

Centennial Theatre

Where Everyone Belongs

Welcome to the 2026/2027 Centennial High School Speech Team Information Meeting

SPEECH TEAM COACHES

Head Coach – Eric Webster

<u>Assistant Coaches</u>
Audrey Hinds
Nina Broberg
Emilie Cagnazzo
Melissa Krieger

Assignment of students to coaches will be completed after registration is closed.

Eric Webster

Centennial Middle School Speech Coach for 13 years and have been working in the Centennial School District and Directing Theater programming for Centennial High School and Middle School for 23 years.

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 for Centennial High School.

*Three time state qualifier in duo interpretation.

*Speech team captain for two years.

*Middle school speech team guest coach and judge.

*Recent Graduate of Lawrence University – Theatre Arts/Embodied Dance

*Choreographer for Centennial Middle School and High School Musicals

Melissa Krieger

Melissa is a long-standing and highly regarded member of the Centennial High School speech and theater departments and the Centennial community.

Speech Captain at Park High School.

Centennial Speech Coach from 2015 to 2023.

Secretary of the Centennial High School Theater and Speech Boosters, serving on multiple committees from 2015 to 2023.

Awarded the Minnesota recipient of the Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award in 1998.

Since 2019 Melissa has served as the Music Director for Centennial High School's musicals, directing the music rehearsals for the cast and conductor for the pit orchestra.

Centennial High School Speech is under the Centennial Theater Program

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
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Nina Broberg
Middle School and High School Musical Choreographer

Centennial Theatre Student Leadership

Speech Captains
Addi Cramer
Sam Beck

Speech Junior Captains
Aurelia Walker
Katherine Knutson

Improv Captains
Addi Cramer
McKenna Stone
Hayden Partyka

Improv JUNIOR CAPTAINS
Katherine Knutson
Logan Johnson

Middle School Student Directors
Piper Mortenson
Addi Cramer

Student Theatre Co-Presidents
Addi Cramer
Piper Mortenson

Student Theatre Vice Presidents
Delainey Schmidtt
Sidney Benson

Student Theatre Crew Presidents
Madalyn Bailey
Hayden Partyka

Student Executive Officers
Kira Timura
A.J. Nuutinen

Student Marketing
Maya Davies
Grace Palm
Leah Young

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!



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

For registration fee's please contact High School Activities.

For the Duluth overnight trip, or any other costs, please contact Melissa Krieger who will work with Boosters for Scholarship funding.

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 **ONCE** 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.

*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 are 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

Future/School

Faith

Friends

Fun

Review of Last year

Assessment from administration of meeting the objectives and goals for the program as laid out by the Administration.

√100%

Review of Last year

Meeting our internal objectives and goals.

√100%

OUR INTERNAL GOALS

An environment that…

Teaches students how to be confident, impactful speakers and writers.

Is supportive, bonding, connected, and sense of kinship, community and inclusion.

Allows for studen's individual paths and plans to achieve individual goals

Teaches the power and satisfaction of Self Motivation and setting and achieving goals that are goals students pick for themselves.

Emphasizes personal pride as the first and most important goal.

Encourages achieving your desired success in a healthy way.

Reduces stress and anxiety creating more joy and happiness.

*ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK FORM RESULTS

A feedback form was provided to all speech students and families last year at the end of the season.

All feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

There was only **one** comment from the survey that had reservations about last year. We would like to address that so that our objectives and philosophies are clear…

“I didn't like how the competition aspect of speech was disregarded and it was all a "do good and feel good about yourself!" thing. To me, speech is like a sport. Your goal is to show up, try as hard as you can, and take home that win. Speech is literally about placing high to qualify for national tournaments. I feel like myself and other members of the team missed out on opportunities for high level competition because there was zero focus on progressing”.

This comment is a fair and reasonable concern. However, that is NOT what we are saying or the objective of the program.

We want to teach there are alternative approaches to success or winning. Each person can determine their approach and their own goals.

Yes, we have a focus on personal growth and pride in doing your best instead of a focus on the goal of “winning”.

We want to eliminate or reduce the stress and anxiety of “Having to win”.

More stress does not equal success.

The more joy there is in the process, the results improve.

Success comes easier when you are enjoying the process.

And it’s more fun.

Yes we strive for, and **love** finaling and winning and medals and recognition of our hard work and pride we put into ourselves. And we do celebrate those successes. But we need to learn that we don’t need those things to feel good about ourselves if we are proud of ourselves.

Also - We our not 100 percent in control of the results. Therefore, we cannot rely on some system of success. There is no 100 percent guarantee system of success in speech because there are WAY too many variables. You can’t find a formula to navigate three random people/judges each meet, who have thousands of possible things going on, opinions, experience etc… Being upset that you didn’t hit the right buttons in an infinite amount of uncontrollable variables doesn’t make any sense.

Therefore, we start with pride in yourself as your number one goal. And the rest won’t matter. And with that untroubled approach, you will have fun in the process, find joy, sincerely celebrate a teammates success as much as your own. And the result of all of that is that odds of success of hitting your own personal goals increase.

Alysa Liu - the American figure skater who retired from the sport because of burnout and stress of winning being the focus and the only thing.

She returned to the sport on her own terms—
Trained herself, set her own goals, and made sharing her art her priority.

“I get to pick my own program music. I get to help with the creative process of the program. If I feel like I'm skating too much, I'll back down. If I feel like I'm not skating enough, I'll ramp it up. I work hard, but I have fun. I don’t feel pressure.”

“I don't need a medal. I just need to be here and show people what I can do. I just want to share my art.”

“Winning isn't all that, and neither is losing. It's just something that happens.”.

Alysa Liu won the gold medal in the 2026 olympics

In short, we are here to help the student achieve the goals they have for speech and help them achieve them.

But also, we want you students to feel pride in their efforts no matter what the results, discover the importance of pride in yourself, and to learn that there is a mentally healthy approach to achieving your goals. It still means that you work hard. But there is a healthy way to work hard.

This is our objective and philosophy.

Expectation and Policies of Participation

*Students register by December 7th.

*Students must select their Category by the end of the first week in December.

*Students will then be assigned to a coach by end of the first week in December. 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 norifying their coach, there will 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 one 30-minute rehearsal a week, starting in December if their piece is ready, first week of January at the latest. (Week of January 4th).

*ZOOM REHEARSALS ARE ACCEPTABLE!

•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.

Brand new to speech?

For a list of categories go to centennialtheatre.org – HS Speech

Or reach out to the coaches and we will help you figure everything out!

LETTERING REQUIRMENTS

Any student that attends 4 of the 7 meets, OR
Qualifies for State OR Qualifies for NIETOC OR is a Speech Captain - will letter.

Lettering Criteria for speech is stated on the High School Speech Page at Centennialtheatre.org

DULUTH MEET

Reservations for the hotel and the catering are in process

We will leave the evening on February 5th and return the evening of February 6th.

Cost is TBD – somewhere between 100 and 125 per student will be the guess.

There is not a Centennial Home meet.

*Cost –the home meet does not result in any additional funding for the Speech Team. It in fact costs us money.

*Administration has requested we not hold home meets 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.

Meets Schedule GUESS

2/5 and 2/6 – Duluth Invitational – Over Night Stay in Duluth

2/13 - Anoka

2/20 - Forest Lake

2/27 - TBD - MAYBE Princeton or Red Wing or Eastview

3/6– NO MEET – BAND AND CHOIR ARE TRAVELLING AND IT'S SPRING BREAK

3/13 - NO MEET – BAND AND CHOIR ARE TRAVELLING AND IT'S SPRING BREAK

3/20 – Cambridge or Rosemount

3/28 - White Bear Lake CLAW

4/1 - SECTIONS

Other Scheduled Speech Events

CAPTAINS PRACTICES

Working on these dates/times –

Planning and logistics will be done by captains

Writing sessions – More information forthcooming

Speech Retreat / Bonding day

December 19th – 1:00 – 4:00 PM - PAC

Planning and logistics by captains

January Workshops

TBD

Planning and logistics has been done by captains

SPEECH SHOWCASE

Mar 19, 2027 at 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM - PAC

REGISTRATION

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

GO TO PARENT PORTAL

REGISTRATION CLOSES DECEMBER 7th !!

RECAP

AFTER you register - you will select your category by going HERE - https://forms.gle/2aZzJdjvjdVChPKp8

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 the week of December 7th.

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 4th 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 DESCIPTIONS ARE ON THE "HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH" PAGE ON THE WEBSITE AT

CENTENNIALTHEATRE.ORG

Centennial Theatre End of the Year Reveal and Recognition Ceremony.

5/28th

PAC – 5:30 – 8:00

Letters/ Pins/Recognition/Presidents/Theater Board/Next seasons leadership and shows