



To: Dr. Charles Johns

From: Rosanne Williamson

Re: GBS Debate Schedule

Date: November 8, 2021

Recommendation

The administration is seeking approval of the GBS Debate schedule for spring of 2022.

Background

Debate in our district has a long tradition of national and state excellence. In order to maintain success as a leading nationwide program, in-person debate and national tournaments are important.

Both students and staff alike understand the importance of following all COVID safety precautions and using extreme caution during these trips.



Dear Board Members and Administrators,

Below you will find Glenbrook South Debate's proposal for our spring of 2022 debate schedule. We know that these are unusual and difficult times, and we very much appreciate your consideration of our request.

As you are aware, debate in our district has a long tradition of national and state excellence. In order to maintain success as a leading nationwide program, in-person debate and national tournaments are imperative. While we have been able to survive as a program online during this school year and the previous two seasons, the national circuit is starting to come back to in-person debate, and it is important that we keep up with the national trend. Additionally, after two years of Zoom, we strongly feel that it is healthier for many of our students to debate in person.

It is unlikely that we can experience success at state and nationals without attending in person tournaments starting in January. Both students and staff alike understand the importance of following all COVID safety precautions and using extreme caution during these trips. We will put a variety of measures in place including but not limited to a strict mask policy, reducing the number of students per hotel room, and testing and/or vaccination prior to the trip.

I want to address a few items of potential concern. First, we do have a plan in place in the event that a student or staff member becomes sick and/or needs to quarantine while on the trip. We will provide extra staff for these trips, so that in the event that a quarantine becomes necessary, we will be able to get the unaffected students home but will be able to properly support those students who are impacted.

Second, if there are students or families who are not comfortable with in person competition, we will continue to provide other options when possible. We are not trying to eliminate online competition completely. We just want to make sure that there are options available for those students who feel that those opportunities would be beneficial to them.

Third, we will pay for these trips using refundable methods. 100% of the funds for these trips will come from what we raise by hosting the Glenbrooks Speech and Debate Tournament in November. Therefore, we will not need to collect family contributions. We will book refundable Marriott hotels with whom we have long standing relationships and will make sure they can be canceled if need be. We will book refundable airline tickets directly from the airlines themselves to make the process as simple as possible to get refunds in case a need arises due to the shifting conditions of the pandemic. I believe we can set up our system so that we can get refunds if we cancel 24 hours or more in advance.

It means the world to us as a debate team and myself personally (as both the current Director of Debate and a former debater from Glenbrook South) to have your support in all that we do. Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Alyssa Corrigan

Director of Debate and Social Studies Teacher

Glenbrook South

Calendar for Board of Education - Glenbrook South Debate

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tournament Name</i>	<i>Online/In Person</i>
1/28-1/30	Barkley Forum for High Schools at Emory University	Online
1/29	Illinois Congressional Debate Association 5	In person - Hoffman Estates, IL
2/5 - 2/7	Golden Desert Tournament	In person - Las Vegas, NV
2/11-2/13	Maine East Regatta Tournament	In person - Park Ridge, IL
tbd	Local Novice Scrimmage - TBD	In person and Zoom divisions - local
2/19-2/21	University of California - Berkeley Tournament	In person and Zoom divisions- Berkeley, CA (only in person option approved for national championship qualifying bid)
3 /5 -3/6	Montgomery Bell Academy Round Robin	In person - Nashville, TN
2/26	Illinois Congressional Debate Association 6	In person - Harper College, Palatine, IL
3/5-3/6	Northern Illinois District Tournament	TBD (local if in person)
3/11-3/13	Illinois Debate Coaches Association JV Novice State Championship Tournament	TBD (local if in person)
3/18-3/19	IHSA Varsity State Championship	In person - Normal, IL

4/9-4/11	National Debate Coaches Association National Championship Tournament	Online
4/16-4/18	Tournament of Champions	Tentatively in person - Lexington, KY
6/12-6/17	National Speech and Debate Association National Championship Tournament	In person - Louisville, KY