



Oregon School Activities Association

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To: Principals, Athletic and Activity Directors
From: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: 2020-21 Speech and Debate Update

The entire OSAA staff recognizes and appreciates the efforts of all member school administrators over the past five months. We are also confident that moving forward with your help we can continue to provide opportunities for students outside of the classroom, whether the student is distance learning, in-person, or a combination of both.

Given that, I wanted to make sure you are aware the Speech and Debate community, with support from the OSAA Executive Board, will be the first OSAA activity in history to go completely virtual. All practices, events, and the 2021 OSAA Speech and Debate State Championships will be conducted online.

Nationally the Speech community has adjusted quickly to the current situation and have actively been conducting tournaments across the country via a combination of different platforms. Most Oregon Speech coaches and students have already been introduced and many have mastered these platforms and are ready to assist others that may need help.

It is my hope that member schools can use this moment to introduce new students to Speech and Debate. A golden opportunity to potentially expand the number of students participating in the activity. I'm positive your Speech and Debate coach would be happy to involve more students in their program – and the students get the chance to connect with a supportive community of talented people.

Speech and Debate can begin activities on August 31 as outlined in the calendar adopted by the OSAA Executive Board - http://osaa.org/docs/osaainfo/OSAA_Media_Release_August_5.pdf. Thanks for supporting your Speech and Debate program.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 503.682.6722 ext. 229 or bradg@osaa.org.