineligible to compete until the next eligibility period (that excludes PreAP, AP and DC class).
* If any member becomes ineligible for a tournament twice in one semester, he/she will be dismissed from the team/class for the remainder of the year.

Article V - Fundraising and Fees:

* ALL members of the team/class are expected to raise $100 for their annual dues ($50 must be paid by December 4th semester in order to continue to travel). We will be doing fundraisers (a minimum of three) to make this possible! The goal is NOT for you or your parents to have to pay, the goal is to fundraise.
* All the remaining balance must be fundraised or paid by May 1st.
* Not paying/fundraising all fees by May 1st will induce a $25 fee.
* You will be held accountable for remaining fees by CHS.
* If you lose or damage competition material/supplies you will be charged accordingly. (classroom books - $15-$80, black books - $7, material in book - $15/piece, computer - $800 any other item not listed is up to the discretion of the coach).
* If you damage any property of hotel, restaurant, transportation, etc...– you will be charged the price given to us by the owner of the item.
* Items to be paid for will be attached to fines and fees.

Article VI - Ways to Letter in Debate:

* Advance to Regional competition in UIL.
* Qualify for State in TFA.
* Qualify for Nationals in NSDA.
  + To be on the UIL and/or NSDA team you must be selected. The selection is based on effort during TFA tournaments and an audition process based on specifications set by the coaches.

Article VII – PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT HOURS

* The required volunteer hours to letter in debate is 35 approved hours.
* Program development hours are meant to promote team involvement in the development of middle school programs, school spirit, and community volunteer work.
* Working the entire CHS tournament and securing the required judges will be worth 30 hours and a grade.
  + Students not able to be at the tournament or secure judges, may obtain their 30 hours through approved volunteer/program development hours. (see the volunteer chair for more information)

Article VIII - Practices

* You should attend practice once a week unless otherwise advised (virtual practices count if needed).
* Be punctual and ready for all events and practices.
* All members must make sure they do not have anything in their mouth and their hair is pulled back.
* It is mandatory to attend practices after you have scheduled them. If you cannot attend you must notify the coach or mentor at least **24 hours** in advance.
* If you keep a coach or mentor waiting for you or you do not show up for a practice slot more than once, you will be banned from the next competition.
  + If this happens more than twice, you may be dismissed from the team/class.
* Please sign up for practice slots. The debate room is reserved for **focused** practice time only.
* Never assume the coach will be staying after school; check the practice board.

Article IX - Bus Etiquette:

* Be ready and waiting for the bus at the designated time. We will not wait on you.
* If for any reason you are going to be late, not only better it be an emergency, but you will need to call a coach on their cell phone to let us know.
* On the bus you should be respectful to all, especially the bus driver!!
* Keep the bus clean AT ALL TIMES.
* There is to be no public display of affection on the bus *or* ***anywhere while on these trips*!** When we are traveling in the dark - girls and boys or couples will be split (back/front or right/left).

Article X - Hotel Etiquette:

* Rooms will be pre-assigned and changing is not permitted.
* You are NOT to leave the hotel premises.
* You are not allowed in rooms of the opposite gender (or other half of a couple).
* Lights out will be specified; be in your room at that time. Since we have to get up early and have long days, you need sleep in order to do well, **go to sleep**. “Lights out” means in your room and in bed.
* Room doors may be taped without your knowledge after lights out, and room checks will be done periodically during the night. If the tape is broken (a team member leaves their hotel room during the night or has a guest in the room), all members involved (involved also means you knew and did not notify a coach) will be sent home immediately (which will require a parent/guardian to drive to the team’s current location at the time of the incident).
  + Tape will be removed from the door one hour prior to load time if not specified otherwise.
* If it cannot be determined who is involved from the room in question, everyone assigned to that room will be sent home.
* Make sure you wake yourself, dress appropriately, and load the bus at the designated time.
* Clean your room before we leave the hotel. Put all the towels in the tub and trash in the trash can.
* Conduct yourself in a way that reflects a positive opinion about yourself, our team, and our school. Do not get rowdy in your rooms (being overly noisy, letting doors slam, running up and down the halls, etc…). If there is a complaint – we will talk!
* If there is an emergency and a team member needs to leave his or her hotel room, one of the coaches must be notified **prior** to exiting the room. Unless the building is on fire, there are no exceptions.
* Be respectful at ALL times to ALL hotel staff, restaurant employees, drivers…everyone.

Article XI - Dress Etiquette:

* If you are competing you are to wear an outfit that has been previously approved by the coaches and meets the requirements of the professional dress code. You are to stay in professional dress for the duration of the day, even when you have finished competing.
* Girls are encouraged to bring an extra pair of flat, closed-toed dress shoes to wear between rounds (make sure your heels are on prior to entering the competition room).
* If you are not competing that day you may wear team dress clothes to rounds.
  + **Team Dress**: a solid black shirt/blouse or Debate Polo and khaki pants/skirt/capri-pants. (No shorts).
* NO sneakers, flip-flops, house shoes, sweatshirts, short skirts, midriffs, or anything else unprofessional will be allowed at a tournament. Be prepared to change if your outfit is not acceptable.
* Any time you are representing our team you should be in CHS dress code (including travel & recruiting)
* Be sure you know if you can wear travel clothes or if you need to be in your professional dress clothes for that day. Every trip is different.

Article XII - Competition Etiquette:

* We may not always win or be the perfect team. It is important that we can leave each competition with our dignity and the respect of others. That means we need to **respect** ALL teams, ALL judges, ALL coaches, etc… at ALL times.
* Do not talk about the other competitors in a disrespectful manner. Please tell any friends or family members this as well.
* Stay at our team’s table during the competition and DO NOT flirt…period (that is personal, not professional and a tournament is the wrong time for wrong impressions).
* If you have something to say, someone to complain about, a round you’re upset with, you’re over excited about winning, etc… wait until we get on the bus – Back On Bus (BOB). Never complain, cry, be angry, excessively celebrate, etc… in front of the other teams – again you never know who’s around and how their day has been – **BOB**!
* **NO CHEWING GUM** in rounds!
* Skipping any rounds of competition or switching competitors is **NOT** tolerated!
* Pay attention to the schedule and be in your room on time!
* In rounds, be attentive to ALL performers. Do not be rude verbally or non-verbally.
* Interpers - Do not look through pieces or introductions during a round; you should know them by now!
* Debaters – Do not be rude in a round (there is a difference between feisty and rude).
* Sharing competition information with other teams (such as cases or piece cuttings) is prohibited.
* **Do not make small talk with anyone in rounds**, especially competitors from other teams and judges. If someone tries to talk to you don’t be rude, but try to cut it short. A judge will recognize how professional you are or are not.
* Do not ask if judges or competitors are ready or conclude with thank you (exception – debate rounds).

Article XIII - Tournament Etiquette:

* You are not allowed to leave the competition/host campus unless prearranged with a legal guardian and the coaches.
* When leaving a tournament with parent/guardian permission, a signed note from the parent/guardian stating the child’s name and date should be submitted to the coaches in advance.
* We are there first to compete, then to learn, and lastly to make friends. Be there for the right reasons. Stay focused on our team goals!! Remain at our table rather than distract another team from their goals.
* If you distract your teammates or other teams (aka – horsing around, playing football, playing tag, etc…), we will talk!
* When you are finished competing, go watch rounds you are interested in and rounds your teammates are competing in for support.
* When you are observing, stay for the duration of the round (even if our school’s competitor is cross-entered), and spread out (do not sit in one big clump).
* Make sure our area stays clean! **Dispose of ALL trash promptly and properly!!**
* You need to be in professional dress for the awards ceremony.
* In an awards ceremony we will clap for EVERYONE. In formal ceremonies, we will stand for anyone on our team who receives an award and all major awards.
* In an awards ceremony we do not hoop, holler or yell (save it for the bus).
* Celebrations shall be done in a classy, professional manner. The same goes for tears and anger – BOB!

**For Virtual tournaments:**

* This does NOT mean you are free these weekends. These are still tournaments, so you will be in the tournament the entire time it is going on, whether it be at your house or up at Central High School.
* All individual Events (IEs) will be recorded and submitted for competition. All professional dress from above must be worn when recording tournament-ready performances. We will have spaces at school to do such recordings. A lot of IEs will be live in final rounds this year.
* If you have a good space at home or somewhere else you would like to do the recordings, you MUST check with coach Evers first.
* Debate events including LD, CX, PF, Congress, and Extemporaneous Speaking, will be live on zoom or any other virtual platform the tournament host is using.
* We will have rooms at Central High School reserved for such events on tournament weekends. You MUST obey all social distancing protocols while at the school.
* Even if all your events are recorded, you MUST virtually log in to all your rounds at the tournament. This portrays our 3 pillars: professionalism, respect, and responsibility. Even virtually, we will **RESPECT** our fellow competitors, judges, and each other.
* We will do the **BEST** we can to emulate the atmosphere, feeling, and togetherness of in person-tournaments.

Article XIV - Other:

* ALL CHS rules are in effect at all times.
* There will be **no tobacco, drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, rudeness, or any other kind of disrespectful, irresponsible and unprofessional behavior!**
* You are expected to be a self-motivated, driven individual in order to be successful.
* Use manners everywhere you go, with anyone you talk to – please, thank you, yes ma’am, no sir, etc…
* Know that CHS and/or the coaches are not responsible for any material viewed and read by an individual of the team that is of a mature nature.
* Only labels that you have been instructed to put on your books, boxes and computers are permissible. This applies to anything you are taking into a round for competition as a CHS student, even if it’s your personal property.
* Make sure you eat during the day at some point. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of things. Please take care of yourself – it is your responsibility.
* Drink only water when you are competing (anything else will hinder your vocals).
* Your bags may be checked at any time on or before a trip.
* When using Social Media and text messaging, refrain from talking poorly about our team, people on our team, and others in general. Think before you text or post anything, make sure it is positive, appropriate and does not offend others. Never send/post anything that would be considered inappropriate or illegal.
  + If a team member posts any inappropriate statements or material of themselves or others, they will remove the material immediately and be subject to, suspension or dismissal from a tournament or the team (depending on the seriousness of the infraction). This includes any involvement with inappropriate texting, Facebook, instagram, snap-chat, twitter, videos, photographs, etc…
* The Student Code of Conduct will be enforced (eg: bullying, cyberbulling, distribution of pornography, sexting, harassment, degrading statements, etc…). Infractions should be reported to the coaches. This information will be referred to CHS Administration.
* **Parents:** Our team has a website and a twitter page that we continually post team schedules and pictures. In addition, personal and district pages may be used as promotion of the CHS Speech & Debate team. If you do not want your child’s picture on these or other promotional social media pages, please make a note after your signature.
* Parents are invited to travel to tournaments to support our team (if it follows COVID guidelines for specific school)! If a parent/guardian choses to do so he/she must arrange for personal hotel accommodations and transportation.
* When we pull in from a tournament, **no one** has permission to leave (even if a parent is waiting) until the bus is clean, and all team materials are unloaded and properly put away.
* Because of the nature of this type of competition, parents need to be aware that there may be limited supervision during travel. It is always a possibility that there will be one coach to 40+ students. Students will be expected to act as mature, responsible adults.
* If for any reason it is thought that students cannot live up to these expectations, students will not be allowed to travel, which could result in dismissal from the team/class.

Article XV – Removal From the team:

**Definitions:**

* Probation will be defined as a choice made by the coaches to suspend a member from participation or travel for one day up to nine weeks.
* Resignation will be defined as a choice made by an individual to terminate their membership from the team/withdraw from the class for personal reasons.
* Dismissal will be defined as a choice made by the coaches and/or school officials to terminate an individual’s membership based on violations of the constitution and/or other school policies. This requires a schedule change to get out of the class.
* **None of the above removals from the team will exempt you from total amount of fees for the year.**
* Once you travel to one tournament, you are a part of the team. The full $100 in fees apply.
* If you are banned from more than one competition (for various reasons listed throughout the constitution) you may be dismissed from the team/class.
* Individuals who resign or are dismissed from the team/class cannot try out for one year from the day of dismissal or resignation.
* Any member of the team who does not travel to at least two tournaments in the fall semester, for whatever reason, may be dismissed from the team/class.
* A member assigned to ISS (In School Suspension) - first offense is a warning, second offense is a suspension from next tournament, third offense is dismissal.
* A member assigned to Carver, jail, or any other juvenile detention center may be dismissed.
* Any member with proven use of, in possession, or distribution of any illegal drugs (including alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription drugs, etc…) at any time, may be dismissed.
  + If possession of any of the above is found on a school trip, the authorities in the town we are in will be notified first and the matter will be dealt with by the law. The parents/guardians will be called immediately after to be notified of the situation, and will responsible for travel expenses and arrangements from this point forward.

**Above all –**

**Be Professional, Respectful and Responsible.**

**We’re in this TOGETHER**

**Coach Contact Info:**

**Mr. Coby Evers**

Phone #: (325)-659-3434 Ext. 280

Cell Phone #: (325)-340-7771

Email – coby.evers@saisd.org

**2021-2022 Central High School**

**Speech and Debate Constitution**

**Signature Form**

**DUE: August 30th, 2021**

Student’s PRINTED Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have completely read and understand the constitution, and

I agree to respectfully comply with all aspects of it.

I will always do my best to uphold the reputation of

myself, my team, my coach, and my school.

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Student Signature Date

I have completely read and understand the constitution, and what is expected of my child in order to be involved with the CHS Speech & Debate Team.

I agree to help my child be as responsible, respectful and professional as possible by helping in all areas that may involve me.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date