



**BUCKINGHAM
BROWNE & NICHOLS
SCHOOL**

Dear Members of DANEIS,

The Buckingham Browne & Nichols School Speech and Debate Team invites you to our combined speech & debate tournament on **Sunday, December 6th, 2020**. This year's tournament will be held on ZOOM of course!

Each school may register up to two four-person teams. Berths in the tournament will be given on a first-come, first served basis, with preference given to DANEIS member schools through our RSVP date of **November 25th**.

Each school needs to bring one judge for each four-person team entered. Per DANEIS league rules, student judges will not be permitted to judge advanced rounds. Parents of students competing in the advanced division should judge only novices. We also ask that any students judging in the novice division be experienced speakers/debaters who have competed in DANEIS tournaments at the advanced level. Please be sure to brief your judges thoroughly before the tournament.

There will be **one round of debate, one round of interpretive reading, and one round of impromptu speaking** (in that order). Additional guidelines for speech events are below.

Briefings for judges and debaters will begin at 10AM (we ask that everyone sign on by 9:30AM) and Round 1 will start at 10:30AM.

Please RSVP no later than November 25th via email to sgetchell@bbns.org with the number of teams you would like to enter. Early RSVPs are welcome; please send along the names of your debaters as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you online!

Sarah Getchell
Coach, BB&N Speech and Debate



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GUIDELINES FOR SPEECH EVENTS:

Here are some more specific guidelines for impromptu and interpretive reading that might be of use as you help your kids prepare for our tournament (if you've been working from last year's guidelines, have no fear, the below are identical). We will use the DANEIS parli rules posted on our website: [DANEIS Parli Rules](#)

IMPROMPTU (2 minutes of preparation. 3-5 minute speech with a 15-second grace period on either end)

General guidelines:

Each speaker will be given three topics in the ZOOM chat, which may be words, quotations, or phrases (anything not specifically related to current events). The speaker will have two minutes to prepare, during which time he/she may make notes, but these notes may not be used during the speech. Wit, humor, philosophy, sentiment, absurdity are equally welcome. Although a speaker may make reference to the words or beliefs of others, whether fictional or real characters, he or she must speak in his or her own person for the substantial majority of the speech (competitors may not adopt a persona for their speeches).

Judges will be looking for agility of thought, for the development of ideas, for strong organization, and, above all, for the ability of each speaker to communicate with style and originality. It is strictly understood that competitors will not use prepared material for this event. NOTE: Plagiarism, including the repetition of an example that a competitor used in a recent competition, will be grounds for disqualification.

Specific guidelines:

- Speeches should be structured and logical.
- Speeches should be based on the chosen topic.
- Canned/rehearsed/reworked impromptus will be penalized.
- Hate speech of any kind is unacceptable.
- No props of any kind are permitted.
- The speaker must state the topic at the end of their speech.
- No notes of any kind, other than the topic paper are permitted during the speech.
- Although a speaker may refer to the words or beliefs of others, whether fictional or real characters, *he or she must speak in his or her own person for the substantial majority of the speech.* Adoption of a persona is not allowed for Impromptu speaking.



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INTERPRETIVE READING--Time: 5-11 minutes (including an introduction of up to one minute)

General guidelines:

Each participant will read a passage of prose or poetry (or a selection of poems) of literary merit, serious or humorous, with an appropriate introduction included in the time limit. The introduction should give an indication of the context of the reading and convey the reasons why it has been chosen. The introduction should be a direct address to the audience, personal and informal.

Judges will be instructed to mark readings of material written principally for children by severe standards relating to the simplicity of the material presented and the lack of demand on the resources of the reader.

Specific guidelines:

- Dramatic interpretations of the text must be avoided.
- Dramatic gestures/techniques should be used rarely and only to enhance the text.
- Books written for children can be interpreted as books that would read by primary school readers ie children under the age of 13.
- Nonfiction is not allowed.
- Plays and scripts are not allowed.
- Recitations of historical speeches are not acceptable, though the reading of a fictional one is allowed.
- Speakers must ideally balance *reading* of the text, *knowing* the text, and *eye-contact*.
- Speakers may sit or stand.
- Speakers may read from the book or from a photocopied script.