The Cary High School Speech and Debate Team

Student Contract for Behavior that is “Beyond Reproach”

The coaches and other adults involved are thrilled that you have decided to participate this season—there are so many benefits, both intellectual and social, to being a part of the speech and debate team. We want you to be aware of a variety of expectations we have of you as you represent yourself, your family, your team, and your school at various locations throughout the state. Please read each item and write your initials in the blank to indicate that you understand and agree to the expectations. Then you and your parents need to sign and date the document at the end. Please return this contract with your first field trip form. The contract will be kept on file for the entirety of the season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Permission forms and payment (most tournaments cost $15 per event, unless an overnight

stay is involved) are due no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday the week before a tournament is

held. Meeting this deadline is a tremendous help for planning purposes. Students who

are absent and cannot meet this deadline may turn in their forms by 3:30 p.m. the Monday

before the tournament. Anyone who does not turn in the permission form and payment by

this final deadline will not be able to compete in the tournament.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dues are $20 per half-season. The first half of the season lasts from October through

December. The second half of the season lasts from January through April. Dues will be

charged at the first tournament each individual student attends during each of the two

half-seasons. Dues for the second half-season will be waived for students whose family

members have served as volunteer judges for at least two tournaments during the first

half-season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Students must dress professionally for the entirety of a tournament, including the

awards ceremony.

\_\_\_\_\_ A student must ride in the same vehicle for every part of a field trip so that everyone

can easily be accounted for. Students may never drive other students. Students who

have not registered for the tournament may not attend, unless they have received

permission from the head coach.

\_\_\_\_\_ The lead chaperone, stationed at our table(s) in the student lounge, is due the utmost

respect in every way, as he/she is there to encourage students and assist them, should

any unusual circumstances arise, as the coach is often required to judge rounds and may

not be immediately available (though exceptions would clearly be made for emergencies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Students must check in with the lead chaperone after every round of competition.

Between rounds, the general expectation is that students should remain at our table(s) in

the student lounge. Some exceptions may arise, particularly if the tournament allows

students to observe final rounds. When students desire to leave our tables between

rounds, they should inform the chaperone and obtain his/her permission. Finally, any

student who needs to leave a tournament early for any reason must check out with

the lead chaperone before departure. Any infraction of the check-in-and-out procedures

will be reported to the head coach, who retains the authority to either issue a warning or

to prohibit students from attending the next tournament, depending on the severity of

the offense. The head coach may also prohibit students who have check-in-and-out

infractions from attending tournaments that require an overnight stay.

\_\_\_\_\_ After the last round of the tournament, students may not report to the awards ceremony

until the lead chaperone decides it is time to go, based upon the directions of the

tournament officials and his/her satisfaction that the area in the cafeteria that our team has

occupied has been sufficiently cleaned up. Team members are expected to sit together

during awards. Violations of this policy are considered infractions of the check-in-and-out

procedures detailed further in the previous item.

\_\_\_\_\_ Throughout the tournament, students should clean up after themselves and not rely upon

the lead chaperone, other students, or the hosting team to do it for them. Any personal

mess or trash should be disposed of as soon as it arises and at the latest before the next

round begins.

\_\_\_\_ For hotel stays, students should report to their assigned rooms when instructed by the

adults in charge and not beforehand. Once students have reported to their rooms for the

night, they may not open their doors again until it is time to report to breakfast or

checkout in the morning. The only persons who may grant an exception to these rules are

the head coach and the students’ own drivers on the trip. Students who violate

these rules will be prohibited from competing in the tournament and parents will be

notified to pick up the students for an earlier departure from the field trip than the rest of

the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ Students are expected to behave themselves in the classiest and most dignified manner, never stooping to the level of students from other schools who may behave otherwise. Our behavior should be “beyond reproach” in every way and in every form—in person and online.

\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to the expectations described above, all school rules apply on all field trips.

The head coach has an obligation to report violation of school rules to Cary High School

administrators, who will assign the appropriate consequences when the team returns to

campus. Additionally, parents will be contacted and may be asked to pick up the student

who has violated the rules and return him or her home as soon as possible after the

contact is made.

\_\_\_\_\_ Debaters may not borrow elements from each other’s cases (including reasoning and

cards) unless permission is granted by the author.

\_\_\_\_ A student who violates any of the expectations above (not just the school rules) will

receive a range of consequences, depending on the severity of the violation—from a

warning, to a parent contact, to dismissal from the next tournament the student wants to

attend, to dismissal from the team.

\_\_\_\_ Students who join the speech and debate team should embody the highest ideals of

intellect and character, providing palpable hope to all participants, adults and students

alike, that civil discourse, honed by our competitive events, prepares us for a bright future

as citizens and leaders of our country and of our world.

I. I have read and agreed to all of the previous expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature Parent Email Date

II. I will / will not allow my child’s picture to be posted on our website.

(Circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Signature)

If my child wins a trophy or medal at a tournament, I will / will not allow my child’s name and picture to be posted on our website. (Circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Signature)

III. Parents,

Thank you for all of your support! The Speech and Debate Team is an incredibly worthwhile activity for your high schooler. In order to ensure that all of our team members have an opportunity to compete at tournaments, we need your help. Parents often volunteer to drive students to tournament and then serve as judges for competition events. We provide judge training, so you will know exactly what to do. Please check one of the following statements to indicate how you can help to support the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to volunteer as a driver and a judge.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to volunteer as a driver and a chaperone.

We will be in touch with you soon by email with more information.

Sincerely,

The Cary High Speech and Debate

Booster Club