

# RIDGE FORENSICS TEAM

## PARENTS' GUIDE

### 2016-2017

The coaches of the Ridge Forensics program welcome you to a new season with the team. This year's team ushers in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of our program, and our 15<sup>th</sup> year as New Jersey State Champions! A record like this does not come easily, and each year we all strive to work harder, do better and achieve more. From our first tournament with five students to our state and national rankings last year, our students' dedication and diligence to the activity sets an example for all other New Jersey teams to follow.

Parent commitment is another crucial element of our team success. Your participation and encouragement exemplifies the tradition of Ridge Forensics as a family. We are all involved in the success and achievement of our children and students. The final pages of this packet outline our crucial needs from our families. Please read and consider how best you can help your child and his or her team, even if you have been involved with the team in previous years.



#### 2016-2017

##### Ridge Forensics Officers

President – Daanyal Farooqi  
VP -Speech – Matthew Perez  
VP - Debate – Shankar Krishnan  
Secretary/Treasurer– Jennifer Huang  
Secretary/Treasurer – Anjini Mathur



**Consecutive  
New Jersey  
State**

**Champions:  
2002-2016**

\*\*\*

**NSDA Team of  
Excellence**

**2016**

**2015, 2014,  
2013, 2012,  
2011, 2009,  
2008, 2005**

#### Captains:

Chandni Singhvi - Interpretation  
Collin Montag - Extemporeaneous  
Benjamin Levy - Congress  
Naiti Bhatt - Public Address  
Lucy Wei – Public Address  
Vikram Kalghatgi - Lincoln-Douglas  
Jacob Clott/Brandon Lu – Public Forum  
Rajan Gupta – Tournament Director  
Ashley Yang - Webmaster

#### **NCFL Team of**

**Excellence**

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

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION

**There are two primary means of parent communication. We highly encourage parents to sign up for both**

- 1. NEW Google group: RFParents1617** &
- 2. NEW Remind.com group: @RF1617**

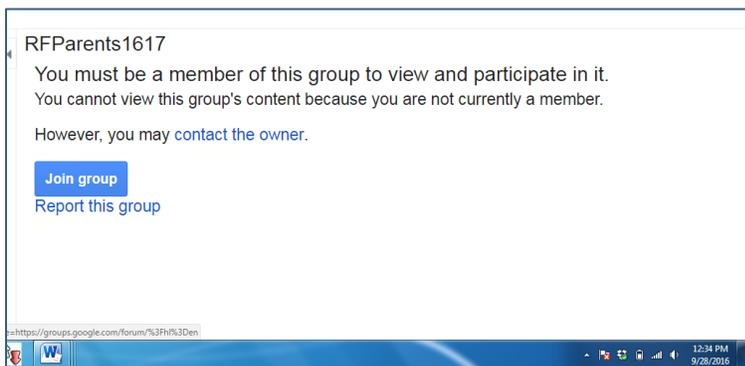
Our team maintains a Google Group for team communications. The Google Group e-mail helps mitigate some problems we have had in the past with parental communications, including incomplete lists, spam blockers, changed e-mail addresses and other issues, because you have control of the service with this 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 [RFParents1617@googlegroups.com](mailto:RFParents1617@googlegroups.com). E-mails will also be archived to be retrieved at any time. If you have another e-mail address that you regularly use, you can set up your service to automatically forward the [RFParents1617@googlegroups.com](mailto:RFParents1617@googlegroups.com) e-mail to the address you prefer. If you would like assistance, send an e-mail from the appropriate e-mail address to [dyastremski@bernardsboe.com](mailto:dyastremski@bernardsboe.com). I can add you if necessary.

***THE ONLY WAY FOR THIS TO BE EFFECTIVE IS FOR EVERYONE TO SUBSCRIBE THEMSELVES TO THE GROUP.*** Please use your FIRST INITIAL AND LAST NAME as your identifying tag to avoid any confusion about who is sending what message. The following information should walk you through the process fairly easily.

### ***The Process***

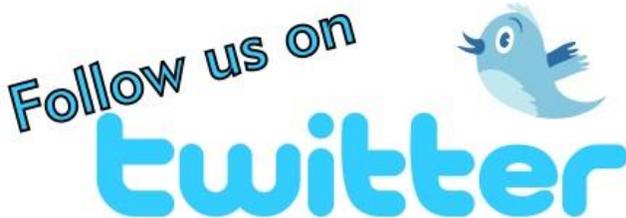
*When you point your browser at <http://groups.google.com/group/rfparents1617>, you will be asked to subscribe to the list. Please click 'JOIN GROUP' or SUBSCRIBE. You will enter your email address. Google will send you a confirmation email to confirm your request. **You must open this email and click 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 “@rf1617” 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.



Additionally, you can subscribe to @ridgeforensics on Twitter for travel updates and more.

## **WWW.RIDGEFORENSICS.COM**

There is a parent page on our team website that will include the calendar for the entire year. We will be updating the announcements throughout the year.

## **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.

## **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, Kohls, Target, TJ Maxx and Marshalls usually offer suits at discount prices. With regard to grooming, boys are 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.

## **DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS**

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 are informed of an approximate time of return when we leave the tournament site. **Please be sure to be in the Ridge High School parking lot when the bus returns.** For obvious safety reasons, we do not leave the students 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. In the past, several parents have told their children to call them when they return to the school, but this has resulted in standing outside regardless of the weather waiting for parents to arrive for close to an hour while the students tried to reach their parents and waited for them to arrive. Please offer me and the other coaches this courtesy. 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 after a tournament.

## **NATIONAL 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 your children 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 (Wall Street Journal)
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, including among them Yale, Harvard and Princeton.

## RIDGE FORENSICS TRAVEL TOURNAMENT RULES

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 11:00pm unless otherwise directed and communicated by the moderator or coach-in-charge. Students are not permitted to leave the room until 6:00am. 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.
  - Use the buddy system
  - 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, air 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.

## **VISITING TOURNAMENTS**

Parents are always invited to attend tournaments in the role of “observers.” However, in order to ensure the success of the team, please do not simply drop in on your child’s performances or force your attendance despite their negative reaction. Even though your child may perform impeccably in front of a large crowd of people, having a parent in the room could possibly throw off their game. I will be happy to coordinate another opportunity for you to enjoy your child’s performance.

Please also note that students are expected to stay until the end of the tournament. This will enable them to support their team and also to increase their own skill by watching final rounds and being present during the awards ceremony. Students will not be allowed to leave a tournament early unless prior arrangements are made with the Director.

## **HOUSING**

In the Northeast regional debate circuit, a common practice has been established of housing students for debate tournaments. This keeps hotel costs at a minimum so teams can travel. Over the years, we have been able to offer housing spots to over 250 students during our two-day Ridge Debate event, held annually during the second weekend of December. The students are accustomed to bringing sleeping bags and pillows and sleeping on the floor. While we recognize that not all families can host a few students, we appreciate any space you can offer to them.

## **POINTS DONATION**

On occasion, we conduct an outreach for ‘point’ donations. This occurs when airline expenses are running high and we are in need of a ticket to a particular location. American Express offers the best program for points as they can be converted to almost any airline, except United; however, we are more than happy to accept any points donations. If you are able to help us out during the year, please let us know.

## **FUNDRAISING**

In order to maintain our state and national prominence, the Ridge Forensics team must maintain an active fundraising program. These efforts include our fall gift wrap sale, donation drive, and tournament hosting. We require all students to take an active role in these fundraising efforts, but we do try to allocate individual fundraisers per grade, so each student is not required to cover all fundraisers. Your cooperation and support are appreciated. If you have any ideas for fundraisers, please share them with us. Also, we always welcome corporate sponsorships!!

## **TEAM 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 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 June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**In case of an emergency, you can always reach me on my cell phone: 973-981-0841**

**To send an e-mail: [DYastremski@Bernardsboe.com](mailto:DYastremski@Bernardsboe.com)**

**To access our website: [www.ridgeforensics.com](http://www.ridgeforensics.com)**

**To follow the team on Twitter: @RidgeForensics**

**To join the Google group: Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/rfparents1617>**

**To receive Parent-focused texts: Send a text to 81010 with the message “@rf1617” You will receive a confirmation that you’ve been added to the list.**

**Other emails of importance:**

**Financial Manager Reyne Juechter – [RJuechter@bernardsboe.com](mailto:RJuechter@bernardsboe.com)**

**Assistant Director – Forensics - Danielle Presuto – [DPresuto&bernardsboe.com](mailto:DPresuto&bernardsboe.com)**

**Assistant Director –Speech - Stephanie Fletcher – [SFletcher@Bernardsboe.com](mailto:SFletcher@Bernardsboe.com)**

**Assistant Director – Debate – Andrew Monagle – [AMonagle@Bernardsboe.com](mailto:AMonagle@Bernardsboe.com)**

**Concessions Steering Committee – [RidgeForensicsVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:RidgeForensicsVolunteer@gmail.com)**

## PARENT/FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

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. Each family is required to participate in some way.

### 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 for that will cover the events, rules, procedures, evaluation and ballot writing.** We have access to two different training options. I recommend an extensive training workshop hosted at Delbarton School (230 Mendham Road, Morristown) on Sunday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4:30 p.m. This workshop will be attended by new judges from around our circuit and will be a very effective session. If you are unable to attend the Delbarton workshop, you must attend a training session held here at Ridge on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more dates, visit [www.njsdl.org](http://www.njsdl.org) and click on Judge Training. You can also access 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!

### DEVELOPMENT

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.

# CONCESSIONS OBLIGATIONS AT A GLANCE

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

<b>Date/Event</b>	<b>Mandatory Food Contribution</b>	<b>Drop Off Times</b>	<b>Volunteer/ Deadline</b>
October Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2016- <b>CFL</b>	12 Baked goods? Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google groups 2 weeks prior to event. Posted on website	October 22 <sup>nd</sup> 7:00 to 8:30 am	Sign up for Jobs Via SIGN UP GENIUS Posted by October 9 <sup>th</sup> /deadline October 19th
November Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> 2016- <b>CFL</b>	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> 7.00am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius Posted by Oct 15/ deadline November 4th
December Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> 2016 – <b>Ridge Debates</b>	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> 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 10 <sup>th</sup> 2016- <b>Ridge Debates</b>	Chipotle style Item. Sign up via Sign up Genius 3 weeks prior. Posted on website too	Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.30am to 9.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Oct15/ deadline December 3rd
January Saturday 28th 2017 – <b>Ridge Debates</b>	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	January 28 <sup>th</sup> 7.00 am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Jan07/ deadline January 21st
February Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> 2017- <b>CFL (tentative)</b>	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	February 4th 7.00 am to 8.30am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius. Posted by Jan 07/deadline January 28th
March Saturday 25th 2017 / <b>Destination Imagination</b>	12 Baked Goods/Drinks or specialty contributions. Email sent via Google group 2 weeks prior Posted on website too	March 25 <sup>th</sup> 6.45am to 8.15am	Sign up for jobs via SIGN up genius Posted by Jan 07 deadline 7 days prior to event.

## 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 me 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:

Oct 14-16	NYC Invitational
Nov. 18-20	Villiger Tournament at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA
Dec. 2-4	Princeton University
Dec. 2-5	George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
Feb. 10-12	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Feb. 17-20	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
May 26-29 (or 30)	CFL Grand Nationals, Louisville, KY.

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Our final option to satisfy your family obligation is through a financial contribution of \$375, which will cover judges for three tournaments. I have several professionals from New York City and students at Rutgers and Seton Hall University available for hire, and I will take care of all arrangements. Checks can be made payable to "RHS Student Activities." If your place of employment would consider becoming a formal sponsor of the Ridge Forensics program, please contact me at [DYastremski@bernardsboe.com](mailto:DYastremski@bernardsboe.com) or Reyne Juechter at [Rjuechter@bernardsboe.com](mailto:Rjuechter@bernardsboe.com).

You may also made 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.

## **COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

Ridge Forensics is the interscholastic speech and debate team of Ridge High School, competing with the New Jersey Forensic League, the Newark Catholic Forensic League, and the National Forensic League. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Lincoln Douglas Debate**

LD 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.

### **Public Address**

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 you feel strongly about. Informative presents a topic of interest to the audience. All in all, Public Address is a thoroughly rewarding event, allowing participants to find and address an opinion within.

### **Interpretation**

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.

### **Extemporaneous Speaking**

Extemporaneous speaking is an incredibly fulfilling event that truly appeals to your inner politician. 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, prepping 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.

## **RIDGE FORENSICS**

### **ANNUAL GIFT WRAP SALE**

1. Collect orders and enter them on the CharlestonWrap.com website
2. **Our ID# is z-10675**
3. Receive your personal seven digit code for ordering online. Share your code via social media with your family and friends to increase your sales.
4. Follow the directions on the sheet regarding whether buyers want the orders shipped directly to their home (free if over \$85) or to the school:
5. Please keep track of your orders in case there are questions about specific items.
6. **Deadline for entering orders is Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.**
7. You may submit separate checks or consolidate into one large check made payable to **“RHS Student Activities”**

Our Forensics coordinator is

Mrs. Juechter - [RJuechter@bernardsboe.com](mailto:RJuechter@bernardsboe.com))

**Team Requirement: minimum \$250.00 in sales or \$175.00 donation to team.**

*(If combining sales and donation, take 40% of your sales amount and subtract that from \$175.00 for the donation amount)*

#### **DONATION INFORMATION:**

**Donations should be made payable via check to “RHS Student Activities.”**

Please consider sharing the EdCo link on your social media networks as well.

**DEADLINE FOR FALL DONATION DRIVE: OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>. Students will receive a 50% credit for personal, non-corporate donations over \$175.00.**

Thank you for your involvement!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN.

PLEASE PRINT clearly. Noting the differences between 1, l, and I. O vs. 0

Your child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_ Your child's birth month/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Second adult to help out (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Second adult's email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm:

I have added myself to the new RFParents1617 Google Group Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have added myself to the @RF1617 group for texts. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If no, may we add you to the group? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other emails or cell phone numbers you would like to add?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check your preferred method(s) of assistance:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Judging
- \_\_\_\_\_ Concessions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Concessions Steering Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning Overnight
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution

If you have any questions, comments, or specific preferences please write them on the back.

**THE RIDGE DEBATES**  
**DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2016 – PLEASE COMPLETE BY NOV 18.**

Form can also be completed at <http://tinyurl.com/ridgehousing>

This year, we will be hosting The 2016 Ridge Debates on December 9 & 10. This tournament is different from our others. While most of our NFL and CFL tournaments run during the course of one day, “national circuit” tournaments run over the course of two days. Because of this, our hospitality needs grow exponentially.

First, we need to provide food and concessions for two days. All judges, coaches, and students will receive dinner on Friday, and adults (coaches and judges) will receive food on Saturday as well. We already have a group of parents working diligently to provide our guests with fantastic food options. We thank you.

Second, and an extremely important part of running such a tournament, we need to provide ‘housing’ for our guests coming from out-of-state. In order for debate teams to afford traveling out-of-state, they must be able to benefit from housing options with the hosts. This is a standard practice of large debate tournaments. *We greatly benefit from such options when we travel*, and in order for our tournament to proliferate and grow, *we must offer the same to our guests*. Last year, you all responded to this call, and we provided housing for all teams who requested it. I anticipate the need to grow this year. We need the space from all our families who can feasibly provide it.

**How can you help?**

We are requesting all forensic families to offer space for our guests to sleep on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Students are accustomed to bringing sleeping bags; beds are not needed – just space on the floor. We also ask for you to provide students with a small breakfast on Saturday morning – again, nothing much. On Friday night, parents will pick-up their guests at Ridge (at approximately 9:30 or 10:00pm) and return them on Saturday morning (before 8:00am).

**Why is this necessary?**

This tournament continues to be a large fundraiser for this team; last year we netted several thousand dollars. Many teams from outside the tri-state area have included it on their schedules, and we need to be able to offer housing to these teams, or else they will not come. These students understand your sacrifice and appreciate your accommodation; their respect for your family and property affirms this. We have not had one issue in the past six years. We appreciate your cooperation to help make this event a spectacular experience for our visitors. This year, we anticipate even more requests for student housing; let’s make sure we can welcome all the schools and students to our tournament.

---

**What information do we need?**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your child’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

I can house and transport \_\_\_\_\_ students.      Gender preference?   M   F   No pref.  
(please circle)

Do you smoke or have any pets (in case of allergies)? Please indicate. \_\_\_\_\_