

# **bp** BLACKHAWK FORENSICS

**BETHEL PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

**309 CHURCH RD., BETHEL PARK PA 15102**

**Coach:** Alice J. Ursin  
**Assistant:** Pat Zenz

**Captain:**  
**Co-Captains:**

**Paula Amin**  
**Kaitlynn Conley**  
**Christopher Smith**

December 1, 2009

Dear Colleague,

The Bethel Park High School Forensic Team is pleased to host its **TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL BLACKHAWK SPEECH AND DEBATE INVITATIONAL** on Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13, 2010. We will provide a full range of competition in the NFL Individual Events, Congress, LD, CX and Public Forum Debate. NOTE: There will be competition offered for the new PHSSL debate: Parliamentary Debate..

We will provide **five preliminary rounds** of speaking in **all individual speech events, a quarter, semi and a final round**. Rounds 1 thru 3 will be preset and rounds 4 and 5 powered. Quarter Finals will be dropped in events with less than 24 competitors. NOTE: There will be **five preliminary rounds, quarters-, semis- and a final round** in **LD, Public Forum, Parliamentary and Cross-X Debate**. Rounds one thru three in all debates will be pre-paired. Rounds 4 and 5 will be straight power, with quarters and semis protect in brackets.

**Tournament Location:** Bethel Park High School at 309 Church Rd. **FRIDAY** registration and hospitality will be held in the **SOUTH GYM**, the second building on your right as you enter Campus Drive. Your busses can drop you off in front of the gym and then proceed to the Stadium parking lot. On **SATURDAY** we return to the **Cafeteria and Auditorium** for hospitality, announcements, etc. Please have your buses drop you off in front of the cafeteria/auditorium building (the first building on the left as you enter the high school property) then it is to continue on through Campus Drive, past the gymnasiums to the Broad Street parking lot (stadium lot). **Do not use the Blade Runners lot.**

**FEES:** \$ 8.00 per speaker in Speech, LD and Congress. (\$16 per duo team)  
\$20.00 per CX, Public Forum  
\$24.00 per Parli Team  
\$10.00 School Fee  
We regret that there can be **NO REFUNDS for drops made after noon on Tuesday, February 9.**

Checks are payable to: **BETHEL PARK ACTIVITIES FUND.**

**JUDGES:** 1 per 5 students (or fraction thereof) in Individual Events  
1 per 2 LD debaters (or fraction thereof)  
1 per 2 CX debate teams (or fraction thereof)  
1 per 2 Public Forum teams (or fraction thereof)  
1 per 2 Parliamentary teams (or fraction thereof)  
1 per 10 Congress participants (or fraction thereof)

**We have a limited number of individual events, LD, and CX judges for hire at \$100 per judge. It is presumed that each hired judge will judge five rounds.**

**EVENTS:** **NFL rules apply in all events.**

Original Oratory	Prose	Dio	CX
Dramatic Interp	Poetry	Congress	PFD
Humorous Interp	Extemp	LD	Parli

Debate Topics:

The **LD** topic is that for January/February 2010

**PFD** will use the February topic.

**Parli:**

Rounds 1,2, 3 and the Semi-Final Round:

**R: This house believes that censorship can never be justified.**

Rounds 4, 5, Quarter and Final rounds debaters will choose from the following:

**R: This house believes that god can prevent evil but doesn't.**

**R: This house believes that Political Correctness is the new McCarthyism.**

**R: This House believes that freedom of the individual is a myth.**

Extemp Questions will be from all major news magazines beginning August, 2010..

**FX and USX will be combined. Rounds will alternate between foreign and domestic topics.**

**CONGRESS BILLS:** All schools participating in Congress may submit bills for consideration in the houses. Bills must be submitted via email to [ajursin@yahoo.com](mailto:ajursin@yahoo.com) by Friday, January 30. The bills will be posted on the Pittsburgh NFL website: [www.pittsburghnfl.com](http://www.pittsburghnfl.com) on February 1.

**AWARDS:** Trophies will be awarded to ALL FINALISTS, SEMI-FINALISTS and QUARTER FINALISTS in Individual Events.

Trophies will be awarded to FINALISTS, SEMI-FINALISTS, AND QUARTER-FINALISTS in all debate events.. Ten speaker awards (medals) in CX.

Congress awards: gavels to the Presiding Officers and trophies to the top three speakers in each house. Five Speakers of Merit from each house will receive medals.

**SWEEPS:** Sweepstakes Awards will be given to the top three schools in Speech and to the top three ranking schools in Debate. Two schools will be recognized in the overall category.

**SPEECH:** Each team will designate ten (10) speakers in the individual events as their Speech Sweeps team. **No more than three speakers in any one event may be named.** Sweeps Awards will be based upon the five preliminary rounds of competition.

**DEBATE:** Each team will designate no more than two (2) CX teams, two (2) LD debaters, two PFD teams, two (2) Parliamentary teams and two (2) Congress speakers to their Debate Sweeps team.

Sweeps points will be awarded based upon the preliminary rounds of LD, PFD, and CX, and the two sessions of Congress. Please note that the maximum number of points recorded by session for sweeps purposes will not exceed 24 points per session.

**OVERALL:** Total of Speech and Debate Sweeps points.

**REGISTRATION:**

**REGISTRATION:** All registration is to be done online at: [www.varsityspeech.com](http://www.varsityspeech.com)

**You may register until Wednesday, February 10. The password is BPHS10**

**Drops and adds to your registration can be made by your going to the same site and putting in your password to open your registration. After the closing date, you may email Alice at [ajursin@yahoo.com](mailto:ajursin@yahoo.com) or call 412-835-2887 OR 412-951-2654  
DO NOT MAIL OR PHONE REGISTRATION INTO THE SCHOOL !!!!**

While we look forward to your school's participation in our tournament, we regret that the above deadlines must be met. **Registrations mailed to the school will not be honored** (for the chance is great that I will not have received them). Ditto for phone registrations to the school.

**TOURNAMENT: (Tentative Schedule)**

**Friday:**

<b>2:45 -4:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>South Gym</b>
<b>4:15</b>	<b>Meeting for ALL LD, PFD &amp; CX Competitors &amp; Judges</b>	<b>Room 1000</b>
<b>4:15</b>	<b>Extempores to the Prep Room</b>	
<b>4:30</b>	<b>All Individual Events Competitors &amp; Judges</b>	<b>South Gym</b>
<b>4:30</b>	<b>Round 1 – All Debates</b>	
<b>4:45</b>	<b>Round 1 – Speech</b>	
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Session 1 - Congress</b>	
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Round 2 – All Debates</b>	
<b>6:15</b>	<b>Round 2 - Speech</b>	
<b>7:30</b>	<b>Round 3 – All Debates</b>	
<b>7:45</b>	<b>Round 3 – Speech</b>	

**Saturday:**

<b>7:30</b>	<b>All competitors and judges</b>	<b>Report to the Cafeteria</b>
<b>7:45</b>	<b>Extempores to the Prep Room</b>	
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Round 4 – Speech &amp; Debate</b>	
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Session 2 - Congress</b>	
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Round 5 – Speech &amp; Debate</b>	
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Quarters – Speech &amp; Debate</b>	
<b>1:00</b>	<b>Semis – Speech &amp; Debate</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>Finals – Speech &amp; Debate</b>	
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Awards</b>	

**\* Quarter-finals will be dropped in speech events with less than 28 entries and in debate events with less than 10 entries.**

**PLEASE REMIND ALL OF YOUR JUDGES TO ATTEND THEIR MEETINGS. ALL QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED AT THAT TIME AND JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.**

**FRIDAY:** Snacks, soft drinks and pizza and/or subs, loaded baked potatoes and hotdogs will be sold.

**SATURDAY:** Lunch will be served to all contestants **who purchase tickets** at a cost of \$5.00. Lunch is a pasta and salad bar and includes a soft drink, and cookies. **Lunch tickets will be**

**pre-sold in the South Gym during the registration hours and Saturday morning in the cafeteria.**

**HOSPITALITY:** A hospitality area for all adults (coaches, judges, drivers) will be available on Friday and Saturday. Our parents will once again provide their delicious buffet as our thank you to coaches, judges, etc.

We ask that ALL JUDGES be in attendance at the opening assembly for possible changes. After the assembly, those not scheduled in a round should be in the hospitality area in the event that they are needed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** All IE and Congress Announcements as well as judging assignments will be made in the **South Gym on Friday only**. We return to the cafeteria/auditorium on Saturday...

Extemp Announcements and changes will be made in the prep room.

Debate Announcements and Judging Assignments will be made at the debate meeting in Building 1, Room 1100.

**FINAL ASSEMBLY:** The awards will be announced and presented in the auditorium of the high school at 5:30 p.m.

**\*\*\* Special announcement for Friday ONLY:**

**My cell phone will be monitored from noon until 2:00 P.M. for emergency drops, car problems, etc. A call ahead when the unexpected occurs can save time in the long run.**

**Cell Phone Number: (412) 951-2654**

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**COACHES TAKE NOTE  
NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE SPIRIT OF FORENSICS AWARD  
MUST BE SUBMITTED, BY LETTER, BY JANUARY 29**

**See Criterion below**

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### **SPIRIT OF FORENSICS**

This plaque is awarded in memory of **Ajay Tandon**, a former competitor in LD Debate and Congress (sometimes Extemp) and captain of the Bethel Park team who lost his valiant fight against cancer in June of 1997. Ajay was our spiritual leader, dedicated to the success of the team and the friendships that can and do develop among competitors. This award goes to an individual, nominated by his/her team that best exemplifies leadership and a willingness to aid the team through peer coaching, competition, cheer-leading, etc. The nominee need not be one who is a top competitor who is always a finalist; but one who is there week after week, practicing his or her craft and looks upon the competition as being as important as the winning. **Nominations from coaches are to be by letter and must include a description of the characteristics and activities that exemplify "The Spirit of Forensics"**. Nominations should be received **no later than January 29**.

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