ETHICS AND STANDARDS - Students on the LTHS Speech & Debate Team are to uphold the highest ethical standards in the classroom, in the community, and in competition. Unethical behavior by one person reflects upon the entire group. Character and integrity represent core team values. Both attitude and behavior reflect good character. Members of the LTHS Speech & Debate Team are to conduct themselves in a professional and mature manner at all times. This attitude should be reflected in competition as well.

TEAM UNITY - Team unity is an essential part of any team, but it is crucial in order to be both a competitive team and one that fosters a safe competitive space. We are a diverse family. In order to function as a member of the team, you must accept and work with other members. Students, Event Captains, and hired Coaches all help provide feedback in addition to the Teacher. Speech and Debate tournaments are designed to be educational experiences. Winning is fun, but it is not the only goal. Students should continue to work on improving their own skills regardless of their win/loss record and remember that tournaments are for other students as well. Students should be mindful of others in class and during competition. Do not express anger or frustration with your opponent or a judge, ever. Feedback is not meant to hurt, but to guide and uplift one another in order to be a more successful competitor and teammate. All team members, and members of the competition community are to be supported and respected.

GRADES - Team members should strive to maintain high grades and demonstrate a positive attitude in other classes and in peer-to-peer interactions. You are responsible for ANY/ALL work missed when you attend a tournament. Students MUST communicate BEFORE a tournament with all teachers of a class that will be missed in part or full. Schoolwork comes before competition. By the end of the nine weeks, all grades must be 70 or above (including weight). Competitions are governed by the UIL. As such, eligibility checks will be conducted every 3 weeks. Students should be aware of state and local guidelines regarding grades, attendance, and eligibility. If a student becomes ineligible they must continue to attend practices to maintain their class grade. **If a student is entered in a partner event and becomes ineligible causing others to miss competition, the illegible student may be sanctioned per the Handbook discipline policy.**

YEARLY FEES - To help with tournament, travel and participation fees for the year, team members will be required to pay a fee up front for participation in the class and/or on the team. The fee for new students is $150. The fee for returning students is $350. If you are unable to pay these fees please contact Mr. Brown ASAP. Checks should be made out to “Lake Travis Speech and Debate.” **Fees must be paid in full before attending the first tournament.**

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION - All members of the Lake Travis Speech & Debate team are expected to participate in tournaments. Public Speaking I/new students will be expected to compete at least one time (1x) a semester. Public Speaking II-IV/returning students will be expected to compete at least two or more (2x) times a semester. Failure to attend the minimum number of tournaments may result in removal from the class.
DROP FEES - Tournaments have deadlines by which schools must enter. They also have deadlines for schools to drop entries without a financial penalty. If a student/team drops out of the tournament after the deadline, the school is assessed a fee for dropping the entry - commonly called a drop fee. If a student drops from a tournament after the deadline for withdrawing without penalty, he or she is responsible for paying all costs associated with that drop, including any forfeited entry fees or penalties for late charges. Fees and penalties for drops must be paid before entering any other tournaments. If a student who competes in a partnered event drops out from a tournament, he or she will also be responsible for paying the drop fees associated with his or her partner dropping from the tournament. ***Medical emergencies are an exception.***

DRESS CODE - Appearance and apparel help to convey a trustworthy and professional reflection of everyone. Therefore, it is important for each student to look professional at every tournament. The easy rule of thumb is at minimum, dress as you would for a college interview. All students are required to remain in tournament attire until the completion of the award ceremony, or until permitted by Coach Brown. ***It is recommended that students continue to follow the dress code below for all virtual tournaments.***

**Ladies**
- Professional dress
- Skirt Or Pant Suits
- All skirts/dresses must be appropriate length
- Low cut or tight blouses are Not Permitted
- All suit jackets must have a tank top or blouse underneath
- Open-toed shoes and sling backs are not acceptable

**Gentlemen**
- Professional suit. This includes: a button down, collared shirt; a jacket; a tie; and dress pants.
- Must wear socks with dress shoes.
- Belts and shoes should match.

**Everyone**
- No distracting jewelry or makeup.
- Hair must be worn out of the face and in a manner that is not distracting.

TRANSPORTATION ETIQUETTE - Traveling to tournaments both in state and out of state, team members must continue to uphold the standards of Lake Travis Speech and Debate. All team members should be respectful of their chaperones/drivers, whether a teacher or a parent volunteer. Students that are transported to tournaments via parent carpool should not eat or drink in the parent's car without permission. Students should arrive on time to carpools or team shuttles when scheduled.
**Continued for 2021 - Tournaments may be conducted online per NSDA/TFA mandates for a portion of the current (2021-22) academic school year. Students will be told ahead of time how the tournament will be conducted.***

TOURNAMENT/ROUND BEHAVIOR - Students should conduct themselves as representatives and role models of the school. You should always be respectful to your fellow competitors, your judges, and tournament volunteers. Speech and debate is a unique activity that attracts all types of students and acts as an emotional and creative outlet for many. Rudeness, bullying, and harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. We expect our students to advance past preliminary rounds, however, if you do not advance, you should support a teammate by watching their elimination round or a round from the event you primarily compete in to show support and continue learning. If you choose to watch a round, you should stay for the entire round and be respectful of ALL the competitors. This means applauding when appropriate, waiting to enter the room when there is a break in performance, and actively listening - no texting or side conversations. If you are watching a debate elimination round, you are expected to flow and/or take notes of the round. If you are watching a UIL elimination round, you are expected to pay close attention but UIL rules prohibit any sort of note taking/flowing.

Students should treat virtual rounds with the same respect and etiquette as in-person rounds. You should always log-on to your virtual round at least 10 minutes before the designated start time or earlier depending on tournament requirements. You are expected to give the same respect to your competitors and judges as you would during an in-person round, meaning you will not make comments or movements while someone else is speaking or performing. Students should keep microphones on mute when they are not speaking. ***Students may be subject to tournament or team disciplinary action if the handbook is not followed at all times.***

HOTEL/OVERNIGHT TRAVEL GUIDELINES - You will be assigned a room and you may not change rooms without the coach’s permission. Changes will be made only in extreme situations.

1. If there is a problem with your hotel room, notify the coach upon arrival.
2. Members of the opposite sex are not permitted to be in the same hotel room at any time.
3. Be in your room and do not leave after the appointed room-check time.
4. Do not allow anyone into your room that is not a part of our group.
5. Be respectful of your roommates.
6. Do not vandalize any hotel property.
7. Do not steal any hotel property.
8. Do not make long distance phone calls or unnecessary internet and TV purchases.
9. Any noise or other complaint(s) received at any time while traveling can result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension from traveling or expulsion from the team.
10. Students must keep their rooms clean at all times.
CONSEQUENCES

Failing to follow any of the philosophies (above) or rules (below) will cause a student to receive ‘strikes.’ Each strike will result in different consequences. Strikes will reset at the beginning of each academic school year.

**1st Strike** - Removal from upcoming tournament roster, students and/or parents will be required to pay drop fees if this infraction occurs within the drop period of this tournament.

**2nd Strike** - Ineligibility for tournaments outside of the Austin Metroplex as well as state and national tournaments. If you hold an officer or captain position then you will be removed from that position.

**3rd Strike** - This may result in a removal from the LTHS Speech and Debate Team and the debate class.

***Any captains or officers of the team that violate team rules may be subject to immediate forfeiture of their position.***
2021-2022 Handbook & Syllabus
Acknowledgment Form

I have read the ENTIRE handbook for myself and I agree to abide by it and have attached a check made out to “Lake Travis Speech and Debate” for the correct amount ($150 novices or $350 returning). I understand that should I choose to break any portion of the rules listed within this handbook or the syllabus, I may be placed on team probation, face disciplinary action, or otherwise become ineligible from competition. I also understand that should I commit a severe offense at a tournament location (coach discretion) my parents will be notified immediately and I may be sent home from a tournament or travel at my expense.

________________________________________                ____________________
Student’s Signature                                    Date

I have read the rules and regulations listed in this handbook as well as the syllabus and understand that if my child chooses to break any portion of these rules, that my child may be placed on team probation (which could possibly affect his/her grade), face disciplinary action, or be expelled from the team. I also understand that should my child commit a severe offense at a tournament location (coach’s discretion) I will be notified immediately and may be asked to come and remove my child from the tournament site at my expense.

________________________________________                ____________________
Parent's Signature                                    Date

________________________________________
Printed Name
Below is a tentative list of the tournaments that the LTHS Speech and Debate Team may plan to attend this school year (virtually or otherwise). Please keep in mind that the dates and locations of tournaments are subject to change. Please note the date(s) for the Lake Travis Cavalier Classic Debate Tournament, any UIL District, Regional, and State Meets as well as TFA State and NSDA Nationals. These tournaments may be mandatory tournaments should a student be chosen to represent the team/qualify.

I give my son/daughter permission to attend the tournaments in which he/she chooses to enter. I understand that if my child enters a tournament and drops for any reason that I will be responsible for paying any and all drop fees incurred due to that incident.

________________________________________  ___________________
Parent’s Signature                          Date

________________________________________
Parent’s Printed Name

________________________________________
Emergency Contact Number                   E-mail

I understand that if I enter a tournament it is my responsibility to practice and polish my performance on a daily basis. Mr. Brown must see me perform each of my events at least once (but more if requested) in its entirety at least one school week prior to the tournament day. I also understand that if I drop from a tournament for any reason my parents and I are responsible for the charges incurred.

________________________________________
Student’s Signature

________________________________________
Student’s Printed Name

________________________________________
Student’s Email                             Date
2021 - 2022 Student Travel
Permission Form #2

___________ My child is allowed to ride with a Lake Travis parent in a carpool.

___________ My child is allowed to drive their own vehicle to tournaments, if necessary.

___________ My child is allowed to drive OTHER LAKE TRAVIS STUDENTS to tournaments, if necessary. (This applies to parents of students 17+ only)

___________ My child is NOT allowed to ride with another student or parent.

________________________________________ Parent’s Signature

________________________________________ Printed Parent Name

________________________________________ Cell Phone Number

________________________________________ Today’s Date
Fall

September 3-4  Hendrickson/Pflugerville Swing (virtual)
September 11  La Vernia HS (in person)
September 18  Hosting TFA tournament (Saturday only, in person)
October 1-3  Bellaire High School (virtual)
October 29-30  Florida Blue Key (University of Florida, virtual)
November 5-6  McNeil High School (virtual)
November 12-13  Katy Taylor HS (undecided)
December 3-4  UT Longhorn (undecided)

*UIL District for Congress TBD (usually in November)
**Would like to add 1 additional in-person tournament**

Spring

January 7-8  Churchill High School
January 21-22  Westlake High School
January 28-29  Flower Mound Swing
February 4-5  Boerne/Boerne Champion Swing
February 11-14  Harvard University
March 9-12  TFA State (Gregory Portland HS)
March 18-19  UIL State CX Debate Tournament
April 22-23  UIL Regionals
April 23-25  UKTOC (University of Kentucy)
April TBD  NSDA National Qualifiers (held locally)
May 12-15  NIETOC (Frank Dobie HS)
May 24-25  UIL State
June 12-17  NSDA Nationals (Louisville, Kentucky)

*UIL District for CX Debate TBD (usually in January)
*UIL District for LD/Speech TBD (usually in March)

This schedule is subject to change.