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28 Schools Earn Prestigious National Charter Status

This is the highest honor schools can achieve as a part of the National Speech & Debate Association.

DES MOINES, IOWA (July 24, 2024) – The National Speech & Debate Association is proud to recognize 28 new schools for earning charter membership in the organization!

Adrienne C. Nelson High School (Happy Valley, OR)
Athenian School (Danville, CA)
Barack Obama Leadership Academy (Dallas, TX)
Capital City High School (Jefferson City, MO)
Colegio del Apostolado del Sagrado Coraz (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)
Colonial High School (Orlando, FL)
Dutchtown High School (Geismar, LA)
Fort Walton Beach High School (Ft. Walton Beach, FL)
Francis Howell High School (St. Charles, MO)
Greenwood High School (Midland, TX)
Heritage High School (Brentwood, CA)
Hope Christian School (Albuquerque, NM)
J. L. Mann Academy (Greenville, SC)
Kasson Mantorville High School (Kasson, MN)
Magnet Academy For Cultural Arts (Opelousas, LA)
Maret School (Washington, DC)
Ottawa Hills Sr. High School (Toledo, OH)
Porter High School (Porter, TX)
Saddle River Day School (Saddle River, NJ)
South Oldham High School (Crestwood, KY)
St. Ignatius College Prep (San Francisco, CA)
Sunnyvale High School (Sunnyvale, TX)
T. C. Roberson High School (Asheville, NC)
University High School Charter (Los Angeles, CA)
University Prep (Seattle, WA)
Vista Del Lago High School (Folsom, CA)

West Boca Raton High School (Boca Raton, FL)
Winter Park High School (Winter Park, FL)

Over the past three years, these schools have earned degrees in our Honor Society for outstanding participation in speech and debate activities. Degrees are earned by students and coaches through speech and debate competition, community service, and leadership activities. Each degree represents hours of learning, practice, and improvement from the team.

Charter membership is the highest honor that schools can achieve as a part of the National Speech & Association.

“Participation in speech and debate changes lives,” said J. Scott Wunn, Executive Director of the National Speech & Debate Association. “We are extremely proud of our charter schools, coaches, and students for their hard work and dedication to this transformative activity.”

From building confidence, improving communication, and increasing critical thinking skills to better preparing students for college, speech and debate activities provide life skills vital to a young person’s success in the future. Schools that provide speech and debate programs report increased attendance, higher test scores, rise in college acceptance, and reduced dropout rates. Charter schools reflect a sustained commitment to these values.

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About the National Speech & Debate Association

The National Speech & Debate Association is the authority on public speaking and debate in the United States. The Association builds the infrastructure for speech and debate competitions around the world by providing topics, educational resources, and training for students and coaches. For nearly 100 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has built a platform for youth voices that culminates in the National Tournament, the largest academic competition in the world. For more information, visit www.speechanddebate.org.