

CANNIBALS INFORMATION

History

The Cleveland High Speech and Debate Team informally began in the spring of 2008 with 4 ninth graders. In their first tournament, they formed two Parli debate teams and crushed it by both finishing 0-3. (To match this, they each read a Prose and each finished last in their room.) By 2009-2010, the team grew to 35 students and the newly formed Cannibals finished 9th at the OSAA championship. By 2011, 70 students and a 3rd place finish. They never looked back. The Cannibals went on to win 7 PIL titles, a 2nd place state finish, and 6 state championship. They placed in the top 3 at 71 high school and college invitationals. At over 100 students each year, they are one of the largest organizations at Cleveland as well as one of the most successful teams in school history.

The Community

The Cannibals win shelves of trophies but they seek something more. They love to work together on speeches and debate cases. They genuinely care about their teammates. And, what distinguishes them on the state circuit is that they care about the experience of *everyone in the debate chamber or speech room*. They are assertive yet compassionate. Judges and parents tell us: Cleveland is the nice team . . . that happens to win all the hardware.

The System

We meet every Wed at lunch for 10 minutes. Gonzo dispenses essential information. We eat snacks. Additionally, each cannibal is on a squad which practices once per week and is coached by team captains. They inform and prepare each student for competition. The squads and their captains:

Squad 1: Mondays, 3:30-4:45. Porter, Zoe, Hannah, Gus, (Isabella)

Squad 2: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45. Eliana, Lyle, Harper, Daniel, (Sydney)

Squad 3: Thursdays, 3:15 - 4:30. Maggie, Macy, Talia, Susan, (Milan)

When students cannot make practices, the captains meet with them at other times. We have open enrollment all year; students may join the team at any time and we will prepare them. Students in their first year begin in Novice Division and then move to Varsity when they are ready. No one is cut from the team.

We also have three umbrella captains who are responsible for everyone on the team and will offer independent meetings and workshops.

Extemporaneous Speaking Group: Isabella Baird

Advanced Parliamentary Debate Workshops: Isabella Baird

National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Coordinator: Milan Donhowe

Middle School Speech teams Coordinator: Sydney Hilton-Siegel

The Adult People

These folks are on the coaching staff:

John Patrick "Gonzo" Gonzales (jgonzales@pps.net). Room 127

Matthew Parker (mparker4@pps.net) Room 132