

# *Lanier Speech & Debate*

## *Team Guide*

### *2024-2025*

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*Once a Lanier Debater, always a Lanier Debater*

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OVERALL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE  
DEBATE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE  
SPEECH SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

2007 \* 2008 \* 2009 \* 2010 \* 2011 \* 2012 \* 2014 \* 2015 \*  
2016 \* 2017 \* 2018 \* 2019 \* 2023 \* 2024

1st PLACE SWEEPSTAKES AT MIDDLE SCHOOL NATIONALS

2003 \* 2004 \* 2005 \* 2006

1st PLACE SWEEPSTAKES AT TJS DA STATE

2023

Dear Parents and Students,

The purpose of this document is to provide the guidelines and procedures for our class and tournaments. Please read it thoroughly and carefully, including the Honor Code at the end. Sign and return the acknowledgement page. Students may not compete at a tournament unless the acknowledgement form has been received.

This guide has been amended over the years to meet the needs of the team and ensure a community of respect and professionalism. While it's comprehensive, there are likely things about our team that it doesn't specify, so if you have any questions or concerns about anything in the guide, don't hesitate to contact Mr. Hill at [fhill1@houstonisd.org](mailto:fhill1@houstonisd.org)

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### TOURNAMENT DRESS-CODE

#### What You Should Wear

- Dress shirt (with tie)
- Dress slacks (with belt)
- Dress shoes with dress socks
- Business formal skirt
- Coat/blazer

- Long hair should be tied back

#### What You Should Not Wear

- T-shirts
- Tennis Shoes
- Jeans

### GENERAL TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE

- No gum when competing.
- Cell-phones must be "silent" while competing. You should not be on your device at all while competitors are performing.
- Unless you are cross-entered, you are expected to watch everyone in your round.
- ALWAYS thank your judges and your opponents.
- You are to remain on the host campus throughout the tournament unless picked up by a parent. You are expected to stay through to the awards ceremony to support the team, even if you have been eliminated. You should not leave the tournament just because you *think* you have been eliminated. You should only leave after informing me and only in case of emergency. Leaving without letting me know causes problems when we all leave the tournament. MAKE SURE YOU SIGN OUT ON THE SIGN OUT SHEET
- All performed interp. material must be published
- You CANNOT have someone fill in for you in elimination rounds.
- Keep your area at the tournament clean. This includes the extemp. draw area. and competition rooms
- Lanier debaters set the standard for award ceremony etiquette. During awards you are expected to sit with our team. Electronic devices should be off during awards. This means the utmost respect is shown to all those who are receiving awards. The first place winner in every category is given a standing ovation.
- If you miss school for a debate tournament, the absence will eventually be coded as 'Excused.' You are responsible for making all arrangements for missed work/classes. If you are scheduled to compete at a tournament on a school day, you must be at school for ADA attendance (unless you have a doctor's note) or you cannot go with us that day.

[www.lanierspeechanddebate.org](http://www.lanierspeechanddebate.org)

[fhill1@houstonisd.org](mailto:fhill1@houstonisd.org)

### TOURNAMENT FEES

- No student will be kept from participating due to financial difficulty
- Fees should be paid in a timely manner. Use the 'fee schedule' for any given tournament posted at [www.lanierspeechanddebate.org](http://www.lanierspeechanddebate.org)
- Please pay your fees through the debate school pay account
- Students are responsible for fees for events they drop if they are dropped past the entry deadline (usually a week before the tournament).

### SUPPLIES

- Composition Book or folder with loose leaf paper
- Pen/pencil
- HISD issued Chromebook
- Other supplies as needed

### NON-PARTICIPANT ASSIGNMENTS

Two weeks prior to a tournament is set aside for tournament prep. Students competing are expected to bring necessary prep materials to class and to use their prep time productively. Failure to bring materials and/or use their time productively will negatively affect their grade.

Students who are not attending a given tournament will be given a variety of assignments to select from. These "Non-Participant" assignments will be due around the time of the tournament and count as a project grade. Points will be deducted for students who are not ready by the due date.

### DISCIPLINE

Behavioral choices made in the classroom and at tournaments have consequences. Classroom behavior indicates how committed you are to debate and is the only barometer I have for how you will represent our team off-campus.

1. Verbal warning
2. Detention (after school/lunch) – Parent contact made
3. Sent to administrator

Strikes are given for poor behavior at tournaments or excessively poor behavior in the classroom.

**1<sup>st</sup> Strike** – You will miss the next tournament

**2<sup>nd</sup> Strike** – Suspended from debate activities including tournaments, club, banquet, etc.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Strike** – No longer allowed to attend tournaments – Not allowed to attend Nationals

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We thrive only with parental support. Even if it's just bringing your child to school early in the morning and picking them up late at night from tournaments, your help makes us great! We often need parents to judge at tournaments (no experience necessary), send snacks and water for tournaments and provide our class with general supplies.

## LANIER DEBATE – PARENT FAQ

### **When are the tournaments?**

Tournaments are always on Saturdays and sometimes start the Friday before. Buses will be used sparingly this year due to budget constraints. Tournament participation is always optional, never mandatory. Students getting picked up from tournaments MUST sign out.

### **How much do tournaments cost?**

Entry fees are established by the tournament host. Please pay using the debate school pay link. Fees vary depending on the event. Students are responsible for purchasing their meals at the tournaments and are encouraged to bring snacks from home, as the tournament host will sometimes run out of food. No one is prohibited from competing due to unpaid fees, but we ask that you please pay the fees.

### **What does my child need to bring to the tournament?**

The attire is business formal. They will need to bring their scripts in a small black binder if they do interp.; debate cases, laptops, scratch paper and pens if they do debate. Cell-phones, money for concessions and books and electronic devices are fine. Please remind your child to be vigilant and responsible about keeping up with what they bring.

### **How does my child get to nationals?**

NSDA Nationals is an open tournament for middle schools, however due to the entry limits and limited resources, we can only take a portion of our team. Students earn points (much like they do for the high school state tournament). Students can qualify for our national tournament if they have at least 15 points in an event offered at Nationals. Students who broke at last year's nationals are pre-qualified.

### **How can I help the team?**

Our success relies on your support. Even putting up with our late hours at tournaments is appreciated. Here are some items that we are in need of.

#### Supplies needed for Debate

- Snacks for debate club and tournaments (anything individually pre-packaged)
- Printer ink – HP63 (black or color)
- Bottled water for tournaments
- Kleenexes/paper towels
- White copy paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Amazon/Barnes & Noble credit (purchasing scripts and books for performance)
- Expo Dry-Erase markers (any color)
- Financial donations are always appreciated and can be made through the school pay account

# LANIER SPEECH & DEBATE HONOR CODE

Being a part of Lanier Speech & Debate incurs a responsibility. Your ***primary*** responsibility is to hold yourself accountable for your words and actions. By signing this Honor Code, you are committing yourself to a specific standard of character and conduct.

- I will not engage in harassment or bullying, whether online or in-person.
- I will not engage in discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, political beliefs or religion.
- I will not cheat in rounds or commit plagiarism.
- I will always demonstrate and model respect towards other teams, competitors, coaches, judges and tournament staff.
- I will always demonstrate and model respect within the team, inside and outside the classroom.
- I understand that our parent volunteers who judge and support the team are held to the same standard.
- I will display good sportsmanship and professionalism in the classroom, on the bus, at the tournament and at awards, exemplifying leadership for the team.
- Whenever I see someone violating this honor code, I will intervene to the best of my ability, as the situation dictates.
- I will report violations of the honor code to Mr. Hill or appropriate tournament personnel.
- I understand that failure to adhere to this code may result in my suspension or expulsion from team activities, including tournaments, the banquet, State and Nationals.

## TEAM GUIDE AND HONOR CODE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We (parent and student) have read the Team Guide and Honor Code and agree to abide by the team guidelines and principles.

I, (student) \_\_\_\_\_, will meet the expectations outlined in the team guide. I will also do my best to adhere to the ideals explained in the Honor Code.

I, (parent) \_\_\_\_\_, will support my child as a member of the Lanier Speech & Debate Team. I am available to help out in the following ways:

\_\_\_\_\_ Please let me know when judges are needed for tournaments (Often tournaments require us to provide judges based on our entry numbers. Tournaments will often assign penalty fees if we don't provide enough judges).

\_\_\_\_\_ Please let me know when snacks and drinks are needed for tournaments.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please let me know when supplies are needed for class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please let me know if (should my child qualify) you need parents to travel with the team for State and/or Nationals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would love to help out but not at this time. I will contact you if I am able to.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Phone

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ASAP. YOUR CHILD CANNOT  
COMPETE AT A TOURNAMENT WITHOUT A SIGNED COPY  
OF THIS FORM. YOU MAY SEND A HARD COPY OR A  
SCANNED COPY TO [FHILL1@HOUSTONISD.ORG](mailto:FHILL1@HOUSTONISD.ORG)**