



NEWSLETTER

2023-2024
September: Issue #1

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the NJSDL and the New Jersey District
of the National Speech & Debate Association



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Speech & Debate Season

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year and season! I am so glad to see the strength of our NJSDL community, and proud of the growth we've shown over the last few years. We have had such great success on the local, regional, and national circuit - and have even had students make it to the very highest levels of competition at both the NCFL and NSDA Nationals. Our coaches have been honored on those national stages, our teams are stronger than ever, and we have some really exciting new ideas for this competitive season! More than that, we are seeing such a thriving and exciting community grow amongst our local teams. I hope we are all excited about and for the first few tournaments of the year - be it at Yale University, Borelli (graciously hosted by Anne at Summit again!), or Phillipsburg. I hope you all are also excited about some new ideas - be it the alumni spotlight or our student advisory board (coming soon!). The NJSDL is committed to encouraging student voice, and we believe these new programs will allow our NJ students to become even more dynamic leaders in the competitive space - and beyond! As we go through the first few weeks of the school year, please know that you can reach out at any time for help, questions, concerns, or anything else that you might need. Speech and Debate is truly such a unique place for our students - and whatever we can do to help your teams grow, please let us know. Good luck this year to all!

Katie Burke - NJSDL President

Important Dates

Wed. 10/4/23 @ 5:00PM

Coaches Meeting - [RSVP here!](#)

Location: Vintage Tavern, Stirling, NJ

Sat. 10/21/23

Introductory Workshops for Students,
Coaches & Judges @ Summit HS.

Featuring our annual SUIT SWAP!

Sat. 10/28/23

Phillipsburg HS Tournament -
Registration on [Speechwire.com](#)

Tue. 10/31/23

Early Bird Registration concludes.
Save \$25 by registering before 10/31!

Visit www.NJSDL.org for the
complete 2023-2024 calendar.



Speech & Debate In the News

[Speech & Debate training to be held in Montville Township – Sept. 1, 2023](#)

[Do you want to Prepare your Students for the AI World? Support your Speech and Debate Team Now – Stefan Bauchard – August 18, 2023](#)

[Student Debaters' Topic Proposal Could Be Argued For Full School Year- Newsweek – August 9, 2023](#)

[National Speech and Debate Tournament sets record in Phoenix – Christina Estes – KJZZ Podcasts – July 20, 2023](#)

[Ridge speech and debate team excels at Tournament of champions – Basking Ridge Patch – May 12, 2023](#)

[Katie Burke awarded speech and debate educator of the year – TAPintoRandolph – May 2, 2023](#)

New Jersey District News



[To join the NSDA, click here!](#)

Program Grants – The NSDA offers several grant opportunities to assist teams with financial resources. [Access available programs here.](#)

Free Online MS & HS Springboard Scrimmages – Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation, [the Springboard Series](#) will again offer a variety of FREE, online opportunities including after-school scrimmages and two weekend tournaments.

Are you interested in becoming a **Belonging & Inclusion Advocate** for our New Jersey tournaments and events? Email David Yastremski @ dyastremski@bernardsboe.com and we will forward your name for upcoming trainings!



Congratulations to our Team NJ finalists/semifinalists at the NSDA National Championships in Phoenix!



- Aamvi Tripathi** - Hunt. Central HS- 2nd place - Senate & Final Presiding Officer
- Natalie Ramirez Porras** - Ridge HS - 5th place - Prog. Oral Interpretation
- Amy Cao** - Ridge HS - 3rd place - Impromptu Speaking & 7th place - Extemp Commentary
- Matt Hecker** - Summit HS - 7th place - Informative Speaking
- Alexander Margulis & Ishaan Banerjee** - 9th place - Public Forum
- Alex Calder & Romir Patel** - Delbarton - 12th place - Public Forum
- Riya Devroy** - Millburn HS - 13th place - Extemp Commentary
- Ayomide Adekoya** - Newark Central HS - 10th place - Prose Reading
- Ravi Naidu** - Summit HS - 14th place - Extemp Debate
- NJ Team Gold - Octofinalist - World Schools**
- Tanya Chatterjee: West Windsor Plainsboro North
- Conner Cafero: Randolph HS
- Briana Lange: Randolph HS
- Andrew Chun: Bergen Academies
- Sunay Hegde: Montville Township HS

Middle School

- Lucas Saldana & Cidell Torto** - Science Park HS - Semifinalists - Policy Debate
- Ava McCune** - Science Park HS - Octofinalist - LD Debate

School Awards

School of Excellence:

Ridge HS - Speech

Schools of Honor:

- Bridgewater-Raritan HS - Debate
- Princeton HS - Debate
- Summit HS - Speech

NJSDL Student News & Resources

Student Leadership Board Application

This year, we are offering a pilot program for students in the NJSDL to get further involved in the running of the league. As we are an organization that values and uplifts student voice, we want our students to have input and insight in the running of the NJSDL.

Therefore, if you are interested in participating and applying to be a member of the statewide student leadership board, [please complete the following form.](#)

This form will open on September 1 and remain open until midnight on September 14. Late applications may not be accepted nor considered. We may contact you for further information or for an interview.



Watch 2023 Nationals Videos



Watch #Nats!

Click on the above image to view the final rounds from NSDA '23!

NJSDL Online Tournament Series for MS and HS students!

October 2023 – Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

December 2023 – Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities



May 2024 – Celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

[CLICK HERE FOR Details on our online series](#)

Coaches' Caucuses – Fall Meetings

The coaches' caucuses provide opportunities to network with other coaches and engage in critical conversations about the identity the caucus represents. The caucuses meet three times a year—virtually during the fall and spring and in person at the National Tournament.

<p>Women's Coaches' Caucus September 10 6:00 p.m. CT</p>	<p>Abilities United Coaches' Caucus September 19 6:00 p.m. CT</p>	<p>Asian/Pacific Islander Coaches' Caucus September 20 6:00 p.m. CT</p>
<p>Indigenous Persons Coaches' Caucus October 11 7:00 p.m. CT</p>	<p>Hispanic/Latine Coaches' Caucus October 17 7:00 p.m. CT</p>	<p>Black/African American Coaches' Caucus October 18 7:00 p.m. CT</p>
<p>LGBTQ+ Coaches' Caucus October 24 7:00 p.m. CT</p>	<p>To register for any of the Coaches' Caucuses, <u>CLICK HERE</u> or visit speechanddebate.org/equity/</p>	

School Registration

2023-2024 Season

[Register online here](#) or complete the following form and mail with your registration fee to the address on the right.

Are you a High School (9-12) Middle School (5-8)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone #: _____

School Moderator: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Principal/Head of School: _____

Email: _____

Additional Moderator/Coach: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: New Jersey Speech and Debate League

#337

203 Main Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

All schools, new and returning, should complete the following information and remit annual dues payment each year [note that many schools pre-pay their annual dues in conjunction with the previous year's state championship tournament registration fees]. In order to compete at league-managed tournaments such as the State Championships, all materials should be received by January 31, 2024 to be eligible . You may pay your dues by October 31, 2023 at the discounted rate of \$175. Dues are \$200 if paid between October 31 and January 31. League W-9 can be accessed at njsdl.live/w9form

[Membership to the National Speech & Debate Association is separate. You can join the NSDA by clicking here!](#)



New Jersey Speech and Debate League

#337

203 Main Street

Flemington, NJ 08822

a partner organization with



and



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

OFFICERS:

President-Katie Burke ([Randolph](#))

VP-Speech-Renee Drummond ([Elizabeth](#))

VP-Debate-Laurie Schmid ([Phillipsburg](#))

VP-Outreach-Vacancy

Treasurer-Adam Leonard ([Hunt. Central](#))

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Brian Rodriguez ([Elizabeth](#))

Ray Shay ([Princeton Academy](#))

Dennis Philbert ([Newark Central](#))

Noelle Abbott ([Phillipsburg](#))

Michael Sowell ([Barringer](#))

Al Fischer ([Bridgewater-Raritan](#))

Mary Gormley ([Delbarton](#))

David Richardson ([Newark School of Fashion and Design](#))

David Yastremski ([Ridge](#))

Alternates

Gary Yablon ([Hudson Arts and Sciences](#))

Saul Grullon ([North Star Academy](#))

Andrew Prescott ([Montville Township](#))

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

[David Yastremski](#) ([Ridge](#)) - Chair

[Katie Burke](#) ([Randolph](#))

[Adam Leonard](#) ([Hunterdon Central](#))

[Dennis Philbert](#) ([Newark Central](#))

[Anne Poyner](#) ([Summit](#))

[Laurie Schmid](#) ([Phillipsburg](#))