

RIDGE FORENSICS

SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

HANDBOOK

2018-2019



Ridge Forensics Officers

President – Kishan Gandham
 Vice-President – Sonali Pai
 Secretary/Treasurer – Libah Farooqi

Tournament Director – Marko Cukar
 Social Media – James Gao
 Webmaster – Rohan Jinturkar
 Librarian & PR – Caroline Lidz
 Recording Secretary – Raheel Abubakar
 Recording Secretary – Neha Razak

Captains:

Interpretation – Siddarth Sasane
 Extemporaneous – Rayhan Murad
 Congress – Arnav Gupta & Mason Krohn
 Public Address – Maxwell Su
 Lincoln Douglas – Jerry Yang
 Public Forum – Udheesh Gaddipati

Novice Captains:

Interpretation – Rajvi Shah
 Lincoln-Douglas – Tanvi Namjoshi
 Public Forum – Albert Wen
 Congress – Grace Zhu
 Extemporaneous – Shriya Kosuru

NSDA Team of Excellence

***2018,
 2017, 2016
 2015, 2014,
 2013, 2012,
 2011, 2009,
 2008, 2005***

NCFL Team of Excellence

***2017, 2018
 2016, 2015,
 2014, 2013,
 2012, 2011,
 2010, 2009,
 2008, 2007,
 2005, 2003***

New Jersey

Overall

State Champions

***2018, 2017,
 2016, 2015,
 2014, 2013,
 2012, 2011,
 2010, 2009,
 2008, 2007,
 2006, 2005,
 2004, 2003,
 2002***

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I. CONTACT INFORMATION

DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS: DAVID YASTREMSKI

In case of an emergency, you can always reach me on my cell phone: 973-981-0841. Please do not use this number unless it is an emergency.

To send an email: dyastremski@bernardsboe.com

To access our website: www.ridgeforensics.com

To follow the team on Instagram: @RidgeForensics

GOOGLE EMAIL GROUPS

To join the parent Google group: Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/rfparents1819>

To join the student Google group: Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/rf1819students>

REMIND ACCOUNTS (FOR TEXT MESSAGES)

PARENTS ONLY: Send a text to 81010 with the message “@rfparent”. You will receive a confirmation that you’ve been added to the list.

STUDENTS ONLY: Send a text to 81010 with the message “@rf171”. You will receive a confirmation that you’ve been added to the list.

Steering Committee – Concessions Info – ridgeforensicsvolunteer@gmail.com

Financial Manager – Barbara Retzko – bretzko@bernardsboe.com

Assistant Director – Forensics – Laura Cristiano – lcristiano@bernardsboe.com

Assistant Director – Speech - Stephanie Fletcher – sfletcher@bernardsboe.com

Assistant Director – Debate – Ryan Monagle – rmonagle@bernardsboe.com

Coach – Extemp, Congress, & Debate – Nick Hansen – nickghansen@gmail.com

Coach – Debate Events – Bailey Rung – bailey.c.rung@gmail.com

Coach – Debate Events – Alex Rivera – alex.mckenzie.rivera@gmail.com

Coach - Congress - Nicole Castillo - nicolecastillo95@gmail.com

Coach - Congress, Public Forum, & Limited Prep - Isaac Keller - ikeller7@yahoo.com

II. 2018-2019 RIDGE FORENSICS IMPORTANT DATES

More detailed practice & tournament information at www.ridgeforensics.com.

Schedule is subject to change

9/5/2018	Returning Student Meeting Yale & Bronx Forms due 4:30-5:30pm	5:30-8:30pm	Café
9/17/2018	Drama Club/Forensics Meeting	2:30pm	PAC
9/17/2018	Informational Meeting	3:00-5:00pm	Lec B
9/22/2018	Audition	10:00am-4:00pm	
10/5/2018	Giftwrap Orders Due to Mrs. Retzko		
10/10/2018	Monthly Student Meeting & Practice Dues, St. Joe's, Blake Forms Due @ 4:30-5:30	5:30-7:00pm	Lec A
10/10/2018	Required Parent Meeting	7:00-8:30pm	Lec A
10/24/2018	Judge Training at Ridge	6:00 – 8:30pm	Lec A
10/30/2018	Donation Deadline (Returning Students only; \$50 fine applies for late)		
10/31/2018	GMU/Princeton Forms Due 4:30-5:30pm		
11/14/2018	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice	5:30-8:30pm	Atrium
12/5/2018	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice – Lexington/Sunvitational Forms Due @ 5-5:30pm	5:30-8:30pm	Atrium
1/2/2019	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice– Harvard, Penn & Pennsbury Forms Due @ 4:30-5:30pm	5:30-8:30pm	Atrium
2/6/2019	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice	5:30-8:30pm	Atrium
3/6/2019	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice. TOC Forms due @ 5-5:30pm	5:30-8:30pm	Atrium
4/3/2019	Required Student Elections Meeting & Practice. NCFL & NSDA Forms due 5-5:30pm	5:30-8:30pm	Lec A
5/1/2019	Monthly Required Student Meeting & Practice	5:30-8:30	Atrium
5/22/2019	RF National Showcase	6:00 – 8:30	Café
5/31/2019	Ridge Banquet	7:00-9:30pm	Café

Other dates and deadlines will be announced via email and monthly meetings.

III. RIDGE FORENSICS 2018-2019 SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date	Location	Events	Notes
14-16 Sept	Yale University, CT	Speech, LD, PF, Con, CX	
6 Oct	Horace Mann, Parliamentary Debate	Parliamentary Debate	
22 Sep	AUDITIONS (10 - 4)		
8 Oct	NJSDL Judge Training – Delbarton (tentative)	All Events: 12:00-4:00pm	
12-14 Oct	Bronx Science, NY	Speech, LD, CX, PF, Con	
20 Oct	Newark CFL-Union Catholic HS or NJSDL-Millburn HS	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Team Required Novice Observe
24 Oct	NJSDL Judge Training – Ridge HS	All Events: 6pm-830pm	
27 Oct	Phillipsburg HS – NJSDL	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Team Required Novice Observe - ACT
3 Nov	William Tennent HS	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Novice Required CX Required - SAT
10 Nov	Newark CFL #2- Ridge or NJSDL-Manville HS	Speech, LD, PF, Con	All Team (except CX) required DRAMA SUPER SAT
9-10 Nov	Scarsdale HS, Scarsdale, NY	LD, PF	
17 Nov	Randolph HS, NJSDL	Speech, LD, PF	All Team Required FALL DRAMA
16-18 Nov	St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, PA	Speech, LD, PF, Con, CX	Novice and CX Encouraged
22-25 Nov	Thanksgiving Weekend	Turkey, Stuffing, Pie	
30 Nov -2 Dec	Princeton University	Speech, LD, PF, Con	SAT
30 Nov – 3 Dec	George Mason Univ. Patriot Classic	Speech, LD, PF, Con	SAT
30 Nov – 3 Dec	Mamaroneck HS, NY	CX	SAT
7-8 Dec	The Ridge Debates	LD, PF, Con, CX	ACT All Team Required
8 Dec	Summit HS, NJSDL	Speech, PF, Con	Speech Required - ACT
15 Dec	Newark CFL 3 – Montville or Lafayette College (CFL rules)	Speech, LD, PF, Con	All team required.

14-17 Dec	Blake HS, Minneapolis, MN	Speech, Con, CX	
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2019

Date	Location	Events	Notes
3-4 Jan	Newark City Round Robin	LD	
4-5 Jan	Newark City Invitational	LD, PF, CX	
5 Jan	NJSDL-Hunt Central Reg HS or Chaminade HS, Mineola, NY	Speech, LD, PF, Con	All Team Required
12 Jan	Freehold Twp. HS NJSDL	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Varsity Required
11-14 Jan	Sunvitational, Florida - University HS	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Tentative
18-20 Jan	Lexington, MA	LD, CX, PF	
19 Jan	Newark CFL 4–Union Catholic	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Novice Required
26 Jan	Ridge HS, NJFL	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Team Required - SAT
1-2 Feb	Pennsbury Falcon Invitational	Speech, LD, PF, CX, Con	Novice Encouraged
2 Feb	Newark CFL#5 – Ridge or NJSDL-Borelli Memorial Tourn. @ Freehold Twp HS	Speech, PF, LD, Con	Team Required - ACT
1-2 Feb	Hendrick Hudson HS, Montrose, NY	LD, PF	
8-10 Feb	University of Pennsylvania, PA	Speech, PF, LD, Con, CX	ACT
15-18 Feb	Harvard University, MA	Speech, PF, LD, Con, CX	
16 Feb	Delbarton JV Invitational	Speech, PF, LD, Con	
23 Feb	Montville Invitational & District Congress	Speech, PF, LD, Con	Team Required MUSICAL SUPER SAT
2 Mar	Newark CFL 6 – Union Catholic or NJSDL-Bridgewater	Speech, LD, PF, Con	Varsity Required SPRING MUSICAL
1-2 Mar	Lakeland HS	LD, PF	Uses Feb. Topics
9 Mar	Princeton HS	TBA	SAT
15-16	NJFL State Championships - HCRHS	All Events	Qualification
22-23	NJ District Tournament/NSDA - Delbarton	NSDA Events except Congress	Qualification
27 Apr	Southern Lehigh HS, Center Valley, PA	Speech, LD, PF, Congress, CX	Uses NCFL Topics
26-29 Apr	TOC - Lexington, KY	Speech, LD, PF, Congress, CX	Qualification

11 May	Great Communicators Debate - Chaminade HS	Great Communicators format	Tentative
25-28 May	NCFL – Milwaukee, WI	Speech, LD, PF, Congress, CX	Qualification
16-21 Jun	NSDA – Dallas, TX	Speech, LD, PF, Con, CX	Qualification

Every student is permitted Two BYES from the required weekend events. These are dates where students can attend to other extracurricular or family events. Students are encouraged to plan their standardized testing to maximize their participation on the team. SAT/ACT testing and participation in the Fall Drama and Spring Musical (Super Saturdays and Production Dates) will not count as a BYE. Details on any additional tournaments can be found at www.ridgeforensics.com.

IV. CONCESSIONS OBLIGATIONS AT A GLANCE

Further concessions details can be found at <http://www.ridgeforensics.com/rf-parents.html>

Date/Event	Mandatory Food Contribution	Drop Off Times	Volunteer/ Deadline
November Saturday 10 th 2018- CFL	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	Nov. 10 th 7.00am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius Posted by Oct 15/ deadline November 4th
December Friday 7 th 2018 – Ridge Debates	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	Dec 7 th 7.00am to 8.00am OR 2.40pm to 3.30pm	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Oct 15/ deadline December 2nd
December Saturday 8 th 2018- Ridge Debates	Chipotle style Item. Sign up via Sign up Genius 3 weeks prior. Posted on website too	Dec 8 th 7.30am to 9.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Oct15/ deadline December 3rd
Saturday, January 26 th 2019 – Ridge Debates	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	January 26 th 7.00 am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Jan07/ deadline January 21st
Saturday, February 2 nd 2019- CFL	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	February 2 nd 7.00 am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Jan 07/ deadline January 28th
Saturday, March 23 rd , 2019 Destination Imagination	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	March 23 th 6.45am to 8.15am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius Posted by Jan 07 deadline 7 days prior to event.

V. TEAM STRUCTURE

Ridge High School is currently one of the only comprehensive teams on the East coast. By offering students competition opportunities in Speech, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, and Parliamentary Debate, we ensure students can explore and engage in an event which will challenge them and motivate them as speakers, listeners, and critical thinkers.

A. COACHES

The coaches of the Ridge Forensics team represent the finest caliber of educators for our students, and thus are to be respected for their decisions in determining the best course of action for the team. Students will receive feedback during practice sessions to help them advance as speakers and competitors. Students are encouraged to speak with their coaches about any questions they have regarding rosters, events, and team decisions.

B. HQ – OFFICERS, CAPTAINS, & CHAIRS

In 2000, a student placed a sign on the door of 414 that read, “RF HQ.” Since then, HQ stands for the students that make up the officers, captains, and chairs of the team. Our leadership consists of a combination of elected and appointed positions. Our HQ play a vital role in team management and support throughout the year. They are expected to always be available for all tournaments, practices, and team activities.

C. EVENTS

Ridge Forensics is the interscholastic speech and debate team of Ridge High School, competing with the New Jersey Speech and Debate League (NJSDL), the Newark Catholic Forensic League (NCFL), and the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA). Throughout the school year, the team travels to tournaments at the regional, state, and national level. Students compete in the following events: Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Declamation, Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Informative Speaking, and Duo Interpretation.

A brief description of each event our team competes in follows.

1. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

True to its name, Congressional debate is set to model the legislative process of the United States Congress. While students compete on an individual level, the debate is in a large group setting with typically over 25 people in what is known as a “chamber” in which they discuss social and political issues. Event preparation includes writing legislation and researching the docket of bills and resolutions distributed by each tournament. During tournaments, debaters establish an agenda of what legislation to discuss, debate the pros and cons of each, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have evaluated. Students extemporaneously respond to one another’s arguments through a series of short speeches as well as in a brief questioning period. Overall, Congressional debate is a unique event that truly embodies the skill of persuasion.

2. LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATE

Lincoln Douglas debate is the only form of single debating offered at Ridge. Intuitively, this has its ups and its downs; however, it is fallacious to assume this creates an increased workload, as the Ridge LD squad is intent on completing assignments as a team. In general, it is safe to assume the workload throughout the debate activities is fairly even, yet in entirely different fields of academia. Do you want to debate about the way things are, or about the way things should be? LDers bear the heavy cross of morality; debates solely revolve around the way things should be regarding common controversial issues such as animal rights and how to properly treat people in possession of illegal drugs. LD uniquely shapes and develops a sense of values, yet often demands more mental and temporal dedication to the activity than other events may. LD requires extra time and attention in learning and applying critical theories to various interpretations of resolutions and to 'debate' in general.

3. PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Unlike its counterpart, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Public Forum is beginner friendly – the only thing you need to win a Public Forum debate round is sound logic and a trustworthy partner. Public Forum debate revolves around the idea of colloquialism: most of the time, you will be trying to persuade a lay-judge to vote for your side. He or she may know nothing about the topic, and it will be your job to impart your knowledge in a clear manner in 33 minutes through a constructive, rebuttal, summary, final focus, and various crossfires to show the judge that you and your partner deserve to win the round. Ultimately, Public Forum debate is a battle of logic and analysis set in a conversational environment.

4. PUBLIC ADDRESS EVENTS

When you initially think of public speaking, images of presidential acceptance speeches, commencement addresses, and inspirational talks probably spring to mind. Public Address is the only section of Forensics to embody this traditional, prepared way of speaking. Made up of the three individual events, Informative Speaking, Declamation and Original Oratory, Public Address is all about connecting with an audience on a personal level. Speakers articulate a problem and provide a solution in order to inspire a change within their listeners. Declamation is an event focusing on inspiring this change through a previously delivered speech, by another person, in your own voice. Original Oratory on the other hand allows you to write your own persuasive speech of a topic of your choice to truly emphasize a message about which you feel strongly. Informative Speaking presents a topic of interest for the audience to understand and appreciate.

5. INTERPRETATION EVENTS

Interpretation is a presentation of a creative work of literature through dramatic expression. With such a broad definition, the Forensics field 'interpretation' yields several different individual events with their own technique to analyzing a set work of literature and emphasizing its raw emotions and morals. Oral Interpretation is one such event where participants find one piece of prose and compile a program of poetry. Participants read each piece in alternating rounds individually from a black binder. Programmed Oral Interpretation (POI) is a combination of prose, poetry, and/or drama. The focus is on an argument that is presented through a combination of varying texts. Dramatic Interpretation does not utilize a binder; it is simply the performer and their audience. In this particular event, participants will choose a monologue to perform that conveys an emotional story without the use of any props. Humorous Interpretation is tonally opposite to Dramatic Interpretation, focusing on conveying a more comical plotline. The last primary event, Duo Interpretation involves two individuals trying to communicate a story of any tone while not directly looking at or touching each other. Overall, Interpretation offers the

widest range of events, utilizing acting techniques to discover depths to characters, plotlines, and situations never before experienced.

a) INTERPRETATION SELECTIONS

As stated in the Student Contract, students are requested to share their interpretation selections with their parents. Many times, interpretation selections may involve themes, language or social situations that can be considered controversial. I want to ensure all parents/guardians that their input is greatly appreciated and will be respected in all forms. If you are uncomfortable with your child's material, please inform your child or a coach immediately.

6. POLICY DEBATE

Policy Debate is a two-on-two debate that focuses on a policy question for the duration of the academic year, this format tests a student's research, analytical, and delivery skills. Policy debate involves the proposal of a plan by the affirmative team to enact a policy, while the negative team offers reasons to reject that proposal. Throughout the debate, students have the opportunity to cross-examine one another. A judge or panel of judges determines the winner based on the arguments presented. (adapted from NSDA)

7. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Extemporaneous speaking is an incredibly fulfilling event that truly appeals to your inner politician. In each round, an extemper is given the choice between three political questions, ranging from domestic to international issues depending on the tournament. During thirty minutes of preparation, the speaker utilizes pre-arranged files of published sources in order to answer their prompt. The participant then presents their argument in a structured response for seven minutes. The topics of this event push each individual to learn about current issues, emboldening their political stance and encouraging discussion about what is occurring in today's world. Concurrently, preparing and delivering speeches in an extemporaneous fashion influences each participant to develop a fluid and articulate speaking style. Extemporaneous speaking is overall a truly rewarding event, not only strengthening one's actual public speaking skills, but also their political understanding.

8. LIMITED PREPARATION EVENTS

Impromptu Speaking and Improvisational Speaking are offered at all NJSDL tournaments throughout the year. These are events where students enter their round, receive a choice of topics, and must plan, prepare, and then present their speech/performance within a seven-minute window. These events require students to 'think on their feet' and be able to speak eloquently and creatively. Some national and regional events offer various formats or other types of limited preparation events which can help expand a student's skill set.

VI. TEAM REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

A. SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

The Ridge High School Discipline Code, along with all policies listed in the Student Handbook or Board policy, will be utilized to determine and define inappropriate behavior while participating in any forensics activity (practice, competition, travel, online communication, academic integrity, etc.). Penalties for infractions will be determined by coaching staff and, when appropriate, Ridge High School administration and may involve team, school, and/or legal repercussions. Students are expected to read and understand the Ridge High School Student Handbook which details policies and consequences for behavior. Students who receive detentions and suspensions for team or non-team related issues are subject to further remediation, suspension from team activities, or expulsion from the team.

B. SEASON

The tournament season for Ridge Forensics begins in September, traditionally with the Yale Tournament, and continues through June with the National Speech and Debate Association National Championships. The local season begins mid-October and continues through the end of March. The UK Tournament of Champions takes place during the last weekend of April; the NCFL Grand National Tournament takes place during Memorial Day weekend; the NSDA National Championships takes place in June.

C. FORMS

Students will submit the following forms each year:

- Bernards Township Public Schools – Field Trip Permission Slip w/ Health Information
- Website / Media Release Form
- Notice of Cell Phone Use & Other Electronic Communication
- Carpooling and Walking Information
- Data Sheet (accessible on the website).

VII. PRACTICE

A. ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE

All students are expected to attend practice from 5:30 pm until 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings during the season. Additional practice sessions are conducted on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons (3:00-5:00) for students in specific events to gain more competitive practice and experience.

B. ABSENCES FROM PRACTICE

Absences from required practices will be noted by the Recording Secretaries and reported to the Director of Forensics. Students who repeatedly miss practice, are late to practice, or leave early from practice will lose standing for tournament entry, tournament travel, and future leadership opportunities with the team. If a student misses more than three required practices, a conference will be held to review the student's participation on the team and potential dismissal.

VIII. TOURNAMENTS

A. ATTENDANCE AT TOURNAMENTS

Tournament attendance and participation is the best means for students to grow and develop in their skill while maintaining the high standard of performance from the Ridge Forensics Team. The competition experience is unique to any other academic encounter, and thus, prioritized highly for team membership and consideration. A calendar of local, regional, and national events will be published the spring prior to the tournament year which list required tournaments so students and families can plan for standardized testing, college visits, and other personal matters. Modifications, additions, and cancellations are subject to happen throughout the tournament year due to interest, staffing, and budget constraints. Students' attendance may also be supportive (peer coaching or judging) if they cannot compete for a particular reason such as tournament entry limits or partner absence. **Per school policy, students must be in school for ½ day on the day preceding any tournament participation or travel.**

B. TOURNAMENT ENTRY

Coaches will determine if and when students may enter tournaments. Students must demonstrate a competitive performance level before they will be permitted to compete in any local, regional, or national tournament. If a student is not deemed ready for competition, he/she may attend competitions in a supportive function, up to and including the second weekend of November. If a student is not tournament ready by the third weekend of November, a conference will be held to review the student's future participation on the team.

C. PARTNERSHIPS

Students who choose events with partnerships recognize and accept the consequences of working with and depending on another student. Coaches will have the final say in any partnerships. If one member of the partnership cannot attend or is forbidden from participating in an event, the other member will attend in a supportive role.

D. TRAVEL TO/FROM TOURNAMENTS

Students are required to ride the bus to all local events (except Bridgewater, Delbarton, and Manville tournaments). Buses will depart Ridge High School for local Saturday tournaments at 7:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Students must report to Ridge by 7:20 a.m. so attendance can be taken and departure can be made in a timely fashion. Students who are late for bus departures are expected to arrive to the tournament on their own. *Lates* will be recorded by the coach and recording secretaries. If a student is late on three occasions, a conference will be held to review student's participation on the team and potential dismissal, and *fines will be enacted after the third noted occasion.*

Students are expected to remain at the tournament site for the duration of the tournament. If a student does not advance to the elimination rounds, they are expected to watch the final rounds or serve as supportive role for Ridge students in the elimination rounds. Students are not permitted to leave the school campus for any reason without coach permission. In special circumstances, a parent may request to pick a child up directly at the tournament site; however, the request must be made and approved with 24 hours' notice. In addition, the coach on site must be personally notified when the student is leaving the tournament.

Students are informed of an approximate time of return when the team departs a tournament site; they are expected to communicate with their own parents regarding that time. Other means of communication may also be used including Remind, Twitter, and email pending the coach's access to electronic platforms. Parents must be at Ridge with the bus returns. For obvious safety reasons, students will not be left alone in a dark, vacant parking lot. If parents are not on site when the students return, the coaches cannot leave, and many of them travel some distance to be with the team. Additionally, you have been asked to fill out a form allowing your students to carpool with other families; please make sure you have returned this form and that your children are aware if they will be carpooling home. If a student is late on three occasions, a conference will be held to review student's participation on the team and potential dismissal, and *finis will be enacted after the third noted occasion*. **Please do not park in the fire lanes directly in front of Ridge High School.** This prevents buses from pulling up and provides a safety hazard when students are crossing the street in the dark.

E. ATTIRE

Students are expected to dress neatly and professionally for all tournaments. For boys, suits or jacket/dress pant combinations are appropriate with black or brown dress shoes. Please, no khakis, cargo pants or white socks. This is a good time for them to learn brown belt/brown shoes, black belt/black shoes. Shirts and ties should be pressed. For girls, suits, stockings, and closed-toe dress shoes are the standard uniform; however, some dresses and suit separates will suffice. Please steer them away from crazy colors or patterns. If you are in need of a suit, several nearby discount stores sell suits at reasonable prices. All clothes are expected to be well-fitted. Regarding grooming, boys and girls are expected and required to be cleanly groomed, particularly with hair styles. Boys should be cleanly shaven and any makeup worn by girls should be subtle and professional.

F. ABSENCES FROM TOURNAMENTS

Students are permitted two 'byes,' or voluntary absences, during the year. These byes are designed to provide students with flexibility to attend to other extracurricular and personal matters that conflict with required tournament events (mandatory monthly meetings and tournaments). Students must inform the coaches of their intent to take a bye by Monday morning at 10:30am preceding a required tournament. Students who inform of a bye or cancel after the Monday deadline risk paying the tournament drop fees for both entry and judging requirement (\$20 for local events and higher for regional/national events). Students are permitted one 'sick day' that is called the morning of the event. In the case, where a second sick day is called, a conference will be held to review student's participation on the team and discuss further remediation or fines. Byes are not counted for standardized testing dates; however, students and parents are encouraged to plan their testing schedule to accommodate students' active participation on the team. Byes are not counted for students' participation in the fall play and spring musical (tech rehearsal and production dates only). Byes are not counted for religious observances, provided that the Director is notified in advance.

G. INDEPENDENT TRAVELING

Students on the Ridge Forensics team are prohibited from attending any tournament without the consent of the Director of Forensics or outside the jurisdiction and purview of Ridge High School and the Bernards Township Board of Education. Any student who violates this will be removed from the team.

H. TRAVEL TOURNAMENTS

The Ridge Forensics team travels to several national-level tournaments during the year. These tournaments typically occur on college campuses and involve overnight hotel accommodations. While these tournaments are not mandatory for students, they benefit students in numerous ways:

1. They provide access to the “national standard” of competition. The insight gained by witnessing national champions and finalists first-hand provide an education that most New Jersey students do not attain. Ridge students who have achieved state and national recognition did attend most of these tournaments, beginning freshman year, through their senior year.
2. They promote the name recognition required for national success. There is a subjective element to forensic competition and students who have enjoyed national name recognition clearly attribute a degree of their success to this factor.
3. These tournaments foster a wonderful sense of team unity and collegiality.
4. National recognition in forensics provides a clear advantage to the college admissions process.
5. Students who perform well at these tournaments qualify for competition at national championship events.
6. Some of our parents point out that their children have met a variety of interesting students from around the nation at these tournaments, and have said their children have benefitted from being able to spend time on some of these college campuses.

1. TRAVEL TOURNAMENT RULES AND POLICIES

Students and parents will sign permissions forms which will outline the required rules and policies associated with travel tournaments. Tournament travel requires students to exercise a high degree of responsibility and trust. While the team has not encountered a significant number of students who break the rules, it must be noted that those students who demonstrate a lack of ability to exercise good or sound judgement by knowingly violating any of the rules/policies/ expectations as outlined, or any other rules/policies/expectations as outlined in the Ridge High School Student Handbook, do violate the trust between the school district, our coaches, and the team. Any infractions from the policies, no matter how minor, will be referred to the principal for potential disciplinary outcomes along with potential expulsion from the team. The current list of rules can be found in Appendix A of this handbook.

2. POST-TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school after any travel tournament weekend. Students who repeatedly fail to report to school or are repeatedly tardy for school on days after tournaments, will be asked to justify their absences in a meeting with the school attendance officer which may lead to a review of the student’s participation on the team and potential needs for remediation.

3. MISSING CLASSES

Travel tournaments frequently require students to miss classes. In order to participate at national tournaments, students have to be in good academic standing. Students should take a proactive role to ensure that all work is completed to their teachers’ satisfaction. Students will never use tournament travel as an excuse for not being prepared for their classes.

IX. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS & FUNDRAISING

A. DUES

An appropriate dues amount will be collected each year from students who are invited to join the team. The money collected from dues will be used to purchase the annual team shirt, the student's NSDA dues, the student's NSDA honor cords at graduation (for students who remain active members of the team throughout their senior year), and one fall social event. The dues for 2018-2019 is \$40.00 to be collected before or on October 10th, 2018 between 4:30 pm and 5:30pm. Late payments will be assessed a \$20 fine. Students who fail to pay the dues or make alternate arrangements with the Financial Manager or Director of Forensics by October 12th will not be permitted to compete or participate in tournaments or team events.

Team Members are expected to meet all financial obligations in a timely manner throughout the year. Failure to do so will result in the receipt of an end-of-the-year FINANCIAL OBLIGATION Form which will prohibit the issuance of end of year reports or diploma. Members will not be permitted to participate on the team during the following school year until all Financial Obligations are met. Individual invoices for every member of the team will be emailed throughout the year.

B. FORMS AND PAYMENT

Any forms and payment required for any team function or tournament participation must be submitted by the due date in the predetermined window of opportunity (usually 4:30pm – 5:30pm before the mandatory monthly meeting). Any late or unsigned forms and/or late payment will result in a \$50 dollar fine being assessed for each late submission. Student will be invoiced accordingly if fees or fines are not paid in a timely manner. Students will not be permitted to compete in any future travel tournament until all previous financial obligations are resolved. Any unresolved obligation will be forwarded to the high school bookkeeper who reserves the right to withhold transcripts or diplomas if not resolved. Deadlines for forms can be found on the 'Important Dates' page at the beginning of the handbook. **We prefer all payment in the form of a check made to *RHS Activities Fund-FORENSICS*. If a payment is made in cash, students/parents should request a receipt from Mr. Yastremski or Mrs. Retzko at the time of submission. Do not leave cash in mailboxes, on desks, or send with a friend.**

C. FINES

Fines are levied when students either miss deadlines or fail to communicate with coaches, on various matters, within an appropriate or predetermined window of time. In cases of tournament form submissions being incomplete or without appropriate payment, a fine of \$50 will be added to the tournament cost. Parents and students are always encouraged to make pre-arrangements as long as notification and agreement occurs with 18 hours advance notice by midnight the day before a deadline. Fines may be announced beforehand and levied for late payments, failure to provide concessions, late pickups or drop-offs, and missed deadlines. Please understand that our goal is to avoid all fines; however, their efficacy in helping students meet deadlines and team requirements has been obvious. All fines will be managed by the financial manager and invoiced at specific times throughout the year. All unresolved fines must be paid before further travel is permitted; any outstanding balances will be forwarded to the school bookkeeper.

D. FUNDRAISING

Students are expected to assist with various fundraising efforts throughout the year. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students will participate in the fall fundraiser which includes gift wrap sales and a donation drive. 1st year students will participate in a winter fundraiser which will be managed by the student officers. A spring donation drive will be held to assist the team with expenses at national championships. In addition, the team hosts several tournaments during the year where entry fees and concessions provide a large portion of our fundraising efforts. Finally, the Ridge Speech and Debate Institute serves a vital fundraising role where students middle school students learn the skills of speech and debate activities. Students who worked for an entire week of the Summer Institute are exempt from 2018-19 fundraising.

E. CONCESSION DONATIONS

Ridge Forensics hosts several tournaments during the school year which enable us to meet our annual financial goals. Prior to each tournament hosted at Ridge, all students (including siblings) must bring in predetermined concessions.

Here are some guidelines for concessions:

1. Sign up will take place via SignUp Genius. The steering committee will email a link to parents prior to each tournament.
2. Parents have the option of bringing in beverages, baked goods, and/or specialty items (see Sign Up Genius for details).
3. We require all baked goods to be **individually wrapped** in packages that can be sold for \$1 each, so please combine 2-3 cookies or brownies per package. You can either pack in Ziploc bags or wrap the goods on separate paper plates. Please avoid items that require cutlery.
4. **Baked goods should be homemade or freshly baked.** No Chips Ahoy, Oreos, Twinkies, Nutter Butter, or Costco Croissants please!
5. Limit beverages to name-brand soda (Coke, Diet Coke, and Sprite), Snapple, and name-brand bottled water (Poland Spring, Dasani, etc.). Please do not bring generic or Kirkland products as they do not sell.
6. **Please bring in the baked goods on the morning of the tournament unless otherwise indicated by email.**
7. When the students deliver the baked goods and beverages, they must sign them in with a parent at the collection table. **Students should write their names in big letters on all bags. Students must be sure to receive a receipt indicating fulfillment of their concession obligation.**

The donation schedule can be found on the 'Concessions at a Glance' page at the beginning of this handbook.

X. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

A team of our size at our level of success does not happen without the efforts of each member, and each member's family. We have several ways you can get involved. Please read the following information and let us know how you will be helping the team this year. Parents are required to complete one of the following:

- A. Judging – 3 local tournaments
- B. Concession Steering Committee
- C. Concession – 36 hours
- C. Development & Donation work w/ Mrs. Retzko
- D. Chaperoning – 1 weekend event
- E. Financial Contribution - \$375.00

A. JUDGING

With the large numbers of students competing, our judging needs have become increasingly demanding. We need approximately 8-10 judges per tournament (three for debate and five to seven for speech/drama). Unfortunately, our current budget does not afford us the ability to “hire” judges; college students and other experienced personnel charge \$125 per tournament, plus transportation costs. A judge may be a parent, brother/sister with at least a high school diploma, family friend, or any willing adult. Training is provided, as well as transportation to the majority of contest sites, with lunch provided at several.

All new judges must attend a workshop scheduled to cover the events, rules, procedures, evaluation and ballot writing. Workshops are available on the following dates:

Delbarton – October 7, 2018 @ 12-4pm

Phillipsburg – October 10, 2018

Ridge – October 24, 2018 - 6:00-8:30pm

Randolph – October 29, 2018 @ 7-9pm

In addition to attending a judge training, you can also access resources at <http://njsdl.org/resources/judge-training> and video tutorials at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/judge-training>

Several of you have helped fill our judging requirements in the past. We thank you wholeheartedly. Your participation allows our team to grow and develop, not only by judging, but also by your enthusiasm and optimism at the tournaments. Thanks for your spirit!

B. CONCESSION STEERING COMMITTEE

For each of our tournaments, we need a team of three or four parents who will coordinate the various efforts in running the concessions. The work involved with each tournament can be extensive, so **by serving on the steering committee, you will fulfill your fundraising obligation to the team.** We will designate steering committee roles by grade level:

CFL Tournaments – November 10th and February 2nd – Sophomore Class Parents

Ridge Debates – December 7th and 8th – Junior Class Parents

Ridge Invitational – January 26th – Senior Class Parents

Destination Imagination – March 23rd – Freshman Class Parents.

Parents who are interested in serving these roles will be responsible for meeting and coordinating food purchasing with Aramark and at Costco, creating menus, organizing and tracking concession donations, organizing and tracking volunteers, coordinating money, cash boxes, and submitting proper accounting with Mrs. Retzko, setup and cleanup, storage of leftover items and supplies, and attending necessary planning meetings.

C. CONCESSIONS

Hosting tournaments proves to be our most successful fundraising effort each year. Selling various concessions and food items at the tournaments will raise an additional \$4,000 to \$5,000 annually. Aramark allows us to use the cafeteria kitchen, with help from one or more staff members. This greatly helps us provide tasty tournament meals that other students, coaches and judges actually look forward to at our tournaments. Our parents assist with concessions setup, kitchen prep, serving students in the main cafeteria and maintaining the judges' lounge with hot beverages, snacks and lunch, sometimes dinner, selling candy, cold beverages and snacks at the cafeteria snack bar and final clean up. We always have students on hand to assist throughout the day. We will host three one-day tournaments and one two-day tournament (the Ridge Debates). If you choose to volunteer for concessions, **you must sign up for at least 36 hours via SignUp Genius between all the events.** Although this is a lot of work, it is a fun way to meet the other parents and see all the kids in our circuit and is vital to the team. *Please note, if you find you are not able to show up at a tournament you are committed to work, please find a substitute and let us know that you won't be able to make it in advance.*

Ridge High School will host tournaments on several dates throughout the year. Tournament dates and signup information can be found on the 'Concessions at a Glance' handout at the beginning of the handbook.

D. DEVELOPMENT & ORGANIZING

We would like three individuals who can work on connecting with local businesses throughout the year for help with tournament sponsorship, fundraising, and donations. This may include getting donated food for our tournament, gift certificates for fundraising purposes, and making sure that the team recognizes the contribution through letters of thanks, certificates, and/or advertising in the tournament program.

E. CHAPERONING

Several times during the year, Ridge Forensics travels outside the circuit to national level competitions, usually at major universities. During this travel, we need adults who can serve as judges/chaperones. Please keep in mind that judges and chaperones will be **on call** for the duration of the tournament for judging, check-ins and meetings. There is rarely time for sightseeing or tourism. They are expected to travel with the team and stay in the same hotel. Chaperones will have all transportation and lodging paid. Please contact Mr. Yastremski if you are interested in traveling with the team to these events. Any guests or other family members will be appropriately charged hotel and other incurred fees. **Chaperoning one travel tournament will satisfy your family obligation as you are on call 24/7 during the travel.**

Available events:

Nov. 16-18	Villiger Tournament at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA
Nov 30 - Dec 2	Princeton University
Nov 30 - Dec 3	George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
Feb. 8-10	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Feb. 15-18	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
May 24-27	CFL Grand Nationals, Milwaukee, WI

F. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Our final option to satisfy your family obligation is through a financial contribution of \$375, which will cover judges for three tournaments. The team solicits judging help from several professionals in New York City and students at Rutgers and Seton Hall University. The team will take care of all arrangements. Checks can be made payable to "**RHS Activities Fund-FORENSICS.**" If your place of employment would consider becoming a formal sponsor, please contact Mrs. Barbara Retzko at bretzko@bernardsboe.com

You may also make the donation via credit card at <https://ridge-high-nj.ed.co/ridge-forensics-team>. Please do not combine your \$375.00 with any other fundraising donation.

XI. INDEPENDENT COACHING

Students are not permitted to solicit or receive independent coaching. The Ridge Forensics team has an extremely talented coaching staff who dedicate many hours and sacrifice time with their own families and friends to ensure our students have the best in opportunity to succeed. Independent coaches subvert the relationships and trust in our staff and therefore are not permitted. In addition, the Ridge coaching staff ensures an educational approach to the activity which can be undermined if individual students have other influences or approaches motivating their participation.

XII. SUMMER CAMPS

Students on the Ridge Forensics team have enjoyed summer camp experiences over many years. Students receive amazing educational experiences from some of the country's best coaches, and truly benefit from the camaraderie and connections they make with other students from across the country. The Ridge Forensics Team does not endorse any one particular camp; however, our coaches may offer opinions on the various institutes programs, staffing, and past student experiences. Students are always encouraged to use the summer months, whether at an institute, our team week, or on their own to advance their own learning and forensic competitive skills.

A. Ridge Summer Work Weeks

During July, coaches will schedule time for students to begin working on their events for the following school year. These work sessions usually follow the Summer Institutes that the Ridge team runs as a fundraiser. Summer work weeks will typically be announced during the spring prior to the summer months. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of these weeks, particularly if they are interested in competing at the first events of the season (traditionally Yale University and the NYC Invitational).

XIII. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Students who qualify for the NJSDL State Championships, the Tournament of Champions, the National Catholic Forensic League Grand Nationals, and the National Speech and Debate Association are expected to attend in order to represent Ridge Forensics at the highest caliber of forensic competitions. These are the pinnacle of the forensics season, and competitions this entire team, coaches and students, have dedicated themselves toward reaching. On those years, when the NSDA National Championship conflicts with the Ridge High School graduation, students and parents will be asked to indicate their choice prior to the NSDA District tournament in March. Students who withdraw from national competitions after qualifying for them create a significant inconvenience for the team along with negative perceptions by those who were denied a national qualification as a result of their participation.

XIV. TEAM COMMUNICATION

A. EMAIL – RF

All students will be automatically added to the ‘student’ email group. Students may use their bernardsboe.com emails if they do not want team communication sent to their personal or family accounts; however, **students are expected to check their email accounts on a daily basis to ensure they get any and all timely communication from their coaches and captains.** Students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to respond to any email requests as soon as they read it.

B. REMIND

Students will be required to sign up for the ‘student’ Remind account. This account allows coaches to efficiently and safely communicate with students at tournaments and when traveling. These accounts do require students to have access to a phone with a data plan. Students who do not have a phone with a data plan may not travel to any overnight tournament with the team. If a student needs a device, they may contact the Director of Forensics to inquire how a phone/device may be procured for the purpose of competing on the team.

C. SLACK

SLACK is the official inter-team communication application. Since this is a team productivity app and not a social media site, coaches and students can participate. Slack condenses all internal Ridge Forensics-related communication into a single location, known as a *workspace*. Inside this workspace, there are multiple different *channels*. Channels are streamlined group chats designed with a specific purpose. A channel can be created for literally any purpose; we will start with an announcements channel and a channel for each of the different event areas. Others can be added as we need them! Workspaces also allow people to create group conversations and directly message any other member of that workspace, facilitating even easier communication. All students will participate in the team Slack group.

D. FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

We will be retiring the Facebook group; however, we will continue publishing information on our public page to ensure alumni, parents, and community members can still receive notification of our team’s performance and successes. We also have an Instagram (@RidgeForensics)!

E. MEETINGS

Students must attend the monthly meetings, usually held on the first Wednesday of the month. Meeting dates can be verified on the 'Important Dates' page at the beginning of this handbook.

F. BULLETIN BOARD

Students who want to plan ahead should review the calendar located in this packet or visit the bulletin board outside room 414 for changes and other up-to-date information.

XV. RECOGNITION

A. MEDIA RELEASES

The Ridge Forensics Team will utilize various media to publicize team accomplishments. These announcements help share the great work our students do at the local, regional, and national levels. Parents will have the option of opting-out of such communication at the beginning of the year. This will include, but not limited to, posting the student's name, photo, and/or accomplishments on the Ridge Forensics website and in media releases to the Basking Ridge Patch, The Alternative Press – Basking Ridge, and the Bernardsville News. In addition, we will be posting on our public Facebook and Instagram accounts. Any information that is posted will be related to students' forensic participation and successes. All photos and details will be tournament-related. No other information besides your child's name, grade, event, and/or accomplishments will be shared.

B. NSDA

The National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society recognizes middle school and high school students for participation in speech and debate activities. Students earn distinction through speech and debate competition, as well as community service, public speaking, and leadership activities. Members are eligible to join the Honor Society once they have earned the required number of points. Members of the honor society are held to the Code of Honor, the highest standards of integrity, humility, respect, leadership, and service. These standards have been required of members since the organization was founded in 1925. Over the past 90 years, we've celebrated the achievements of more than 1.5 million alumni.

1. POINTS AND DEGREES

Through competition, students earn degrees which then contribute to the team's strength in determining entry numbers for the NSDA District Tournament. The degrees are also used to determine the national team rankings by the NSDA.

Degree	Points	Certificate Seal
Non-Member	Less than 25 Points	None
Merit	25	
Honor	75	
Excellence	150	
Distinction	250	
Special Distinction	500	
Superior Distinction	750	
Outstanding Distinction	1,000	
Premier Distinction	1,500	

2. ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

The Academic All American award recognizes students who have earned the degree of Superior Distinction (750 points); completed at least 5 semesters of high school; demonstrated outstanding character and leadership; and earned a GPA of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent). *NOTE: If the GPA is between 3.5 and 3.7 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent), students also must have received an ACT score of 27 or higher, or a New SAT score of 1300 or higher.* Students can apply for this award at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/academic-all-american-nomination-form/>.

3. BANQUET

At the end of the year, the Ridge Forensics team celebrates the year's success with our annual potluck banquet in our school cafeteria. We use this venue because it provides a wonderful opportunity for parents, siblings and other family members to attend as well! Remember, we attribute our successes to the families as well as the students. Without your support, we could not maintain our state and national recognition! Our banquet is tentatively scheduled for May 31, 2019.

XVI. PARENT COMMUNICATION

There are two primary means of parent communication. We highly encourage parents to sign up for both: NEW Google group: RFParents1819 & a NEW Remind.com group: @RFparent1819. If you have been signed up for these in the past, you must re-register for the new lists that will be used this year.

Our team maintains a Google Group for team communications. The Google Group email helps mitigate some problems we have had in the past with parental communications, including incomplete lists, spam blockers, changed email addresses and other issues, because you have control of the service with this group. Additionally, the tournament calendar will be posted so you will be able to check tournament dates and locations and other events with just a click of the mouse.

The Group address is RFParents1819@googlegroups.com. E-mails will also be archived to be retrieved at any time. If you have another email address that you regularly use, you can set up your service to automatically forward the RFParents1819@googlegroups.com email to the address you prefer. If you would like assistance, send an email from the appropriate email address to dyastremski@bernardsboe.com. I can add you if necessary.

THE ONLY WAY FOR THIS TO BE EFFECTIVE IS FOR EVERYONE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE GROUP. Please use your FIRST INITIAL AND LAST NAME as your identifying tag to avoid any confusion when sending messages.

The Process:

When you point your browser at <http://groups.google.com/group/rfparents1819>, you will be asked to subscribe to the list. Please click 'JOIN GROUP' or SUBSCRIBE. You will enter your email address. Google will send you a confirmation email to confirm your request. **You must open this email and click the confirmation button in order to be added.**

We will NOT be spamming your inbox with numerous messages, but will utilize this communications system as an efficient means of communicating important details about our events, upcoming tournaments, volunteer needs, cancellations, fundraising and other team-specific information.



Receive **text** updates regarding bus arrivals, canceled tournaments, concessions updates, judging calls via text message. **Send a text to 81010 with the message "@rfparent"** You will receive a confirmation that you've been added to the list. You will then receive up to the minute announcements in your text box.

WWW.RIDGEFORENSICS.COM

There is a parent page (<http://www.ridgeforensics.com/rf-parents.html>) on our team website that will include the calendar for the entire year. We will be updating the announcements throughout the year.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a great year!

XVII. APPENDIX A

TRAVEL TOURNAMENT POLICIES

In accordance with the Ridge High School Code of Ethics, all Ridge Forensics team members must adhere to a proper standard of behavior that embodies the core values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Review the student handbook for more detailed information.

1. While at a tournament hotel,
 - a. No "lone" couples in any rooms; groups may quietly congregate or work in hotel rooms.
 - b. No non-Ridge member in any Ridge room, any time.
 - c. No Ridge member in any non-Ridge room, any time.
2. Use public areas of hotels (lobbies, lounges, meeting rooms) when available for socializing and practice, but do not disturb other guests or teams.
3. Room checks will be at 11:00 pm unless otherwise directed and communicated by the moderator or coach-in-charge. Students are not permitted to leave the room until 6:00 am. Students must have permission from the moderator in order to be out of their rooms between room check and 6:00am.
4. Avoid traveling alone while on campus.
 - **Students MUST travel in groups of 3 to/from tournament sites.**
 - Stay close to other students who are also traveling from a building/room to another.
 - You may call a chaperone or coach for an escort.
 - Remember, the blue lamps on campus will connect you with security.
5. Students are required to remain at the designated tournament site. Any traveling outside the property of the appropriate tournament site is forbidden. While at the hotel, you are not permitted to leave the hotel without proper permission by the moderator and supervision by a chaperone.
6. Students are prohibited from the use of any pools, saunas, or whirlpools while on tournament travel.
7. You must follow all tournament-specific rules & guidelines of coaches (which may vary depending on tournament or specific event). Monitor your schedule. Always 'plan ahead' on eating! Remember, there may not be many restaurants near the hotels. Don't simply rely on food delivery; it may not get there by check-in/room check. Try to pick up food on the campuses/tournament locations.
8. After elimination and while in public spaces of the hotel, attire should follow the Ridge High School dress code. Any student who will be on stage will remain in tournament dress. Student should remain in full tournament attire between rounds (weather permitting).
9. Please exercise maturity and respect during the bus, car, and plane rides to and from tournaments. Please no insulting or condescending remarks about any students, coaches, or other people from Ridge or any other school.
10. The Ridge High School Discipline Code, along with all policies listed in the Student Handbook or Board policy, will be utilized to determine and define inappropriate behavior while participating in any forensics activity (practice, competition, travel, online communication, academic integrity, etc.). Penalties for infractions will be determined by coaching staff and, when appropriate, Ridge High School administration and may involve team, school, and/or legal repercussions.

TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CONTRACT

Ridge Forensics prides itself on hard work and maintaining a high national standing. In order to achieve this, students need and benefit from exposure at national competitions. These events bring the finest programs from across the country together for multi-day tournaments. While these overnight tournament experiences are not required for students to participate on the team, the privilege of participating comes with a high amount of trust and responsibility between students, parents, coaches, and other chaperones/ volunteers. Ridge High School expects students to act appropriately and safely when representing the school at any forensics activity or function. Coaches and chaperones are present on trips to help organize, monitor, guide and assist students during the competition and travel; however, students must demonstrate their own maturity, integrity, and responsibility when making choices and decisions at events, especially at times when a chaperone's immediate oversight is limited. If a student chooses to act in an irresponsible, unethical, or inappropriate manner, the child risks his/her own safety and potentially the safety and reputation of the team.

Recognizing the importance of trust and responsibility while on trips, we agree to the following:

1. All standards and expectations regarding student behavior and discipline, as outlined in the Student Handbook and school/Board Policy, apply to all activities related to the forensics program.
2. At any time, a moderator or coach reserves the right to deny a student the opportunity or permission to participate in any activity related to the Ridge Forensics program. The moderator and coach will communicate this as early as possible with the student, and if pertinent, the parents and school administration.
3. If a student commits a serious offense on the trip, as defined by the Ridge High School discipline code, parents may be required to arrange for early pickup/transit home. School administration will be immediately contacted in such circumstances.
4. Students are expected to respond honestly to any coach, chaperone, or administrative inquiry regarding team or team members' actions as it pertains to the rules, policies, or safety of the team or team members. Non-compliance will be subject to disciplinary consequences.
5. Penalties associated with any choices or decisions that violate school or team rules/policies will be subject to disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to, school suspensions, detentions, team suspensions, removal from travel rosters, or removal from team.

