LETTERING IN SPEECH AND DEBATE

As a member of the Speech & Debate team, you have the opportunity to earn a letter each year by simply following the steps below:

**Step ONE: National Speech and Debate Association Points**

You must be an active member and compete in tournaments to earn NSDA points. In order to be considered for a letter, you must earn a specific number of NSDA in one season. All NSDA points must be earned within the current season for which you are looking to letter. Each new season, your NSDA points for lettering restart. One Speech & Debate season lasts from September through May. Below are the point requirements that you must meet in one season in order to letter:

- **DEBATERS** = 75 POINTS
- **SPEECHIES** = 50 POINTS

If you compete in both Debate and IE in one season and you have debated at least 3 or more tournaments, you must meet the Debate standards in order to letter.

**Step TWO: Lettering Hours**

You must help contribute to the growth and development of the Speech & Debate team. In order to earn a letter in Speech & Debate each year, you must have at least 50 “lettering hours” on record with coaches and/or officers of the team for the season. Just as above, all “lettering hours” must be earned within the current season for which you are looking to letter. Each new season, your “lettering hours” restart. You can earn “lettering hours” through various means, listed below, all of which are acts that help improve the team:

1. Fundraising/Donations - $3 of profit = 1 lettering hour
2. Find Judges for Tournaments
   a. Regular = 4 lettering hours/day
   b. Littles = 5 lettering hours/day
   c. Bigs = 7 lettering hours/day
   d. States = 6 lettering hours/day
   e. Overnight Stays = 8 lettering hours/day
3. Meetings - 1 lettering hour for every hour spent at any Speech & Debate meeting called by coaches or an officer (practices DO NOT count)
4. Officers/Squad Leaders
   Any member who holds a leadership position and who effectively completes all of the duties it requires will receive 5 lettering hours
   President and Vice President will receive 10 lettering hours
5. Volunteers
   If you volunteer or you find volunteers to work at a Speech & Debate special event, you will receive 1 lettering hour for every hour volunteered
6. Qualification to State Competition = 10 lettering hours
7. Donate a Stop Watch = 5 lettering hours
8. New Members
   If you recruit a new member for the Speech & Debate team and that person joins, fundraises, and competes at 2 tournaments minimum, you receive 5 lettering hours
9. Attend a Speech or Debate summer camp 5-10 lettering hours

Coaches may award “lettering hours” for other acts not listed above that they feel contributes to the growth and development of the Speech & Debate team at their discretion. Other limited time opportunities to earn “lettering hours” not mentioned here may be announced during the season as well, so attend the meetings. Do not forget, you also get free “lettering hours” for attending the meetings.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

You will automatically be awarded a letter in Speech & Debate if any of the following special circumstances applies:

a. You are a senior who has been an active member of Speech & Debate for 4 years and who has never before lettered in Speech & Debate
b. You win the State Title in an event
c. You qualify to Nationals