

Austin Speech Team

Guidelines and General Information

Purpose/Mission:

Austin Speech Team's mission is to bring the excellence to public speaking. Through forensics, students can gain many valuable skills, such as critical and analytical thinking skills and public speaking skills. Not only will students obtain aptitude in these areas, but the Austin Speech Team also provides an open forum for new ideas and thoughts on world and national politics, literature, global issues, and many other topics.

Participation at Tournament:

The Austin Speech Team is open to all students. Students may only join the team if their GPA is a 2.5 higher, have good behavior, and parental permission.

MIFA Membership:

Eligibility for Membership for MIFA (Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association) requires each teammate to participate in at least four tournaments, and follow the Austin Code of Conduct.

Removal of Members:

The removal of a team member will be at the discretion of Mrs. Hakes and Mrs. Coppens. Removal of team members for the following reasons:

1. Poor attendance at tournaments, meetings, and practices.
2. If their GPA is below membership eligibility.
3. Poor behavior at tournaments and meetings.
4. Poor effort in preparation for tournaments.

Officers:

The officers of the Austin Speech Team will be hereby referred to as captains. The captains must be full voting members who have actively participated in collegiate forensics for at least one season before their elected position begins.

- A) President : Brendon Kimmel
- B) Vice President: GariAnn Cadelina
- C) Secretary: Tereza Lucaj

Meetings

The forensics team meets every Wednesday during lunch. All teammates must attend.

Tournaments

The forensics season begins late November to early May. Within this season, Jan-March has the highest activity. For the most part, Saturdays are competition days from (7am-4pm).

Communication

To help with communication, an Austin Speech Team calendar will be communicated via email and social media (Facebook and Instagram). Mrs. Hakes can be reached at jhakes@austincatholicacademy.org and **586-804-2515 (only for emergencies and tournament reminders)**

Fundraising

Group fundraising opportunities are a possibility, but the majority of the work will be individually raised. Fundraising ideas are greatly welcomed and can be shared on the Austin Forensics Page.

Apparel

An official Austin Team T-Shirt and Hoodie is a current need and prices are being researched.

Tournament Fee

There is a \$10 participation fee for each tournament. The payment is due before the competition.

Transportation

Austin Catholic High will provide transportation if the tournament location is more than an hour away. If the distance is less than an hour away, it is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation (drop off and pick up).

Parental Involvement

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend and help out with the team. The following are areas of need:

- Austin Team "Mom"
- Fundraising
- Carpooling
- Coaching/Researching