

BSHS SPEECH AND DEBATE

2022 – 2023 Handbook



DRIVE • PASSION • COMMITMENT • LEADERSHIP

“It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent”

— Madeleine K. Albright

More Information/Primary Contacts:

Head Coach: Jayden Beed: jbeed@mcpsmt.org

Our Website: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/domain/385>

Or See Practice Schedule And Drop In!!! :)

BSHS Contact: 3100 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59804 : (406) 728-2401

[NOTE: Please feel encouraged to reach out to the head coach (primary team contact) with any questions, comments, or concerns, and IF YOU WISH TO JOIN!!!]

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to our 2022-2023 Speech and Debate Season! My name is Jayden Beed, and I am the Head Coach for the Big Sky Speech and Debate team. This will be my second year coaching here, and I am very excited to continue to help lead this wonderful group of students.

For those of you new to Speech and Debate, there are many events to choose from! Some are singles events and others require partners. There is a complete list of events available on the Big Sky High School website under activities and then Speech and Debate. My coaching staff and returning students are happy to help find your forever event(s).

My goal is to assist students in discovering and/or improving upon their own unique abilities as far as speaking, writing, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership. I will expect our students to attend all required practices and to attend all competitions our school participates in. Big Sky Speech and Debate has a long tradition of not only excellence in competition, but excellence in our student values and behaviors which I expect to be maintained.

I also want to emphasize that no student should be barred from participating in Speech and Debate due to financial concerns or other circumstances. Please talk to me and we can try to figure out a way to make it work for your student! Speech and Debate is an exciting and wonderful opportunity for students and we want to encourage as many as possible to join our team.

There is a plethora of important information and expectations found in this document so please read it carefully before signing! Signing the last page is a condition of participation so please ensure this is returned in a timely manner!

I encourage parents to participate in a variety of ways, including fundraising, joining a rotating snack list for our tournaments, assisting with decor and photos for our bulletin boards, and volunteering for our home meet! We will be sending out lots of requests and reminders so be on the lookout. I am looking forward to working with your students and to a great season! We will have a meeting for those interested in late September and practice starts October 3rd! If you have any questions feel free to send me an email.

Sincerely,

Coach Beed

Tentative 2022/23 Schedule*

This is a TENTATIVE meet schedule, open to change at any time. Please do not plan on these locations until a final decision is received and confirmed by your coaches!

Date	Day	Event
11/05/2022	Sat.	Kalispell Kickoff
11/11/2022	Fri.	Bozeman
11/12/2022	Sat.	Bozeman
11/19/2022	Sat.	East Helena
12/02/2022	Fri.	Carroll/Helena Capital
12/03/2022	Sat.	Carroll/Helena Capital
12/09/2022	Fri.	Kalispell Regionals
12/10/2022	Sat.	Kalispell Regionals
12/17/2022	Sat.	Stevensville
01/06/2023	Fri.	Corvallis
01/07/2023	Sat.	Corvallis
01/13/2023	Fri.	Butte
01/14/2023	Sat.	Butte
01/27/2023	Fri.	AA State @ Billings
01/28/2023	Sat.	AA State @ Billings
02/10/2023	Fri.	NSDA @ Missoula
02/11/2023	Sat.	NSDA @ Missoula

BSHS Speech and Debate reserves the right to modify this schedule at any time which is to be adjudicated by BSHS Admin

Tentative 2022/23 Practice/Meet Requirements

MHSA requires **ALL** participants to have attended **a minimum of 10 full practices** in order to compete in any tournament.

Practices run Monday-Friday with the exception of when we have tournaments starting on Friday and ending Saturday. Competitors are **required to attend 3 practices a week** with the exception of tournament weeks where they will need to **attend all 4**. Failure to meet these requirements may result in ineligibility for competition.

Holiday practices are TBD at this time, but will be communicated in advance to all participants.

Productivity/Expectations: **Participants are required to be productive at practice for that practice to count towards their weekly quota. In addition, participants are required to follow every expectation given by the coaching staff (deadlines, etc).** Finally, if it is deemed by the coaches that the student is not competition ready (as a result of not adhering to the above, etc.), they may be pulled from that meet. Every event is different and as such it is almost impossible to dictate a list of things a student must complete at practice to be considered productive/ready. However, as a rule, if a student is complying and producing what the coach has discussed with and asked of them then that will be sufficient. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility for competition or further disciplinary action if necessary.

All participants are expected to attend all competitions. Missing a competition may result in ineligibility for the following competition.

Please be advised that the above is up to the coaching staff's discretion. We are aware that things happen and that there are excusable reasons (such as grade dependent school functions, illness, etc.). However, there are also many things that are not excusable (such as non-school extracurricular activities, social events, and more.). It is ultimately the responsibility of the student to balance the activities in which they choose to participate and meet the requirements within those activities. Although we encourage students to be involved in all activities they want, it is ultimately their responsibility to balance them. We as a coaching staff can only be so flexible while still maintaining the integrity and commitment to our activity from our students. So if you have specific or situational questions about any of the above please reach out to the Head Coach.

Additional Participation Requirements

- 1. Required Forms** – Turned into the Activities Secretary in the Attendance Office.
Students will not officially be on the team roster and cannot practice/compete until all forms are turned in. Please fill out all forms ASAP. The only form not required is the Physical Examination-you do not need to receive a physical!
 - a. Medical Information and Insurance
Both sides of this must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian in order for a student to get on the bus or compete. Make sure to include medical insurance company and policy # information. Insurance can be purchased through the school if needed.
 - b. Risk Disclosure Agreement
 - c. Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct
 - d. Season Activities Code of Conduct - Students **DO NOT** have to have a doctor's physical.
 - e. Concussion Fact Sheet
 - f. Signed Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- 2. Required Fees** – Paid to the Activities Secretary in the Attendance Office. Fees should be paid at the same time as the required forms are turned in, unless other arrangements are made. Pay your fees ASAP!! You will not officially be “on the team” until your fees are paid!*
 - a. \$60 Participation Fee
 - b. \$25 Activity Fee
 - c. \$30 White Fee
- 3. COVID-19 Info--** In order to keep our team healthy throughout the season we'll be following all protective and preventative measures that MCPS has decided upon. We will also be required to follow all COVID policies/procedures by whatever host city, county, and school we are attending to compete in.
- 4. Fundraising --** All team members are expected to assist in team fundraisers during the year, which are events organized by the coaches and/or parents. Team fundraising is essential to running the team, as well as providing additional materials such as spirit gear and tournament snacks/meals. This is a condition of participation.
- 5. Tournament Dress Code --** Competitors are expected to wear professional clothes during competitions. These guidelines have flexibility but, this generally means no tennis shoes, no open toed shoes, no jeans, no short skirts, and no blouses with revealing necklines, no distracting jewelry, makeup, or hair. Students **DO NOT** need to go out and spend a large amount of money on a new wardrobe. Instead, they should talk with their

coaches and teammates to determine what clothes are most appropriate for their events. If you don't have the correct clothes, River of Life, Goodwill, or H&M are the best places to start looking. Many adults in life buy professional clothes for a specific time and only use them once or twice, leaving lots of good clothes available. The team, prior to the first meet, often takes a bonding trip to the mall to help our new participants get an idea of what they need!

6. **All Other Applicable BSHS and MHSA Handbook Guidelines** – Expectations maintained by the MHSA as well as BSHS apply to all students participating in any school sanctioned extracurricular event. As such, we encourage both students and parents to review the handbook(s) before signing the *Handbook Acknowledgement Form*, as the rules and regulations outlined there are also being acknowledged upon signing.
7. **Nationals** – Earning a place at the National Tournament is an immense honor, however, because it is not an MHSA sanctioned tournament - we are on our own for fundraising all costs to attend. This includes flights, lodging, transportation, food, registration, and more for everyone attending (students and coaches). Therefore, assuming the qualifying students meet all of the other requirements, in order to be registered for the National Tournament they will need to front \$2000. Our coaching staff will give you a date this is due, but it will likely be no later than a month following the national qualifying meet. This will pay for the students' flights and rooming. Our team will then work to fundraise the remaining costs (coaches costs, transportation, judging, food, registration, and more). This fronted money is not only to ensure your commitment, but it is to make sure we have enough money to book our flights/rooms enough in advance that they are the most cost effective as possible. It is also important to note that although we see no issue in fundraising costs as long as everyone does their part, it is ultimately the responsibilities of the qualifying students and their families to supplement any of the costs we do not make fundraising (for example, if we were to be short a \$500 registration fee - all of the students would evenly split the burden of needing to supplement this cost (5 students = \$100 each)). The 2023 National Speech and Debate Tournament will be held in Phoenix, AZ June 11th-16th.

Travel Information

1. **Varsity & JV** -- The “Varsity” and “JV” travel teams and designations are very fluid and will change at each tournament. Varsity determinations depend on commitment to the team, competitiveness, and the coaches’ discretion. Typically, most students have the opportunity to compete Varsity at tournaments held in Missoula, Bozeman, and Kalispell. Beyond that, there may be some limits to who can compete at the Varsity level. Varsity tournaments, including State, usually limit us to a maximum of 4 competitors in each event (or 4 teams in partner events). Varsity tournaments will be the *ONLY* time students

may ever be asked to enter a different event for the sake of maximizing participation as well as competitive potential.

2. **2022-2023 State Travel Team** -- In mid-January, when choosing the students selected for the 2022-2023 AA State Team, the coaches will set the roster based on who has best met the varsity expectations in addition to having the potential for competitive success at State.
3. **Dropping a Tournament** -- Students must make a commitment to attend a tournament by the date indicated by the coaching staff in advance which is determined by the registration/drop deadline by the tournament host. Coaches will assume that ALL team members are available to compete at ALL tournaments unless they have had a prior discussion with their coaches or have an unavoidable conflict (a medical issue, family emergency, etc.). Additionally, any student who commits to attending a tournament and drops out the week of the tournament will forfeit the privilege to attend the next scheduled Varsity tournament. This is to ensure that no one claims a travel spot and then back out, depriving another student of the opportunity to compete.
4. **Traveling** -- We will typically leave for tournaments on Friday mornings and return late Saturday evenings. Transportation is on buses provided by the district. The school will book and pay for the buses and the hotels in advance, but we will ask students to commit to attending a tournament a few weeks before in order to know how many hotel rooms to book, as well as to assist the tournament hosts in planning. The medical information cards are kept with the coaches at all times during tournaments. If your child should need medical assistance, we will take the appropriate action and will notify you immediately. If your child has specific health risks, medications they take, or dietary needs please make sure we are aware in advance. **Because we travel as a team, if your child becomes ill and needs to return home, it will be your responsibility to come pick them up. The same is true for a violation of any rule, policy, code of conduct expectation, etc.**
5. **Food** -- Because tournaments are typically two full days, it is important that students take responsibility to stay well-fed and hydrated. They should eat breakfast at home, and we generally are provided breakfast at the hotel. That means that they should bring: **Food or money for 2 lunches and 2 dinners.** For those students who bring money, we will stop to pick up food on Friday, and, *if decided upon by the coaching staff*, again on Saturday evening. There will NEVER be a guarantee of this final stop, so students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to bring snacks or entire meals, depending upon food availability at the tournament. The parents group often provides team snacks that the coaching staff will send out sign-ups for in advance.
6. **Parent Group** -- A robust parent group is essential to the success of Big Sky High School Speech and Debate as a team. The mission of the parent group is self-defined, but

generally means supporting the students on our team during the year and especially at competition. For tournaments, the single largest contribution is helping to provide food and snacks for our students. *Anyone interested in being a part of the parent group should opt-in on the handbook acknowledgement form.*

7. **“Remind” Texting Application** –We will be using the Remind texting application and email to communicate with the team. We will communicate with parents via email. The Remind code will be given out to all participants the first week of practice. Additionally, for reference the coaches emails are provided on the cover page of this document.
8. **Bullying and Hazing**–There will be ZERO tolerance for bullying, hazing, or harassment of any kind on this team. This includes all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. We will treat all of our team members and competitors with respect in and out of rounds and practices. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to report any instance of bullying please EMAIL jbeed@mcpsmt.org. Email will allow us to have a record of any conversation if it becomes necessary. Thank you!
9. **PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE TO COACH BEED!!**

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I agree to follow all of the rules and expectations set out in the 2022 - 2023 Big Sky Speech and Debate Handbook, as well as those applicable rules and expectations from **BOTH** the MHSA and BSHS handbooks.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Group

If you are interested in being a part of our parent group, please include your contact information below. While the coaches will already have access to parent/guardian contact information for safety reasons, families must opt-in for us to share that information with other families.

Name(s)	Student	Email	Phone # (cell or home)
_____	_____	_____	_____