



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

Speech and Debate Management is New Free Course on NFHS Learning Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Schuster/James Weaver

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 21, 2021) — Speech and debate events offer students an opportunity to apply their skills, creativity and critical thinking in a collaborative setting. Whether that setting is in-person or virtual, vital management methods and best practices can be learned through a new free course from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) – “Speech and Debate Event Management” – which is now available on the online NFHS Learning Center.

“We are excited about the launch of ‘Speech and Debate Event Management,’” said Dr. James Weaver, Director of Performing Arts and Sports at the NFHS. “This course will be helpful for administrators, site directors and debate coaches who are planning a speech or debate event. It also encompasses most, if not all, responsibilities of the site host, timetables, checklists and preparation materials needed to make the event a success for all student participants and coaches.”

For those serving in the crucial roles of contest, festival or honor group managers, it is important to provide students with a positive and efficient environment. Through the “Speech and Debate Event Management” course, speech and debate event managers with any level of experience can learn skills that introduce and reinforce time-tested guidelines and techniques that can help them in efficiently and successfully managing interscholastic speech and debate events.

“The NFHS Learning Center strives to provide valuable and pertinent information for the interscholastic community, and we believe this will greatly benefit event managers for speech and debate events,” said Dan Schuster, NFHS director of educational services. “We realized that it was important to include information specific to hosting virtual events and believe that will be a positive component in the course.”

The opening section of “Speech and Debate Event Management” explores the purpose for managing the events, as well as explaining why they must be hosted. The latter transitions to the course’s next section, where the many factors of hosting speech and debate events are discussed. Among them is to emphasize educational importance, encourage participation, and to guide interscholastic programs in character and quantity.

Ensuing course sections offer an overview of sponsoring organizations’ roles, the roles and pre-event responsibilities of the site host, as well as the role of the speech and debate educator in preparing students. The course concludes by covering timetable and checklists for preparing the event, final preparations, and responsibilities associated with running the event and what happens afterward.

“Speech and Debate Event Management” joins other recently published performing arts courses, such as “Theater Safety” and “Adjudicating Speech and Debate.” It brings the NFHS Learning Center to 18 total courses in the performing arts category.

“This course adds yet another performing-arts-focused-course to the NFHS Learning Center library with many more on the horizon,” Weaver said. “We have been working hard to provide more professional development opportunities such as these for people in the performing arts communities.”

For more information and to access “Speech and Debate Event Management,” please visit:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/speech-and-debate-event-management>.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high

school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

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