

Mountain View-Los Altos Speech and Debate  
**COMMUNICATIONS**

Sept. 7, 2016

Dear Parents,

**Welcome to Speech and Debate!** We hope your student will find our activities worthwhile and fun, and will want to become a part of our team, competing at local tournaments.

**Speech and Debate, we are firmly convinced, is the best extracurricular activity a high school student can be involved in.** No matter which of the twelve speech events and four types of debate a student chooses, he or she will develop confidence and poise speaking in public – a skill that will last a lifetime. In addition, depending on the event(s) chosen, students may learn to speak on their feet, build persuasive arguments, write for a listening audience, do quality in-depth research, analyze current events, or bring a piece of literature to life. Such skills translate into more effective oral presentations in class, better-written assignments, and enhanced ability to express oneself in multiple settings, from class discussions to job interviews, workplace meetings and more.

**We invite you to two events especially for parents:**

• **Sat., Sept 10 is Demo Day at Los Altos High.** All the competition events done at league tournaments will be demonstrated for students, while parents receive training in how to judge such events. Speech events are covered from 8:30-noon, and argumentation events from 1-4, with pizza available for purchase at lunchtime. Whether you are the parent of a novice or an old timer, this is a wonderful opportunity to brush up on your judging skills, which all parents will be expected to exercise.

• **Wed., Sept. 14 is our Parent Night 7:15-9 pm in the MVHS Library. New parents should arrive at 7:15; returning parents may arrive at 8.** You will meet some of our coaches and parent volunteers, hear about the way the team functions, and learn about the various requirements and necessary forms that will permit your student to participate. We will also discuss updates to team policy that all parents should understand.

**For those prospective judges unable to attend Demo Day,** we will also offer judge training during one of our Wednesday night meetings in October.

**Feel free to contact me at any time** with questions or concerns about Speech and Debate. We look forward to another fruitful and exciting year of competition.

Best wishes,  
Julie Herman  
Head of Speech and Debate  
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