

2017-18 Forensics Audition Packet

Auditions

Wednesday, June 7 from 5:30-7:30pm (Media Center)

Friday, June 9 from 4:15-7pm (Media Center)

Audition spots will occur at 5-minute intervals.

Audition Q&A Walk-In Workshop w/ coaches (open to Parents and/or Students):

Wednesday, May 31 from 4:15-6pm (Media Center)

Please come with any questions and/or for help with your audition!

The sign-up for auditions will be online at

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D45ADA82DAAFA7-2016171

Information can always be found at www.covingtonproductions.com.

What is Forensics?

Forensics is competitive acting and public speaking. There are 12 different competition categories. Students perform literature or drama or original written material either individually, with a partner, or in small groups.

Why Join Forensics: (maybe some of these apply to you!)

- Because you LOVE to perform or write speeches
- Because you want to become more comfortable speaking in front of others
- Because you want to be a part of a competitive team at BCS
- Because you have thoughts and ideas that deserve to be heard!
- Because it is FUN, we play awesome games, we learn a lot, and we support each other!

Public speaking and acting interpretation are very important skills. Whether you want to be a doctor, lawyer, teacher, business executive, president, actor, or athlete, knowing how to communicate confidently and professionally will help set you apart from the rest!

Time Commitment & Schedule

Being on the forensics team is similar to a sports team or playing an instrument in terms of dedication and time needed. Before you decide to audition, please read carefully through the expectations below and make sure it is something that will be realistic and doable for you! Remember, this is a TEAM, therefore, attendance affects not only you but the whole group!

There are two forensics seasons - fall and spring. Each season, students are given a performance piece to memorize (either a piece of literature or a speech the student writes, depending on their category). Students work to prepare for tournaments in the fall (Sept-December) and then in the Spring

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(December-April). Students are expected to meet memorization deadlines and practice at home outside of team practices.

Time Commitment Expected:

- **Choice Hour** - 2 of the 3 offered days (M, W, F) for Q1, Q2, Q3, 1 of 2 days for Q4 (M, F)
- **Compete** in at least **2 tournaments in the fall** (3 offered) and **2 forensics tournament in the spring** (3 offered)
- **Individual Coaching** outside of choice hour (approx 3, 30-minute appointments in the fall and again in spring)
- **Attendance at long practices** (3 in fall, 3 in spring), typically on a M or F from 4:10-6:30pm
- **Performance at fall and spring showcase** (at school for parents, friends)

TENTATIVE Schedule

As of right now, I only have tentative dates for a couple of the tournaments. All other events will be scheduled before the start of the school year. The Showcase dates and long practices are TBD.

****A more exact schedule will be available before the end of the school year****

Remember, the expectation is that each student attends at least 2 tournaments in the fall and 2 in the spring.

10/14/17 Possible Date for Fall Forensics Tournament

10/21/17 Possible Date for Fall Forensics Tournament

10/28/17 Possible Date for Fall Forensics Tournament

11/18/17 Possible Date for Fall State Forensics Tournament

2/3/17 - Possible Date for Spring Forensics Tournament

3/3/17 - Possible Date Forensics Tournament

3/10/17 - Possible Date Forensics Tournament

4/21/17 - Possible Date for Spring State Forensics Tournament

Audition Information

STUDENTS MUST AUDITION INDIVIDUALLY. All students - new and returning - must audition. Students must have completed the Intro to Forensics choice hour or currently be a member of the team in order to audition.

There is additional audition information and resources at www.covingtonproductions.com

In order to audition, each student must complete the following:

- Fill out the audition information sheet
- Sign up for an audition spot on the Sign-Up Genius (see previous page)
- Prepare an audition piece

How to prepare for the audition

Each student must prepare a 3 minute (approximately) audition performance. Students should search for and find their own audition piece. Students may also write part of a sales, informative, or oratory speech to perform.

The performance can be any of the following:

- A monologue
- A poem(s)
- A scene from a play
- A cutting from a Children's book
- A cutting from a short story or novel
- Part of a professional speech
- Student-written sales, informative, or oratory speech

*****Audition pieces CAN NOT be selections that a student has performed as part of the team or be one that their teammate competed with this year.*****

If your students are having trouble finding audition selections, they are welcome to come to the audition workshop where any student in attendance will be offered help finding an audition selection.

Students who want to write Sales, Informative, or Oratory selections can find some helpful information at <http://www.covingtonproductions.com/forensics-resources.html>

A full description of all forensics categories is also available at the above link. If you are curious about what forensics looks like, if you search "Forensics" and then the name of a category (like Storytelling) on youtube, you will find examples of performances.

The goal of the audition is to showcase your talent or interest in the team. Therefore, performances should be (ideally) memorized and performed with attention to emotion, movement, gestures, eye contact, and interpretation.

*Students should choose selections that showcase their range and ability. I.e. different voices, different physical positions for characters, humor, serious, etc. Students may use a chair or stool during their audition but **NO OTHER PROPS OR COSTUMES.***

There is limited space available on the team. There are approx. 10 spots per grade level (5-8). Therefore, the more prepared the student is, the more the more competitive they will be in earning a spot.

After the audition performance, students will be asked a series of questions by the judge panel. These may include:

- Students to explain why they want to be in forensics
- Students asked to repeat part of their performance with a constructive comment given by the judge panel (i.e. can you try this part again but slow down or try it _____ way)

Here is an outline of the rubric used to judge auditions:

- Memorization (minimally, mostly, completely)
- Vocal Performance
 - Pace
 - Volume
 - Enunciation
 - Intonation (attention to intended emotion)
- Physical Performance
 - Eye Contact
 - Use of Gestures
 - Use of movement (she shook her head, he raised his hand)
 - Physical confidence (no jittering)
- Written Speech (if applicable)
 - Used a cohesive format
 - Exercised good writing techniques (complete sentences, paragraphs, etc)
 - Backed up opinion with good examples and/or sources
- Reacting to Questions/Critiques
 - Was able to take advice after forensics performance and try to perform something differently
- Are you having fun???? Do you want to be here????

Questions?

Mrs. Bassett

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Audition Information Sheet

Student Name _____

Student Grade _____

Student Email (if applicable) _____

Parent #1

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Parent #2

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ (check here) I understand that being on the forensics team is a FULL YEAR commitment and has attendance requirements.

Please check the schedule and please explain if you are unavailable and confirm you are available for all dates. Any conflicts please explain here. Also please explain other extra-curricular activities you are involved in (sports, science olympiad, etc). Knowing your extra-curriculars helps Mrs. Bassett place you in the appropriate category!:

