



2018-2019
Dassel-Cokato
Speech Handbook

2018-2019 Charger Speech Coaching Staff

Miss Beth Steinleitner - Head Speech Coach (beth.steinleitner@dc.k12.mn.us)

This is my sixth year as Dassel-Cokato's head coach and seventh year with the speech program. This is my seventh year as the DC Middle School Social Worker. My speech history began in Annandale where I competed in Middle School and Senior High Speech in the categories of Storytelling, Informative and Prose. I also had the opportunity to compete at the Harvard Tournament in Boston as a junior. I joined St. Cloud State University's speech program as a sophomore and competed in the categories of Drama and Duo. After college, I was hired as the K-12 school social worker in Pine City, MN. I was involved in their speech program as an assistant middle school and senior high coach. I became the head speech coach for my last four years in Pine City. As head coach, I led the team to four consecutive Great River Conference Championships, and had two state competitors in Poetry and Prose (two years in a row), a state competitor in Creative Expression (also two years in a row), and state competitors in Duo. This is my eighth year on the Central Minnesota Speech and Drama Coaches' Association's Executive Board as Treasurer. I am a MSHSL Speech and One-Act Certified Judge and have judged many conference, subsection and section tournaments in Minnesota. Speech is more than a passion—it is a part of my life. I am thrilled to be a part of DC's Speech legacy! I am looking forward to the excitement and celebrations this season. Go Charger Speech!

Mrs. Rhea Langemo - Assistant Speech Coach (rhea.langemo@dc.k12.mn.us)

I am a Cokato native and a past member of the Dassel-Cokato Varsity Speech Team. I participated in Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous, Drama and Prose. I competed three years at the Harvard Tournament. We are looking forward to all that a new speech season brings! Go Charger Speech!

Mrs. Jennie Inselman - Assistant Speech Coach (jennie.inselman@dc.k12.mn.us)

This is my eleventh year at Dassel-Cokato High School as the Guidance Administrative Assistant and my third year as one of the assistant varsity speech coaches. I was in Speech during my 7th, 8th and 9th grade years at Dassel-Cokato and competed in Duo and Poetry. I became a MSHSL Speech Certified Judge this year and I am excited to see what our team can do this season!

The Charger Speech Coaching Staff will expect that you will:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the Charger Speech Program.
2. Represent Dassel-Cokato Schools and the Charger Speech Program in a positive manner. Please demonstrate respect, integrity, and school pride!
3. Practice and participate to the best of your abilities.
4. Practice regularly with coaches at least 90% of the time.
5. Attend at least 80% scheduled tournaments.
6. Communicate openly and honestly with your teammates and your coaches.
7. Set goals and work hard to achieve them.
8. Support teammates in any way that you can.
9. Respect other schools and speech judges.
10. Never give up or quit trying!
11. Advocate for yourself. If you need help with anything from the coaches, just let us know!
12. You will NOT participate in any type of hazing.

Speech Communication:

- **Activities Board:** Notices may be posted outside of the Activities Office.
- **Website:** <https://dasselcokatospeech.weebly.com/>
- **Email:** Coaches will send tournament results and upcoming event to parents.
- **Facebook:** Dassel-Cokato Speech Boosters
- **Twitter:** @dcchargerspeech
- ****We will not be using Remind this year****

Charger Speech Mission Statement:

To be an exclusive team of dedicated public speakers who have fun and strive for excellence. The 2018-2019 season will establish a team to think, show and experience: Preparation, Hard Work and Confidence!

Statement of Philosophy:

The primary philosophy of the extra/co-curricular programs in the Dassel-Cokato School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well-being of the participants. The extra/co-curricular activities in our schools are intended to be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

The extracurricular program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to all students regardless of individual differences. Through voluntary participation, the student gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/She also accepts the rules, regulations, and responsibilities that are unique to each extra/co-curricular program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the student and parent must willingly assume these obligations and make sacrifices as the role demands.

The student extra curricular policy includes all students participating in the programs, grades 7-12. In addition to the Dassel-Cokato Public Schools Student Handbook, the Minnesota State High School League also governs extra curricular program participants.

Eligibility Requirements and General Information:

1. Eligibility Requirements

- a. You must register and pay online with the Activities Office (dasselcokato-ar.rschooltoday).
- b. Eligibility cards must be turned in to the coaches **BEFORE** beginning practice.

2. Academic Requirements

- a. You must be receiving passing grades in all classes.

3. School Attendance

- a. A student must attend all classes during the school day to be eligible to practice and/or participate in a scheduled contest on that same day. If a student is absent on Friday before a Saturday tournament, he/she would be able to compete on Saturday.

4. Activity Fees (Athletics & Fine Arts) (Individual cap per year: \$160.00)

- a. Grades 7th - 8th grade fees - \$60.00 per activity
- b. Grades 9th - 12th grade fees - \$80.00 per activity

5. Acknowledgement

- a. By signing up for Speech with the Activities Office, you are responsible for knowing the information contained in this handbook.

General Information

1. **Curfew Times:** The Dassel-Cokato Policy states that participants are expected to be home by 11:00 PM on weekdays and 1:00 AM on weekends. A curfew violation will result in a one meet suspension.
2. **Bus Trips:** All participants are expected to ride the bus to each tournament. Though we strongly encourage all participants to ride the bus home, there may be situations in which a parent or guardian finds it necessary to take a participant home with them. In this case, the parent or guardian must leave a WRITTEN NOTE with the coach. The note should include the date, why the individual will not be riding the bus home, and the parent or guardian's signature. Only a parent or guardian will be allowed to take home his/her daughter/son. The only exception to this is if PRIOR PERMISSION has been given through the Activities Office.
3. **Prior Permission:** In the event that a student needs to go home after a tournament with someone other than his/her parent/guardian, this is the procedure that must take place:

- a. A handwritten note or email from the student's parent/guardian giving permission for the student to go home with the other party must be given to the Activities Office and be approved by Mr. Thinesen.
- b. It is important that this process be used for unusual circumstances and not out of convenience.
- c. Please understand that these notes must be received and approved by Mr. Thinesen before the bus leaves for the tournament in the morning.

4. Participation Expectations/Requirements:

- a. All Dassel-Cokato participants are expected to abide by the rules of the Minnesota State High School League, as well as the Dassel-Cokato Activities Policy. A participant suspended because of a violation of an MSHSL rule will forfeit a chance for a letter. A suspended participant will be expected to attend each practice and tournament during the suspension and demonstrate a true desire to remain a part of the team. Any unexcused absence from a practice or tournament will result in an additional tournament suspension for each absence. Any captain suspended for a violation will forfeit his/her status as captain.
- b. Students are expected to attend at least (but not limited to) 8 coachings (½ hour in length) throughout the speech season before the section tournament, at least 4 of those coachings will be "on your feet/all the way through the piece". This time is dedicated to improving one's level of competition in preparation for the next speech tournament and future meets; thus, students are expected to attend the coachings they schedule, review critique sheets from the previous tournament, and strategize improvements. If a student is unable to practice during his/her time for an excused reason, it is his/her responsibility to reschedule during a time that a coach has available.
- c. No script selection or topic selection is final until two coaches have signed off on it. Each student must practice a full script with a coach before he/she competes at the first meet. There will be a cut-off date for scripts, after which a student cannot change his/her selection. Students will compete the same piece at both the Wright County Conference Meet and the 5AA Section Meet.

5. Practice Schedule:

- a. Practice officially starts on November 28-November 29 with an open work week--Students can begin scheduling coachings December 3!
- b. Speech Team homebase will be in the Middle School Media Center.
- c. Coaching times will be determined by when you sign up.
- d. Team meetings will be scheduled for every other Friday beginning on 12/7. Volunteers will be coming in to coach. More information will be made available as we get closer to the first team meeting Friday.

6. Requirements for Lettering:

- a. Attend at least 8 coachings (½ hour in length), at least 4 are "on your feet/all the way thru".
- e. Abide by all team rules regarding conduct, sportsmanship, etc.
- f. Tournaments:
 - i. No unexcused absences from a speech tournament.
 - ii. Compete at Required Tournaments (Wright County Conference and 5AA Sections)
 - iii. Attend at least 80% of the scheduled tournaments.
- g. Earn a minimum of 45 competitive speaking points based on the following scale:
 - i. All points must be earned at varsity-level meets.
 1. 1=5 points
 2. 2=4 points
 3. 3=3 points
 4. 4=2 points
 5. 5=1 point
 - ii. Students who compete in a Novice Division at a tournament will use a lower scale:

1. 1=3 points
2. 2=2 points
3. 3, 4, or 5=1 point.

h. The Head Coach and the Activities Director have final discretion on all letterwinners.

7. Photo Release:

- i. We will be taking pictures of speech students throughout the season.
- j. Parents may opt out of this by emailing Miss Beth at any time.

MSHSL Limited Participation:

- 1. Social Skill expectations:** The participant needs to be able to associate with coaches, teammates, judges, and other schools participants in a positive and appropriate manner. The participant needs to be able to handle constructive criticism in a positive way.
- 2. Physical Skill expectations:** The participant needs to be able to speak at a level that is understood by most. He/she needs to be able to read and to write.
- 3. Cognitive Skill expectations:** The participant needs need to be able to read and comprehend. He/she needs to be able to understand materials and process the information to be able to share with judges and competitors. The participant needs to select criteria to perform and understand the requirements expected in that category.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the schedule of a typical speech meet?

- a. Most speech meets take place on Saturdays with the exception of a few meets on weekdays. The bus will typically load between 6-8 AM (depending on location of the meet). The bus picks up and drops off at the front doors of the high school.
- b. We try to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of draw events. The captains typically pick a location for the team to congregate and meet. The team remains in this area until Miss Beth or another coach returns with codes for rounds and a schedule of the events for the day.
- c. Your speech will be presented during rounds. Rounds are usually 60 minutes (although most categories are done before the end of this time period). Every meet will have 3 rounds. If the meet does not have final rounds, students will wait for awards to begin. If there are final rounds, students will wait for postings to see where they should go to compete. All students, regardless of placing, should attend a final round either as a competitor or spectator.
- d. After awards, we will pack up and go home. Please be respectful of the host school and clean up the area that we have used. Once the bus is loaded, critique sheets will be distributed. Speech meets are typically, but not always, an all-day event, and we do not return to the high school until late afternoon or early evening. Be prepared for dinners after the meet. Depending on the day, the team may stop on the way home to have dinner. Bring along cash if you wish to eat (this goes for concessions at the speech meets as well).

2. What should I wear to a speech meet?

- a. Speech Meets are considered “dress-up” events. This means that your appearance should be clean and tasteful at all events. “Dress-up” clothing would include a suit and tie or dress pants, button shirt, and tie for the guys; and dress pants, blouse, skirt, suits, etc. for the ladies. Ladies, please be mindful of how short the skirts are and how low the shirt collars go. Hats are not allowed for anyone. Headphones and other non-speech related items should not be carried into rounds of competition. When you are competing in a round, you are also being judged on the visual performance, which should be positively accented by your dress.

3. How should I act at a speech meet?

- a. You are an ambassador of Dassel Cokato High School. Everything you say and do at the meets reflects upon the school. Please act in a way that shows dignity, courtesy, and civility. In rounds, you should be polite and attentive to the other speakers. You should not leave the round before it

is over except in case of emergency or if you are double-entered in another category and have informed the judge ahead of time.

4. Varsity Meets

- a. All Invitationals in January, February and March are open to high school teams, so tournament sizes will vary from 10-20 schools and 200-800 competitors.
- b. All Invitationals include competition in all 13 MSHSL events. Occasionally there will be specialty events. Miss Beth will make you aware of these.
- c. Students are ranked by a single judge against the other members of their round.
- d. Students will be judged by people with a variety of experience at Invitationals. You will receive written critiques at the end of the round or the end of the meet.
- e. All Invitationals have registration limits. If we have too many students who wish to compete, decisions will be made by the coaching staff based on preparation and work accomplished during the season.

5. What do you mean I get to compete? What is a category? Aren't I just giving a speech?

- a. There are actually 13 events to compete in:
Creative Expression, Discussion, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Reading, Extemporaneous Speaking, Great Speeches, Humorous Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Serious Drama Interpretation, Serious Poetry Interpretation, Serious Prose Interpretation, Storytelling
- b. Students will start the season in a category best suited to their style of presentation, abilities, and desire. You might receive guidance from Miss Beth or the other coaches as to an appropriate category. **Team members in our draw categories will prepare 7 minutes speeches and other categories, except for discussion, will prepare 10 minute speeches this season.**
- c. Some Invitationals allow for contestants to enter in more than one event.
- d. ***Double-entering will only be allowed at coaches' discretion.***

2019 Tentative Tournament Dates:

Tournament Registration:

1. Registration to Invitationals occurs at least one week, and usually two weeks in advance. Please let Miss Beth know ahead of time if you cannot attend a tournament.
2. If you back out on a tournament, it costs the team money and affects our judging schedule. Judges are hired based on the number of entrants.
3. If you are sick the morning of the tournament, please call or text a Speech Captain and have a parent send Miss Beth an email.
4. All absences will be unexcused unless there is a note from a parent/guardian.
5. Excused absences include: illness, family emergencies, participation in another activity's event (not practices), and required religious confirmation activities.
6. Unexcused absences include: oversleeping, missing the bus, shopping, and watching/practicing another activity's event.
7. Your name will automatically be registered for each tournament, unless you have told Miss Beth that you will not be participating.

Date		Tournament	Report to DCHS	Back to DCHS
			<i>Times are approximate. Final times will be given to students prior to meet and posted to the website..</i>	<i>Times are approximate! We will ask students to notify you regarding arrival times when we know.</i>
Saturday	1/19/19	Orono Mound Westonka	TBD	6:00 PM
Saturday	1/26/19	Andover	6:30 AM	2:00 PM
Saturday	2/1/19-2/2/19	Duluth	TBD	TBD
Saturday	2/9/19	St. Michael Albertville	7:40 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	2/23/19	Chaska	7:00 AM	5:30 PM
Thursday	2/28/19	WCC Meet (Litch)	TBD	10:00 PM
Saturday	3/2/19	Fridley	6:45 AM	4:00 PM
Saturday	3/9/19	Maple Grove	TBD	4:00 PM
Saturday	3/16/19	Home Meet	7:45 AM	4:00 PM
Tuesday	3/19/19	5AA Section Meet (Rogers)	TBD	10:30-11:30 PM
Friday-Saturday	4/12-13/19	State Speech (Wayzata)	TBD	n/a

Wright County Conference Schools: Glencoe-Silver Lake, Annandale, Delano, Waconia, Watertown-Mayer, Litchfield, Mound Westonka, Orono, Rockford Area, Hutchinson, New London-Spicer, Holy Family Catholic High School, New Prague

5AA Section Schools: Andover High School, Anoka High School, Blaine High School, Champlin Park High School, Coon Rapids High School, Maple Grove High School, Osseo High School, Park Center High School, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School, Robbinsdale Cooper High School, Rogers High School, St. Michael-Albertville H.S., Wayzata High School

10 Things that Require Zero Talent

Being on time

Work Ethic

Effort

Body Language

Energy

Attitude

Passion

Being Coachable

Doing Extra

Being Prepared

