



Centennial Theatre

Where Everyone Belongs

***Welcome to the 2025/2026
Centennial High School
Speech Team Information
Meeting***

SPEECH TEAM COACHES

Head Coach – Eric Webster

Assistant Coaches

Audrey Hinds

Nina Broberg

Emilie Cagnazzo

Administration Manager

Brandy Eckman

We will figure out what categories and which students each of us are coaching once we have registration complete and the list of categories that each student wants to participate in.

Eric Webster

Centennial Middle School Speech Coach for 12 years and have been working in the Centennial School District and Directing Theater programming for Centennial High School and Middle School for 23 years. Was a Centennial High School Assistant Speech Coach for 2 years under Mr. Quinlan.

Audrey Hinds

- * Coached at Forest Lake High School one season
- * Coached at Centennial High School one season
- * Coached at Centennial Middle School one season
- * Judged when needed (and available) for both high school and middle school
 - * Former President of Speech Boosters and active booster participant
- * High school speech all four years (drama, storytelling) - state runner-up in drama senior year; top 24 in the nation senior year at national tournament
 - * Active with football and choir boosters

Emilie Cagnazzo (Tomas)

6th year coaching at Centennial

Specializing in Public Address

Coached high school speech at SMA Unggul Del in North Sumatra, Indonesia as part of a Fulbright

Alum of Centennial speech program

Competed in Extemp Reading

High School Recognitions

Section Champion

State Competitor

Team Captain

Coaches Award

Most Valuable in Oral Interpretation Events award

Nina Broberg

- Four years of speech competition in dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation.
 - Three time state qualifier in duo interpretation.
 - Speech team captain for two years.
- Middle school speech team guest coach and judge.

Brandy Eckman

Former President of the Centennial Speech Boosters and Former Vice President of Centennial Theatre Boosters.

Long-time supporter of Centennial's speech and theatre programs with hands-on experience in tournament and large-scale events.

Professional background as a digital marketing strategist and agency founder, specializing in communication, presentation skills, and audience engagement

Experienced business coach and communication strategist, helping individuals and teams refine messaging, present confidently, and develop powerful storytelling skills

Brings organizational leadership, project management, and creative guidance to support the growth and success of the team

Passionate about empowering students to find their voice, perform with confidence, and build real-world communication skills that carry far beyond competition

***Centennial High School
Speech is now under the
Centennial Theater Program***

Speech team is now under the theater program and we have consolidated the booster programs under the theater booster program, so that the theater program can provide adequate support and funding for the program, as the Speech Team and Theater program share a lot of the same students in each activity.

Centennial Theatre is Directed and Produced by....

Eric Webster –

Head HS Speech Coach

Middle School Speech Coach

Middle School and High School Play and
Musical Co-Director and Technical Director

Middle School and High School Improv

High School One Act Co-Director

Centennial Youth Theater Director
and Technical Director

C.A.S.T. Summer Shakespeare Co-Director
and Technical Director

Centennial District Performing Arts Centers
Coordinator

Laurie Tangren –

Middle School Play and Musical Co-Director

High School and Middle School play and Musical Costumer

Kris Schmidt -

Middle School and High School Set and
Props Designer and Director

Mary Rudquist –

Middle School Musical Music Director
High School Musical Co-Director

Melissa Krieger -

High School Musical Music Director
Theater Beyond Director

Shanan Custer –

One Act Cp-Director
C.A.S.T. Summer Shakespeare Co-Director
r

Nina Broberg

Middle School and High School Musical Choreographer

Centennial Theatre Student Leadership

Speech Captains

Kell Lewen
Addi Cramer
Tatum Knox
Sam Beck

Improv Captains

Hannah Hudzinski
Svea King
Jae Berres

Middle School Student Directors

Piper Mortenson
Addi Cramer

Marketing

Addi Cramer

Student Theatre Co-Presidents

Eden Cutts
Svea King

Student Crew Lead Co-Presidents

Kaymin Waldemar
Sam Berens

Student Executive Officers

Jae Berres
A.J. Basara

Student Theatre Board

Lily Olson
Virgil Russell
March Towey

The Booster Board and Leads

President: Melissa Carlson

Vice President: Lisa Partyka

Treasurer: Scott Cramer

Secretary: Stephanie Spencer

Marketing/Promotions and Fundraising Lead:
Chris Partyka

Centennial Theatre reminds you to Download the BAND App!



22-23 SHS BAND

Important communication from directors and boosters in the BAND app along with calendar updates.

This applies to all middle school and high school students and their families.

Follow Us On Social Media For Updates!



EVERYTHING IS AT

CentennialTheatre.org

- Mandatory meetings
- Auditions
- Rehearsal Schedule
- Forms
- Performance schedules

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mission and Goals of the Speech Team

Directives from Administration

*Substantially increase and improve the logistics, planning, and fundraising of the Speech Team, and implementing effective communication strategies with speech team students and the families, and guarantee that administrative duties and deadlines are met in the time frames required.

*Create a higher visible presence in our school and community.

*Increase registration and participation numbers.

*Continue to cultivate and amplify the “feeder system” from the Middle School Speech Program to the High School Speech Program that is already in place, increasing the potential of keeping students in the speech program from 6th grade through their senior year, and continuing the practice that is already in place where the High School Speech Team students assist and support the Middle School Speech Team Program.

*Allow Speech Team students to select their own categories and speeches, so that they can find their voice and present something that they feel strongly about, in a category that means something to them.

*Prioritizing the base of the intent of the speech team, teaching how to become effective speakers, and improving confidence and writing skills. Not having “Winning” as the goal or the priority.

*Greatly Reduce the amount of time required by each participating speech team students coaching sessions and coaches working with the student's schedule of availability, not vice versa, for these coaching sessions, reducing the students stress levels and creating an enjoyable, relaxed, fun atmosphere of participation.

*No student will be required to rehearse more than 30 minutes per rehearsal session and no more than twice a week, unless more is requested by the student and agreed upon by the coaches. No rehearsal will be scheduled after or go later than 8:00 PM, unless there is a situation that requires it and it is agreed upon by the student, the parent and the coaches.

PARALYSIS BY ANALYSIS

*Speech Team students are predominantly comprised of students who are involved in numerous activities, leadership roles, and are highly successful in the classroom. The team and coaches need to be flexible to accommodate the student's full range of high school experiences and responsibilities, and to make sure the students participation allows for them to have the time for, and prioritizing that a student's first obligations are to -

Family
School
Faith
Friends
Fun

Expectation and Policies of Participation

*Students register by November 30th.

*Students must select their category by first week in December.

*Students will then be assigned to a coach. Their coach assignment will be posted online on the website. Then they must submit their selection to their assigned coach for approval. Writing and selections have to be submitted to their assigned coaches and approved by first week of January at the latest.

*If approved, then they can start scheduling their rehearsal sessions with their coach. Rehearsals can begin in December if a student's piece is approved and ready.

*Once a student schedules a rehearsal with their coach, they must attend! If they are a no show for a rehearsal, that will be a "First Notice". If they fail to show up for a second rehearsal, without notifying their coach, there will be a meeting for consideration of removal from the team. We will not be tracking you down. Respect for your time / respect for our time.

*There will be scheduled "Writing Sessions" in December where a coach or coaches will be in attendance to help them write their speeches. Dates and times of writing sessions TBD.

Expectation and Policies of Participation

*Any student that does not have their speech written or selected by first week of January will not be allowed to participate in the speech season this year.

*Students will be asked to commit to do two 30-minute rehearsals a week, starting in December if their piece is ready, first week of January at the latest. (Week of January 5th)

•Students CANNOT schedule their sessions with a coach until their speech is selected and approved by their assigned coach OR their speech is written!

*Speech Team students should endeavor to help/coach and work with Middle School speech team students at MS rehearsals. They should plan on being judges at the MS Home meet, and if possible be available for judging away meets. “

*Speech Team is a self-motivated activity. You get out what you put in. But your motivation and your goals are yours. We are here to help you achieve the experience you desire from speech team.

***ZOOM REHEARSALS**

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

Any student that attends 5 of the 7 meets, OR
Qualifies for NSDA OR Qualifies for Sections OR Qualifies for State OR
Qualifies for NIETOC OR is a speech Captain - will letter.

What's been done so far

Rooms and Catered meal booked for the Duluth Tournament – (February 6th and 7th)

We are booked at the The inn on Lake Superior.

We have reserved a meeting space in the hotel for our stay over. We will be served food in this space at 6:00 (Taco bar) and then we can use the space post dinner for rehearsal or any other activity we want to do.

Cost will be \$100 per student for the Duluth Meet. (Boosters will be covering the cost over the \$100 per student amount). If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Brandy Eckman. Your request will remain confidential.

What's been done so far

Our meets and other speech event dates have been set. (We will go through that a little later).

Coaches have been hired.

Financial analysis has been completed, and fundraising plans have begun to meet our yearly goals for the Speech Team.

SPEECH MERCH/T-SHIRTS have been designed and ordered and will be available soon.

HOME MEET

There will be no Centennial Home meet this year.

- *Short turnaround time to organize. We started in September and normally have a whole year of planning for an event of this magnitude.
- *Cost – with only 6 teams participating last year, the home meet does not result in any additional funding for the Speech Team. It in fact costs us money.
- *Administration has requested a hold on the home meet until we can restructure the event to make it a viable fundraising event for the Speech Team. The event also costs the district a significant amount of time and money for custodial, supervision, planning and implementation.
- *It also requires a significant amount of time from our students and volunteers that does not have a financial benefit for our team. Not doing the meet will save precious time and reduce workload stress.
- *Many students and families requested looking into eliminating the event.

HOME MEET FUTURE

*Our goal is to bring back the home meet in the future. But this will require some work.

*The meet has to become a Nietoc, tournament. The reason it does not have a lot of participation from other schools is because it is not a Nietoc tournament. In order to become a Nietoc Tournament, we would have to have a tournament next year that has a significant participation from other schools. At least ten.

*This will require convincing other schools to participate in our tournament next year. This will be done during this year while we are at other meets, talking with other schools and coaches, trying to convince them to come to our tournament next year. In short, there is a lot of politics in speech. If we can't convince schools to come in 2027, then we have to recalculate.

*Once we have a successful tournament, we can apply for Nietoc status. Once approved, our participation from other schools should increase, and thus resulting in a viable tournament that can be a major source of fundraising income for the team. Our goal is to have a home Nietoc Home tournament by 2028.

Meets Schedule

February 6th and 7th – Duluth Invitational. Over night stay in Duluth.

2/14 - Anoka, *not* NIETOC

2/21 - Forest Lake, NIETOC

2/28 - MAYBE East View, NIETOC (Apple Valley), OR MAYBE
Princeton, not NIETOC – OR MAYBE NO MEET.
(HS IMPROV STRIKE SHOW)

3/7 - St. Anthony, NIETOC (You Lucky Dog)

3/14 - Blaine, NIETOC

3/21 – MAYBE Cambridge, NIETOC – OR MAYBE NO MEET.
(Region 5AA vocals Choir)

3/26 - SECTIONS, Columbia Heights

3/28 - White Bear Lake CLAW, NIETOC
(Region 5AA vocals Band)

Other Scheduled Speech Events

CAPTAINS PRACTICES

Working on these dates/times - Planning and logistics
will be done by captains

Speech Retreat

December 13th – 12:00 – 3:00 PM - PAC

Planning and logistics has been done by captains

Writing sessions – More information forthcoming

January Workshop

January 16th – 5 – 7 PM PAC

Planning and logistics has been done by captains

SPEECH SHOWCASE

May 16, 2026 5:00 - 7:00 - PAC

REGISTRATION

FOLLOW THE LINK AT CENTENNIALTHEATRE.ORG

IF YOU ARE GOING TO JOIN THE SPEECH TEAM
REGISTER NOW!

REGISTRATION CLOSES NOVEMBER 30th. !!

RECAP

AFTER you register - you will select your category by going HERE - <https://forms.gle/1miiiRFnYSdiATiFA>

THEN you will be assigned a coach. Student's categories and coach assignments along with their coaches email address will be posted under speech team on the website - these will be posted December 1st or 2nd.

You will then reach out to/ email your coach when you have your selection picked/written and send to them.

Once it is approved by the coach, you will then schedule your rehearsal dates with your coach – Coaches will send you a link to a sign-up sheet for rehearsals. If the available rehearsals don't work, you will contact your coach through email and work out alternate times.

PARTICIPATION IN SPEECH REQUIRES YOU TO CHECK AND RESPOND TO EMAIL. You cannot text your coaches. You cannot call your coaches. You have to be diligent about your email. We will not be tracking you down.

IF by January 5th you have not...

Selected your category –

Submitted your selection or written selection -

You have submitted your selection but it has not been approved and you have not done the required changes needed to get the approval -

You have submitted your piece, it has been approved, but you have not set up your rehearsal schedule with your coach-

You will not be participating in this year's team.

We will not be tracking you down. You have to have the initiative and the ability to follow these steps and be responsible for completing all of these steps and for being or becoming proficient and checking and responding to your email.

These are skillsets that you need to have/develop for reasons beyond being on Speech Team.

**CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS ARE ON THE
“HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH” PAGE ON THE
WEBSITE AT**

CENTENNIALTHEATRE.ORG

***Centennial Theatre End of the Year Reveal and
Recognition Ceremony.***

5/30

PAC – 5:30 – 8:00

***Letters/ Medals/Recognition/Presidents/Theater
Board/Next seasons shows***