



Dear Parents & Prospective Students:

On Saturday, February 6, 2010, Mount Saint Joseph will be hosting the annual 8th Grade Speech Competition in which students will compete for scholarships to help defray the cost of attending the Mount. This tournament is open to all students who have applied to the Mount and have listed Mount Saint Joseph as either their first or second choice school.

Students who are interested should write a speech on one of the following topics, and be prepared to deliver it to a panel of current Mount Saint Joseph faculty members as well as current senior members of the Speech & Debate Team on the day of the competition. The questions are:

Q1: In your personal life, outside of your immediate family, whom do you admire the most? Why? What types of things can you do to emulate that person?

Q2: What if Jesus were to come to the world today? How would he get his message across to people? Would he be accepted? Why or why not?

Q3: President Harry Truman once said, "A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties." In today's society, is America an optimist or a pessimist? What can we do, as a nation and as a people, to make sure that we are the optimists of the world?

The student himself must write the speech and it must be 5-6 minutes in length. It needs to be memorized and adhere to the question chosen. Props may not be used. Competitors will be evaluated on the strength of their message and on their ability to convey the emotion of the piece through vocal variations and natural gestures.

Trophies and recognitions will be presented to the top speakers. For the available scholarships, students who place in the top 3 speaker positions receive \$1500, \$1000, \$850 respectively, on a yearly basis.

To register your student for the event, please sign up by sending an email to the email address listed below. Please include the student's name, home address and the school's information that he is currently attending. A detailed schedule of the day will be provided to you after final registration has been completed.

Registration for the tournament will begin on Monday, January 4, 2010 and will close on Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Space is limited to the first 20 parents/guardians who register on behalf of the student. Only students who have listed Mount Saint Joseph as their first or second choice are eligible to participate. In addition, we would also prefer if a teacher from the student's school could also attend to lend support to the student's participation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at 410-644-3300, x252 and I will be happy to speak with you. You may also contact me through email, eschultheis@admin.msjnet.edu.

Sincerely,

Edward K. Schultheis
Director of Speech & Debate Program
Mount Saint Joseph High School