

Duluth Trip Itinerary:

All times can fluctuate based on the length of the tournament and the awards ceremony. This is an approximation of our Itinerary for Friday and Saturday. We will give updates about our return time when we are en route via our BAND APP. Students will be able to store their garment bags, suitcases, etc. in the PAC Lobby on Friday Morning before school. We will be meeting there before loading the bus.

Please keep up to date with **BAND POSTS** for any updates!

Friday, February 6th	
7:30-7:50AM	Drop bags off with Mrs. Hinds at the PAC
2:10-2:30PM	Check-in / Load Bus at the PAC (Early Release at 2:10PM)
2:30PM	Departure
4:15PM	Arrival / Hotel Check-in / Bring Luggage to Rooms
6:00PM	Catered Dinner at Hotel
6:15PM	Team Meeting / Category practices
9:00PM	Own Rooms
10:00PM	Lights Out / Bedtime Checks
Saturday, February 7th	
7:30AM	Meet in Lobby /Breakfast/ Load Bus
7:55AM	Load Bus/Bus Ride
8:00AM	Arrival / Tournament Registration
5:00PM	Awards Ceremony
6:00PM	Load Bus/Dinner Choice of Subway, DQ, McDonald's, or Taco Bell in Hinckley
9:00PM	Arrival back to CHS

Inn on Lake Superior

350 Canal Park Drive, Duluth, MN 55802
218-625-0406

Denfeld High School

401 N 44th Ave W, Duluth, MN 55807

Coach Eric Webster

ewebster@isd12.org

Brandy Eckman, Admin.

651-262-8784 (call or text during the trip)

Packing List

ABSOLUTELY NO ITEMS CONTAINING PEANUTS/TREE NUTS ALLOWED ON THE BUS! LEAVE THOSE SNACKS AT HOME!

- Clothing
 - Pajamas
 - Swimsuit
 - Undergarments
 - After-tournament clothes (if wanted)
- Tournament Clothing (DRESS TO IMPRESS!)
 - Skirt/Dress pants (no sweatpants, athletic pants, jeans)
 - Shirt/Blouse (dress shirt - polo, button up)
 - Jacket/Blazer
 - Dress shoes (no tennis shoes!)
 - Socks/Tights
- Toiletries
 - Toothbrush/paste
 - Hair supplies (shampoo, conditioner, brush/comb, clips, bands, etc.)
 - Feminine hygiene
 - Deodorant
- Hotel room snacks (CHECK WITH YOUR ROOMMATES REGARDING ALLERGIES!)
- Speech/boards
- Food/money for the tournament and dinner Saturday
- Chargers for phones, earbuds/headphones, etc.
- CAPTAINS: Captain's boxes

How Tournaments Work in High School Speech

Tournament Structure

- Most Minnesota high school speech tournaments follow the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) format.
- Tournaments typically include preliminary rounds followed by a final round.

Preliminary Rounds

- Each competitor performs in three preliminary rounds.

In each round:

- Students compete in a room with approximately 5–6 speakers.
- A judge listens to all speakers and ranks them (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.).
- Rankings are relative only to that specific round.
- Each round has a different judge and often a different room.

Purpose of Preliminary Rounds

- Prelim rounds allow students to perform multiple times.
- Rankings from all prelim rounds are used to determine who advances to finals.

Advancing to Finals

After all three preliminary rounds:

- Each student's rankings from the prelims are added together.
- Lower total scores are better (example: 1st + 2nd + 3rd = 6).
- The top-ranked competitors advance to the final round.
- Typically, 8 students per event advance to finals.
- If there is a tie for advancement, official tiebreaking procedures are used (such as head-to-head results).

Final Round

- Finalists perform one more time in their event.
- Judges rank finalists from 1st through final place.
- Final round rankings determine overall placement and awards.
- Preliminary round results do not affect final placements once finals begin.

Section and State Tournaments

Section tournaments follow the same format:

- Three preliminary rounds
- Advancement to finals
- Final placements at the Section Tournament determine which students qualify for the State Tournament.
- The State Tournament also uses preliminary rounds followed by finals.

Key Takeaways for Students and Families

- Every preliminary round matters for advancing to finals.
- One strong or weak round does not determine final outcomes by itself.
- Finals are a clean slate - only the final round determines medals and placements.
- Speech tournaments reward consistency, preparation, and performance under different judges.

What “Dress to Impress” Means at a High School Speech Tournament

In speech, how you present yourself visually matters. “Dress to impress” means dressing in a way that shows respect for the activity, the judge, and your message, while helping the audience focus on your performance.

General Expectations

- Clothing should be professional, polished, and appropriate for a competitive academic event.
- Attire should support your performance, not distract from it.
- Think: job interview, court appearance, or formal presentation, not everyday school wear.

Appropriate Attire

Students typically wear:

- Dress pants or dress skirts
- Blouses, dress shirts, sweaters, or professional tops
- Blazers, sport coats, or cardigans (optional but encouraged)
- Dresses of appropriate length
- Dress shoes, flats, or clean professional footwear

Clothing should:

- Be clean, wrinkle-free, and well-fitting
- Allow comfortable movement and standing
- Stay in place during gestures and movement

What to Avoid

- Jeans, leggings, joggers, sweatpants
- T-shirts, hoodies, crop tops, tank tops
- Athletic shoes, flip-flops, or slippers
- Hats, unless required by the performance
- Clothing with slogans, logos, or graphics
- Excessively tight, revealing, or short clothing
- Distracting accessories or noisy jewelry

Why Dress Matters

- Judges form first impressions quickly.
- Professional attire signals preparation, confidence, and seriousness.
- Appearance should enhance credibility, especially in serious or persuasive events.
- Dressing well shows respect for competitors, judges, and the activity itself.

Event-Specific Considerations

- Attire does not need to match the character unless the rules for a specific event allow it.
- Costumes are generally not permitted, except where explicitly allowed by event rules.
- Clothing should never become a “prop” unless rules allow it.

Final Reminder

“Dress to impress” does not mean expensive or flashy.

It means:

- Neat
- Professional
- Intentional
- Appropriate for a formal competitive setting

When in doubt, it is always better to be slightly overdressed than underdressed. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE GET WITH YOUR CAPTAINS.