



INVESTING IN VOICES. BUILDING CHAMPIONS.

JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

A nationally-recognized program helping students find confidence, community, purpose, and a voice that carries far beyond competition.



A LETTER FROM COACH HART

Dear Friend of Jay Speech and Debate,

Every year, I watch students walk into our room unsure of themselves. Some are quiet. Some are anxious. Some are searching for a place to belong. Some already know they have something to say, but they are still learning how to say it with confidence, clarity, and purpose.

Speech and debate gives them that place.

Our students learn how to research complex issues, advocate for ideas, perform literature, tell stories, listen with empathy, disagree with respect, and lead with integrity. They also build friendships through long bus rides, late nights, difficult losses, unforgettable wins, and the kind of memories that shape who they become.

This program has grown into one of the most successful speech and debate teams in Missouri and one of the strongest programs in the country. But our greatest success is not measured only by trophies. It is measured by the student who finally speaks up in class. The student who finds a second home. The student who learns that their voice matters.

Each year, our team works to raise approximately \$45,000 to make these opportunities possible. Those funds support national travel, tournament fees, coaching resources, student scholarships, guest speakers, team building opportunities, and emergency support for families facing financial challenges.

Thank you for believing in our students, our mission, and the voices that are still becoming.

With gratitude,

Coach Jordan Hart

Head Coach, JCHS Speech and Debate



“
Your support helps ensure that a student’s financial situation never determines whether they get to experience this activity.
”



LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Coach Jordan Hart began coaching in 2011 and has served at Jefferson City High School since 2014. He has served on the board for the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, the Eastern Missouri District, and The Little Theatre of Jefferson City. In 2025, he was named the MSHSAA Coach of the Year for Speech and Debate. He has also been named a finalist for Jefferson City School District Teacher of the Year on three different occasions.



OUR TEAM LOOKS LIKE JEFFERSON CITY.

We are proud to serve students from many backgrounds, cultures, interests, and experiences, united by communication, curiosity, and community.



A DIVERSE TEAM

Our team represents many cultures and communities. Different perspectives, traditions, and life experiences make us stronger together.



AN ACCESSIBLE TEAM

Several students qualify for free and reduced lunch, and many families work hard every day to make ends meet. Your support helps ensure every student has a seat at the table.



A CONNECTED TEAM

Many of our students are multi-sport and multi-activity leaders, balancing speech and debate with athletics, theatre, music, clubs, jobs, family responsibilities, and academics.



A TEAM FOR MANY KINDS OF KIDS

Whether they are performers, debaters, researchers, writers, leaders, or still discovering where they fit, there is a place for them here.

Our students have gone on to the University of Missouri, St. Louis University, Harvard University, Dartmouth University, Johns Hopkins, and MIT.

THE STAGE IS WHERE STUDENTS DISCOVER THEMSELVES.

Speech and debate does not simply teach students how to win rounds. It teaches them how to become confident, thoughtful, resilient, and engaged young people.



VOICE

Students learn that their words matter and how to communicate clearly and courageously.



CONFIDENCE

Students learn to stand under pressure and present themselves with purpose.



BELONGING

Students find a team that supports risk taking, growth, and connection.



LEADERSHIP

Students build discipline, empathy, advocacy, accountability, and service.



WHAT STUDENTS GAIN EVERY DAY



FIND THEIR VOICE

They learn to express ideas clearly, listen with respect, and advocate for what matters.



LEARN TO HANDLE PRESSURE

They build confidence by preparing hard, thinking on their feet, and staying composed.



BUILD COMMUNITY

They gain lifelong friendships and a safe space to take risks and grow together.



PREPARE FOR TOMORROW

They develop the skills and mindset to succeed in college, careers, and leadership.



A gift to this team does not just fund travel. It helps a student become someone who can walk into the world prepared to speak, listen, lead, and serve.



YOUR GIFT DOES MORE THAN SUPPORT A TEAM. IT STRENGTHENS A COMMUNITY.

When you support JCHS Speech and Debate, you are not simply helping students attend tournaments. You are helping young people learn how to walk into rooms with confidence, speak with clarity, listen with empathy, think under pressure, and represent Jefferson City with pride.

For businesses, this is an investment in the future workforce. For alumni, it is a chance to give back to an activity that changes lives. For community members, it is a way to support students who carry Jefferson City's name across Missouri and the nation.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?



COMMUNITY PRIDE

Your support helps one of JCHS's most successful programs continue representing Jefferson City with excellence.



FUTURE LEADERS

The students you support become stronger speakers, thinkers, teammates, employees, advocates, and citizens.



VISIBLE VALUES

Sponsoring this team aligns your name with education, opportunity, excellence, and youth leadership.



DIRECT STUDENT ACCESS

Your gift helps reduce the cost of travel, meals, hotel rooms, tournament entries, and national competition expenses.



"This is not charity. This is community investment."

The return is not just a logo placement.
It is a student who becomes more confident, more prepared, and more ready to lead.



WHAT YOUR GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

Every gift helps students access the travel, coaching, competition, and community that make this program possible.

WHAT YOUR GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

	\$25 Helps cover one day of meals at a national competition.
	\$50 Helps cover a student's hotel and a meal at a regular-season tournament.
	\$150 Helps cover a student's entry at a national competition.
	\$300 Helps cover a student's hotel stay at a national competition.
	\$750 Helps cover a student's travel expenses to a national competition.
	\$1,500 Helps cover the entire team's entry fee at a national competition.

YOUR SUPPORT ALSO FUNDS

- ◆ National travel
- ◆ Hotel costs
- ◆ Tournament fees
- ◆ Transportation expenses
- ◆ Coaching resources
- ◆ Student scholarships
- ◆ Guest speakers
- ◆ Team events
- ◆ Emergency assistance for families experiencing financial challenges.

GIVE TODAY



Scan to give through PayPal

Checks payable to:
Jefferson City Speech and Debate

Mail checks to:
Jefferson City High School,
c/o Jordan Hart,
609 Union St,
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Questions or logo submissions:
jaydebateboosters@gmail.com |
jordan.hart@jcschools.us

JCHS Speech and Debate Boosters is a nonprofit organization. EIN: 92-3157004

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Your support helps students find their voice, represent their community, and carry confidence into every room they enter.



PARTNER WITH JCHS SPEECH AND DEBATE

Align your name with one of Jefferson City's most successful student programs while helping students access life changing opportunities.



DIAMOND SPONSOR • \$5,000

Presenting-level support with premier recognition in donor materials, hosted event materials, website recognition, and social media recognition.



PLATINUM SPONSOR • \$2,500

Major season partnership with prominent recognition in donor materials, hosted event materials, website recognition, and social media recognition.



GOLD SPONSOR • \$1,500

High-impact season support with recognition in donor materials, hosted event materials, and social media recognition.



SILVER SPONSOR • \$750

Community partner support with recognition in donor materials and social media recognition.



BRONZE SPONSOR • \$250

Supporter recognition in donor materials.



FRIEND SPONSOR • ANY AMOUNT

Flexible support that directly helps student access and program growth.

Website recognition is reserved for Platinum and Diamond sponsors.

Social media recognition is reserved for Silver sponsors and above.

—▶ BECOME A SPONSOR ◀—

To sponsor the team or submit a business logo, contact jaydebateboosters@gmail.com or jordan.hart@jcschools.us.



When you sponsor this team, you help students access opportunity while aligning your name with excellence, leadership, and community impact.



JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL
SPEECH & DEBATE

NO HOME STADIUM. NO ANNOUNCER. STILL A POWERFUL RETURN.

Speech and debate is a traveling academic team. Students compete in classrooms, auditoriums, hallways, campuses, and national venues rather than in a home stadium with weekly crowds.

TRADITIONAL SPONSORSHIP



Stadium signage



Announcer reads



Weekly home crowds



Scoreboard visibility

VS.

SPEECH & DEBATE SPONSORSHIP



Student access



National competition



College readiness



Leadership and confidence

THE VALUE IS DEEPER THAN ADVERTISING.

Sponsors are investing in student access, leadership development, college readiness, civic engagement, and one of the school's most successful programs.

Sponsors are recognized through printed materials, hosted events, table tents, social media for Gold and above, and website recognition for Platinum and above.

The return is measured in students who find their voice and carry it into college, careers, and community leadership.

LOCAL ROOTS. NATIONAL REACH.

One program. Countless student outcomes.



Our team represents Jefferson City at local, state, and national competitions while giving students academic and personal growth that lasts long after high school.

106

Projected Students Served Next Season

484

Trophies Earned in 2025–2026

#1

In the District

#4

In Missouri

#42

In the Nation

\$45,000

Annual Fundraising Goal

From Jefferson City to State and National Stages

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE.

Year after year, students carry the standard forward.



Our legacy is not built in a single season. It is built through generations of students who compete with courage, lift one another higher, and leave the program stronger than they found it.

From individual state champions to full-team success, Jefferson City Speech and Debate has created a tradition that students are proud to inherit.



OUR ALUMNI. THEIR FUTURES. OUR PROOF.

Jay Debate alumni leave our hallways with more than awards. They leave with confidence, clarity, and the ability to make an impact wherever they go.

They are leaders in college, in their careers, and in their communities.

WHERE OUR ALUMNI GO

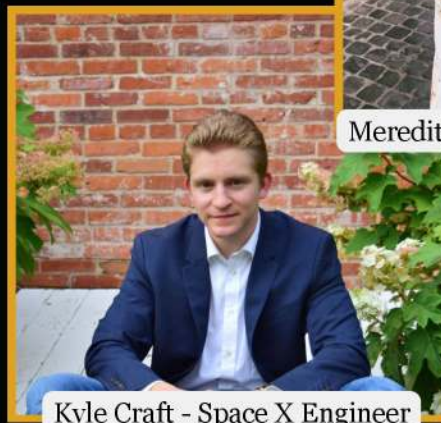
- › Harvard University
- › Dartmouth College
- › Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- › Johns Hopkins University
- › Stanford University
- › University of Chicago
- › University of Michigan
- › Georgetown University
- › Washington University in St. Louis
- › University of Notre Dame
- › University of Missouri
- › St. Louis University
- › Boston University
- › Emory University
- › And many more...



Burke Craighead - Lawyer



Meredith Manda - Lawyer



Kyle Craft - Space X Engineer

“

Debate taught me how to think on my feet, how to listen, and how to lead with confidence. Those skills influence every part of my life.

– JAY DEBATE ALUMNUS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



LAW & POLICY
Advocates, attorneys, judges, and policy leaders shaping communities and institutions.



MEDICINE & HEALTH
Doctors, researchers, and healthcare professionals improving lives every day.



BUSINESS & INNOVATION
Entrepreneurs, analysts, consultants, and executives driving progress across industries.



EDUCATION & SERVICE
Teachers, professors, coaches, and nonprofit leaders mentoring and empowering the next generation.



YOUR INVESTMENT TODAY HELPS BUILD TOMORROW'S LEADERS
Confident. Compassionate. Prepared.



WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS







Investing in Speech & Debate invests in students, leadership, and our community.

A PROVEN RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Independent studies and national organizations consistently show that speech and debate strengthens academic performance, communication, confidence, and long-term college and career readiness.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

-  **36%** increase in reading test scores
-  **87%** increase in analytical skills
-  **15%** higher self-esteem
-  **Top-college** enrollment rates are significantly higher for speech and debate students

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT TOP SCHOOLS

	NATIONAL ENROLLMENT	SPEECH & DEBATE ENROLLMENT
Top 10 College	1%	7%
Top 25 College	2%	15%
Top 50 College	6%	23%

WHAT STUDENTS GAIN



HIGHER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Students in speech and debate earn higher GPAs and score significantly higher on standardized tests.



BETTER COLLEGE & CAREER OUTCOMES

Research shows these students are more likely to graduate college, pursue advanced degrees, and hold leadership positions.



STRONGER COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Students become more confident speakers, critical thinkers, and persuasive communicators in any setting.



IMPROVED CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING

Debate teaches students to research deeply, analyze multiple sides, and solve complex problems.

NATIONAL VOICES SUPPORT THE IMPACT



NFHS:

Speech and debate develops research, critical thinking, organization, persuasion, and communication.



THE GOLDEN STATE ACADEMY:

Speech and debate builds confidence, communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and character.



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA STUDY:

The skills gained in speech and debate align closely with what colleges and employers value.



WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

When you invest in JCHS Speech & Debate, you are not just funding tournaments. You are investing in a high-impact activity with proven outcomes that help students succeed in school, in college, in careers, and in life.



CONFIDENT VOICES. CRITICAL MINDS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Sources: University of Montana study on speech & debate; NFHS; The Golden State Academy.



JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

EVERY STUDENT FINDS A PATH.

*One team. Three major pathways.
Countless ways for students to belong, grow, and excel.*



SPEECH

Students write, research, and deliver speeches that inform, persuade, and respond to current events.

- Original Oratory
- Informative Speaking
- United States Extemp
- International Extemp
- Radio Speaking



INTERPRETATION

Students perform literature, build characters, tell stories, and bring published works to life.

- Humorous Interpretation
- Dramatic Interpretation
- Duo Interpretation
- Program Oral Interpretation
- Prose
- Poetry
- Storytelling



DEBATE

Students research issues, build arguments, listen critically, and defend ideas under pressure.

- Policy Debate
- Lincoln Douglas Debate
- Public Forum Debate
- Congressional Debate

Whether a student is drawn to acting, public speaking, debate, or a combination of all three, this team gives them a place to grow.

Your support helps every path stay open.



STUDENT VOICES



The impact is personal.

Behind every trophy is a student who found confidence, community, and a future.



ARJUN GARIKAPATY

Valedictorian, Class of 2025

“ Speech and debate taught me how to research deeply, think critically, and communicate with precision. Those skills shaped my success in the classroom and prepared me to lead far beyond it. ”



ANJOLA ILESANMI

Senior, Class of 2026

“ This team gave me more than a place to compete. It gave me a family, a responsibility to lead, and the confidence to use my voice for others. ”



SOFIE MOSS

Team President

“ Speech and debate helped me grow from a student with potential into a leader with purpose. It taught me how to support a team, welcome new voices, and carry myself with confidence. ”



TOWNES BAKER

*2024 National Champion in DUO •
2026 State Champion in Humorous Interp*

“ Through performance, I learned how to connect with people, tell stories that matter, and bring joy and meaning to a room. Those skills will stay with me long after competition ends. ”

When you invest in this team, you invest in students whose voices will carry into classrooms, careers, and communities.



DONATION & SPONSORSHIP FORM



For donors who wish to support Jefferson City High School Speech & Debate by check.

1 DONOR INFORMATION

Name / Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

2 I WOULD LIKE TO

- Make a general donation
- Become a sponsorship partner
- Renew a previous sponsorship

3 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL OR GIFT AMOUNT

- Diamond Sponsor — \$5,000
- Platinum Sponsor — \$2,500
- Gold Sponsor — \$1,500
- Silver Sponsor — \$750
- Bronze Sponsor — \$250
- Friend Sponsor — Any Amount
- Other Gift Amount: \$ _____

6 OPTIONAL NOTES

4 RECOGNITION INFORMATION

Please list my name/business for recognition as:

- I would like my gift to remain anonymous
- I plan to email a business logo for recognition purposes

5 PAYMENT INFORMATION

Checks payable to: Jefferson City Speech and Debate

Mail checks to: Jefferson City High School,
c/o Jordan Hart, 609 Union St, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Questions or logo submissions:
jaydebateboosters@gmail.com | jordan.hart@jcschools.us

JCHS Speech and Debate Boosters is a nonprofit organization. EIN: 92-3157004

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for helping students find their voice, represent their community, and carry confidence into every room they enter.