

## Speech Expectations Contract

Speech can be a fun and rewarding experience, allowing students to learn life long lessons in communication skills, being apart of a team, and overcoming anxiety. As per the Wynot Public Schools Handbook: Students participating in extra-curricular activities offered at Wynot Public Schools are advised that participation is VOLUNTARY and is a privilege. Extra-curricular activities do much to enhance a student's educational environment and provide an opportunity to experience the discipline, concentration, commitment, and pleasure that the group/individual contests provides. In order for a small school to be successful in multiple facets, administration and coaches work closely together with students and parents concerning homework, practice times and contests. With athletic activities needing a gym, practice times in the past have ran immediately after school or when sharing the gym at approximately 6pm and last approximately two hours. Due to athletic practices and contests, we may need to practice on weekends. Therefore speech practice times change weekly based on those activities held after school.

### **Expectations:**

**Practices:** Practice times will be placed into Google Docs and on Mrs. Heimes' door. It is the student's responsibility to check this board every Monday to see the speech practice schedule. Changes to this schedule are rare, but will be posted on the board as well as made as an announcement and/or texted if the coach has the cell number of the student/parent. Excessive absences from practice may result in penalty which include requiring extra practice time or withholding from part or all of a contest suspension per the handbook.

**Performances:** Speech meets are on Saturdays from the last weekend in January through February with Conference on a Tuesday this year and Districts and State during the week sometime in March. If a student does not participate in conference or district contest they automatically forfeit their attendance to state contest unless it is an emergency.

**Attendance:** Punctual and regular attendance is an extremely important part of speech. Excused absences will be allowed for the following reasons: school activities, illness, medical and legal emergencies, absences that have educational merit as determined by the administration, death in the immediate family and religious observations. It is essential that all absences are kept to a minimum. Failure to do so could result in requirement of extra practice or withholding from part or all of a contest as per the handbook. While work is a commendable activity to attend to after school and on the weekends, it is not an excused absence from speech.

Penalties may include but are not limited to the following disciplinary procedures: requiring extra practice, withholding from part or all of a contest, and/or suspension from contests as per handbook.

**Attire:** The Wynot Public Schools speech team will wear suit coats for meets. If you do not own one or cannot afford one, you can rent one for \$10. If this causes a financial hardship talk to the coach and they will make arrangements. There will be an opportunity to purchase tshirts. Team members wear speech tshirts while not performing at contest. The cost of tshirts is the responsibility of the student. Again, if there is financial hardship, the coach will make arrangements. While skirts are allowed the length of the skirt must be within 1" of the knee, ABSOLUTELY no exceptions. The audience should be focused on the speaker and their speech, not what they are wearing. Shirts should be modest and buttoned to at least the second button. Men must wear a tie or bow tie. If you do not have one, one will be provided for you. Women are allowed to wear a dress scarf if desired.

**Vulgarity and profanity:** Vulgar actions and profanity are strictly prohibited by not only the Wynot Public Schools speech team and Wynot Public Schools. Students may hear speech with vulgarity and profanity in them at contest. This is not allowed by our district. All scripts must be approved by the speech coach and are required to be signed off by the administration of Wynot Public Schools in order to perform at NSAA contests.

**Team Expectations:** Speech is a team activity. Each event is given a score so by just participating you affect the score for the entire team in how you present yourself. Stage fright, anxiety and stress are all normal factors of speech. Even the most accomplished actor and actress will have some type of anxiety before they perform. By attending practices, practicing at home, being prepared and attending contests, you will be better equipped to do your very best.

**Individual Expectations:** As a member of the Wynot Speech team you represent the school and community of Wynot. It is expected that you accept the serious responsibility and privilege of being a part of this team. Display positive action at all times. Demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and judges before, during and after performance. Live up to the high standards of sportsmanship Wynot Public Schools expects to achieve. Treat opponents with respect. **No** cell phones in the performance room. Be on time for practice and round performances. Stay for the round unless you are double entered. Be attentive to others speeches. Respect the judgment of judges. Abide by the rules and do not display behavior where you would be called out in a round for rude or belligerent conduct. Cooperate and respect the flow of how rounds are run. Accept favorable decisions graciously. Accept unfavorable decisions with grace and as an educational moment to grow. Come prepared to practice. Bring your script to each practice whether you are required to use it in a round or not to review certain aspects where your character can grow. Respect and bring up your teammates. Never tear another member down. Understand there will be ramifications for disruptive behavior, whether at practice or performance.

**Student/Parental disputes:** The coach will try every effort to work with a student in order to prepare them for contest. Students are expected to make every effort to follow team policies. If a dispute arises, the student should first make an effort to work with the coach. If the dispute cannot be resolved the parent should setup a time when the coach, student and parent can meet in a non-aggressive manner to resolve the dispute. If this cannot be further resolved the administration will become involved. Discussion about other students abilities, assumed privileges, hearsay and gossip will not be apart of this process.

**NIETOC:** National Individual Events Tournament Of Champions is held in May. February 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be traveling to Crete NE to attend a bid event. If you qualify within the top 6 of this event you automatically qualify for nationals. If you qualify within the top 12 of this event you receive one bid point. If you receive one of the top 3 medals at state you automatically qualify for nationals. If you receive 4-6<sup>th</sup> place you receive one bid point. You need two bid points to qualify. This is for EVERY event EXCEPT OID. OID does not qualify for nationals.

I understand the expectations presented to be apart of the Wynot Public Schools speech team.

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Student Signature

Parent Signature

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Coach Signature

Date