Who We Are

About Us

The William Tennent Debate Team competes all school year. Speech and debate activities are challenging, competitive in nature, and require regular practice, coaching, dedication, and hard work.

Contact Us

Phone: (215) 441-6000 x11010
Email: berdch@centennialsd.org

How do I join the team?

Begin your journey in competitive speech and debate by scheduling a tryout today. Please email Coach Berdnik at berdch@centennialsd.org

Tennent hosted policy debate for the National Catholic Forensic League’s Grand National Tournament in 2013.

Elyanor Adnane (’19), Ethan Knox (’19), and Ellyes Adnane (’17) proudly represented Tennent in the Rotary’s 4-Way Test oratory competition.

Michael Pronin (’14) captured 8th place in Lincoln Douglas debate at the 2014 National Speech and Debate Association championship.

WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL
333 Centennial Road
Warminster, PA 18974

Tennent Debate
Inspiring hearts and minds of future leaders since 2005
What is competitive speech and debate?

Speech involves a presentation by one, two, or sometimes a group of students that is judged against a similar type of presentation by others in a round of competition.

Speech events range from limited preparation events that require extensive knowledge of current events to dramatic and humorous interpretation, which challenge students to find powerful moments in literature and recreate them for an audience.

 Debate involves an individual or a team of debaters working to effectively convince a judge that his or her side of a resolution is, as a general principle, more valid. Students in debate research extensively, and learn to think critically about every argument.

“I think debating in high school and college is most valuable training whether for politics, the law, business or for service….”

John F. Kennedy, August 22, 1960

Our competition schedule includes the National Speech and Debate Association Valley Forge district, the Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League, the Pennsylvania High School Speech League, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Debate League.

Did you know?

A University of Missouri study found that after one year in an urban debate league competitors attended school more frequently, improved their GPA’s by 10%, decreased risky behaviors, and achieved a 25% increase in reading and literacy.

Why should you debate for Tennent?

• Competitive speech and debate is the single most valuable activity on your college application. Our graduates routinely pursue premier post-secondary opportunities.

• Compliment your school calendar and existing extra-curricular opportunities with events typically held Wednesday after school and on Saturdays.

• Forge friendships from across the state and beyond.

Senior co-captain Erin Cicchitti (right) was a 2015 Pennsylvania High School Speech League finalist in Radio Announcing.

Tennent alumni Duncan Cherrington ('15) and Donato Luongo ('14) prepare students for competition.