

2020 MARGIE BURKE SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The annual **Margie Burke Speech Tournament**, open to all Marin County 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, is scheduled for **Saturday, May 2, 2020** from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Ross School. This is the largest middle school speech tournament in the county. Each school may send up to twenty-five students to the tournament. Each student may enter **up to three** events, choosing from:

- 1. DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION**
- 2. IMPROMPTU**
- 3. ORIGINAL PROSE & POETRY**
- 4. PERSUASIVE SPEAKING**

Descriptions of the events are in the ***Speech Rules and Instructions***. Each student will be assigned to a room in which he/she will present his/her speech before a panel of judges. First, second and third place standings are determined by the ranking in each room. There are no semifinal or final rounds. Students are expected to commit to the events they select and are asked to fill out a ***Statement of Commitment***, requiring signatures from the student, parent and teacher. Changes or withdrawals seriously inconvenience all participants and tournament organization.

FEES: ENTRY FEE OF \$35 PER STUDENT (A school check for the total number of participants is requested.)

JUDGES: EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE 3 JUDGES AND 1 ROOM MODERATOR, usually parent or teacher volunteers. This is a strict requirement for your school participation. Your help is essential to the success of the tournament!

AWARDS: All students receive a Certificate of Participation. First, second and third place medals are awarded to the winners from each classroom contest. Ties are possible. A Grand Champion, 2nd Champion and 3rd Champion trophy will be awarded for each grade level. Grand Champions are based on cumulative points achieved in the tournament. Entering two or more events (up to three events permitted) enhances a student's chances of winning a Grand Champion trophy.

CHECK LIST

- [] 1. **Copy the Speech Rules and Instructions for parents and students.** Please discuss all rules and instructions with your students. **Information available online: www.rossbears.org** (under Community tab, Margie Burke Speech Tournament)
- [] 2. **Complete Application Forms--School Participation Form and Student Application and Statement of Commitment Form (one per student).** Forms are to be reviewed by the teacher/advisor.
- [] 3. **Enter Dramatic Interpretation selection** (title, chapter, verse, etc.) for each student to the application. It is not necessary to include the entire speech. This is to ensure that we do not schedule the same speech, same passage, same grade to the same room contest.
- [] 4. **Enter Persuasive Speaking and Original Prose & Poetry selections** on each student application.
- [] 5. **Enclose \$35.00 per student:** A school check payable to **Ross School** [# of students participating x \$35.00 = \$ amount enclosed]
- [] 6. **Include Judges' (3) information and Room Moderator (1) information on School Participation Form.** We require a minimum of four volunteers per participating school.
- [] 7. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM**
Deliver or mail applications to:

Ross School
P.O. Box 1058
9 Lagunitas Road
Ross, CA 94957

Attn: Margie Burke Speech Tournament

This tournament is a unique opportunity for Marin County students to practice the art of public speaking. We encourage you and your students to participate in this year's tournament.

SPEECH RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Students will deliver a fully memorized **two to five minute** selection of a published poem, play, work of prose or speech. The work may be humorous or dramatic, monologue or dialogue. Also, a series of poems by the same author, or an excerpt from a longer poem may be presented. Necessary background material is acceptable in the introduction as long as it does not exceed 75 words. Judges will also take into consideration the difficulty of the material in assessing the student presentations. Note cards can be referenced but excessive or continual referral will be penalized in judging. Students will be lowered one rank for presentations under or over the time limit. The speech selection including author, title, act, chapter must be submitted with the application. This is for tournament officials to ensure that two students with the same selection are not competing in the same room contest (it has happened before). Students may not repeat speeches used in previous Margie Burke Tournaments. Speakers must remain standing at all times. This is an oral interpretive event, not a solo acting presentation. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

This is a public speaking contest and the student will be judged on the overall presentation of a prepared speech. While each student may vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, judges will consider the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges include:

Quality of interpretation – Dramatic presentation, entertaining or impassioned, distinctive and believable characters

Difficulty of material – Challenging, testing bounds, stretching comfort zone

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

2. IMPROMPTU

Students will randomly select from the Room Moderator a card with three impromptu topics. Topics may be quotations, general topics of interest or a single word abstract. Students will have three minutes to prepare their speeches. Pencils and note cards will be provided. Main ideas should be outlined on one 3 x 5 card, which may be used for reference during the one to three minute speech. Time remaining will be indicated by the Room Moderator. Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Speakers must remain standing at all times. This is a delivery of an impromptu speech, not a solo acting presentation. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

This is a public speaking contest and the student will be judged on the overall presentation of an impromptu speech. While each student may vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, judges will consider the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges include:

Organization – Introduction, key points, progressive thought, conclusion
Development of ideas – Elaborate and analyze key points, logical presentation
Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

3. ORIGINAL PROSE & POETRY

Students will present a **two to five minute ORIGINAL** speech of prose or poetry (or a combination of both). The objective is to demonstrate literary, creativity and vitality. The material may be comprised of a story or an essay, poem(s), dramatic speech, character monologues, or descriptive dialogue. **The material must be the student's own work.** The speech should be fully memorized. Note cards can be referenced but excessive or continual referral will be penalized in judging. Topics must be submitted with the application. Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Student may not repeat a speech used in a previous Margie Burke tournament. Speakers must remain standing at all times. This is a delivery of prose or poetry, not a solo acting presentation. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

This is a public speaking contest and the student will be judged on the overall presentation of a prepared speech. While each student may vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, judges will consider the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges include:

Originality and creativity – Interesting, creative, speech worthy
Composition – Student's own work, well written, well organized, tells a story
Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

4. PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

Students will present a **two to five minute ORIGINAL** speech on any topic of interest. The subject may be timely, important, controversial or interesting. The objective is to convince, persuade and inform the audience. The speech may be humorous or serious. **Not more than 150 words of the speech may come from other sources.** The speech should be fully memorized. Note cards can be referenced but excessive or continual referral will be penalized in judging. Topics must be submitted with the application. Students who do not stay within the time limitations will be lowered one rank. Speakers must remain standing at all times. This is a persuasive argument, not a solo acting presentation. No singing, dancing, props or costumes are allowed.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

This is a public speaking contest and contestants will be judged on their overall presentation of a prepared speech. Each student will vary in terms of content, poise and presentation, and judges will evaluate the “whole package”. Some key points which will be evaluated by the judges include:

Originality and organization – Interesting, well written, speech worthy
Progression of logical thought – Well reasoned, well supported, made a case,

quotations, statistics, call to action

Delivery – Vocal variety, eye contact, poise, gestures, cadence, authenticity

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Completed applications along with the **\$35 per student registration fee** due at the Ross School Office. The deadline is set 3 weeks prior to the event in order to register entrants, plan room assignments, and to avoid duplication of selections and topics.

Please make sure that each student's application includes:

1. Application form completed by teacher/advisor
2. Statement of Commitment signed by student, parent, and teacher
3. Title of the selection chosen for Dramatic Interpretation, Original Prose & Poetry, and Persuasive Speaking

LOGISTICS:

Dress Code: This is a high image County event and each student is a proud representative of his/her school. Students must be appropriately attired to address the judges and audience. Generally, no short shorts, flip flops or tank tops.

Photography or Recording: Photography, recording or videoing are **strictly prohibited** during presentations as this is disruptive and disrespectful to other compliant students, parents and tournament officials.

Access to Event Rooms: Once the Room Moderator has closed the door to an event room, no participant or spectator will be allowed to enter or exit the room. This rule is to prevent disruptive distractions which directly affect a speaker's performance or the focus of the judges. If a speaker is late to an event, he/she will be counted as a no show and not admitted.

Registration opens 8:00 AM

Location: Ross School (main entrance on Lagunitas Road). Students should be at Registration not later than 15 minutes before their first event. Please register early. There will be a separate Judges' Registration, Room Moderators' Registration and Hospitality Room. (Judges are invited for refreshments.)

Directions to Ross School:

From San Anselmo: East on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., turn right on Lagunitas Rd.
From Hwy 101: West on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., turn left on Lagunitas Rd.

Ross School: South side of Lagunitas Road between Ross Common and Allen Avenue.

Parking:

Limited judges' parking is available on the back playground accessed from Allen Avenue. Parents, contestants and all others please use street parking. Please observe posted parking signs on town streets.

MARGIE BURKE SPEECH TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2020

8:00 AM Registration Opens*

AM REGISTRATION IS VERY BUSY AND CROWDED SO ARRIVE EARLY

Session I	8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Dramatic Interpretation
Session II	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Impromptu
	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Morning Awards Assembly
	12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch Break
Session III	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Original Prose & Poetry
Session IV	2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Persuasive Speaking
	3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Afternoon Awards Assembly

Questions:

Leslie Davalos Bergholt
MBST Director
lesliebergholt@yahoo.com

*Note: Students may check in 15 minutes before their first scheduled event.

2020 MARGIE BURKE SPEECH TOURNAMENT
SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FORM

This form is to be completed by a **teacher**. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Deadline: No later than **4:00 PM on Wednesday, APRIL 15, 2020** at Ross
School.

NAME OF SCHOOL:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE #'S OF CONTACT PERSON

School Phone: _____ Home: _____

Email: _____ Fax #: _____

TOTAL # of students participating: _____
(One application per student must be attached)

School ENTRY FEE TOTAL: \$ _____
(\$35 per student, payable to Ross School)

2020 MARGIE BURKE SPEECH TOURNAMENT
SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FORM
(JUDGES/ROOM MODERATORS)

JUDGES/ROOM MODERATORS - We need your assistance to make this tournament a success. Each school must provide at least three (3) judges and one (1) room moderator. We would be honored to have teachers or parents participate. Note: No one will judge or moderate for their own child or student. All judges will receive a confirmation with a copy of the judging guidelines and procedures well before the event. There will be an orientation and training session at the tournament just prior to the event.

Judge #1

Name: Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr. _____
First Last

Email Address: _____

Occupation/Affiliation for program: _____

Parent: [] Name(s) of child(ren) (if competing) & grade level(s)

Teacher: [] Grade level(s) currently teaching ____

Judging Preference: Please indicate one or both sessions

Morning Session – 7:45–11am ____ Afternoon Session – 12:15– 3:15 pm ____

Judge #2

Name: Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr. _____
First Last

Email Address: _____

Occupation/Affiliation for program: _____

Parent: [] Name(s) of child(ren) (if competing) & grade level(s)

Teacher: [] Grade level(s) currently teaching ____

Judging Preference: Please indicate one or both sessions

Morning Session – 7:45–11am ____ Afternoon Session – 12:15– 3:15 pm ____

Judge #3

Name: Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr. _____
First Last

Email Address: _____

Occupation/Affiliation for program: _____

Parent: [] Name(s) of child(ren) (if competing) & grade level(s)

Teacher: [] Grade level(s) currently teaching _____

Judging Preference: Please indicate one or both sessions

Morning Session – 7:45–11am ____ Afternoon Session – 12:15– 3:15 pm ____

Room Moderator

Name: Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr. _____
First Last

Email Address: _____

Parent: [] Name(s) of child(ren) (if competing) & grade level(s)

Teacher: [] Grade level(s) currently teaching _____

Moderating Preference: Please indicate one or both sessions

Morning Session – 7:45–11am ____ Afternoon Session – 12:15– 3:15 pm ____

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE REQUIRED THREE (3) JUDGES AND ONE (1) ROOM MODERATOR. THE TOURNAMENT REQUIRES MANY VOLUNTEERS AND CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ASSIST IN STAFFING THE EVENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

2020 MARGIE BURKE SPEECH TOURNAMENT
STUDENT APPLICATION AND STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FORM
(One Form per Student)

Deadline: **Wednesday, APRIL 15, 2020, 4:00 PM** (Please print clearly.)

STUDENT'S NAME _____

Grade: _____

Name of School: _____ Home phone: _____

Best email to relay information to student:

Each student may enter **a maximum of three events.**

Dramatic Interpretation (Identify selection so we can ensure to not schedule the same speech in the same classroom contest. (It has happened before!)
Entry selection: (title, author, chapter, verse) _____

Impromptu

Original Prose/Poetry: Prose ___ or Poetry ___ / Title _____

Persuasive Speaking: Title _____

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, _____ (**print student's name**), have read the rules and instructions for participation in the Margie Burke Speech Tournament. I promise to participate in each event entered on my application to the best of my ability. I understand changes and withdrawals seriously inconvenience all participants and tournament organization. Students may not repeat a speech they have used in previous Margie Burke Speech tournaments. In addition, the original oratory speech I will be presenting was written only by me. I did not use any other sources or help, and I understand that plagiarism will result in my being disqualified from the Tournament, as well as possible ramifications for my school. Signed:

_____ Student's signature

_____ Parent's signature

_____ Teacher's signature

It is also important for each participant to understand and acknowledge the rules for access to event room: **Once the Room Moderator has closed the door to an event room, no participant or spectator will be allowed to enter** or exit the room. If a speaker is late to an event he/she will be counted as a no show and not admitted.

_____ Student initials _____ Date