**CCHS February Congress**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

**Cherry Creek High School**

You are cordially invited to participate in the CCHS February Congress held at Cherry Creek High School on February 4, 2025.

**Events:** We will host Congressional Debate and Character Congressional Debate at the novice and varsity level.

**Congressional Debate:** If you would like to submit legislation for consideration, please submit it to [mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org) by Wednesday, January 15. The docket will be available on [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) by Monday, January 20.

**Character Congressional Debate:** We discovered Character Congress from our friends in Loveland who discovered it from friends in Utah. Students will be provided with a list of characters. They can choose a character for each round or remain the same character for both rounds, speakers will be evaluated on how well they embody and maintain their selected character in their speeches, questions, and motions. Students are welcome and encouraged to dress as their character and there will be awards for the best dressed in Character Congress! Please remember all costumes should meet school rules and guidelines.

**Entries:** Registration will occur via [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com). Registration will close on Friday, January 31.

**Judges:** Each school is expected to provide 1 judge for each 10 congress entries. Varsity students can judge Novice Congress. Adult Judges will be used for Varsity Congress. Judges will need Speechwire accounts and to be entered by name in Speechwire. Judges should be entered by Friday, January 31.

**Entry Fees:** Fees are $7.00 per student, based on pre-registration numbers as of Friday, January 31. Please make checks payable to Cherry Creek High School. Please mail payment to Marti Benham, Cherry Creek High School, 9300 E. Union Avenue, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. If you would like to pay by credit card, please go to <https://cherrycreek.revtrak.net/cch/cch-speech-and-debate-external>

**Registration and Schedule:** Registration check-in will be held from 4:00- 4:15pm. All schools must check-in by 4:15pm. Rounds will begin promptly at 4:30pm. Awards are scheduled for 7:45pm.

**Pizza:** We will provide our traditional free pizza break between the two sessions.

**Mission, Vision, Inclusion, Harassment, and Discrimination:**

At Cherry Creek Speech and Debate Tournaments, we embrace and support the mission of our school district, the vision of our school, the CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement, and the NSDA Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please review the attached document.

**Rules:**

* Each school (administration, teachers, and/or coaches) is responsible for ensuring they have proper parental permission for students to participate in the tournament and to use the designated competition platforms.
* A responsible coach must be available **onsite and via cell** at all times.
* Competition is open to 9-12 grade students representing the school in which they are officially enrolled and doing so with the permission of their school administration and/or coaches.
* We will use NSDA rules in Congressional Debate.
  + Congress will have two rounds or sessions.
  + There will be a new PO for each session.
  + Precedence will start over for each session.
  + The docket order is set.
  + We will use direct questioning.
* All competitors and judges must have a speechwire account to log in.
  + Ben at Speechwire has provided video resources to explain the creation of student accounts, judging online, viewing ballots and competing online. Please check them out. <https://www.speechwire.com/p-video-resources.php>

**Awards:** We will award medals and numerous superior and excellent ribbons during the Awards Ceremony at 7:45pm.

**Site:** The tournament will be held in the IC Building at Cherry Creek High School, 9300 E. Union Avenue, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

**Questions and Concerns:** Please feel free to contact Marti Benham at Cherry Creek High School, 720-554-2216 (school), 303-921-9411 (cell), [mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:mbenham@cherrycreekschools.org)

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**Cherry Creek School District Mission**

At Cherry Creek Schools, our mission is to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care.

**Cherry Creek High School Vision**

As members of the Cherry Creek High School community, we value scholarship, leadership, and citizenship. We respect the dignity of all cultures and honor every individual’s passion and chosen path toward success.

**CHSAA Speech and Debate Inclusion Statement**

The CHSAA Speech and Debate community believes inclusion is vital to our community. We are committed to providing a safe and equitable learning and competitive environment that fosters a mindset of empathy, respect, and belonging for all involved in Speech and Debate, including, but not limited to students, coaches, judges and community members. We honor differences including races and cultures, genders and sexual orientations, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations, socioeconomics and worldviews. Embracing our diversity prepares our community to thrive. Individuals found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

**National Speech & Debate Association Harassment and Discrimination Policy**

The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NSDA prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.