Speech and Debate
Student and Parent Handbook
2026-2027

Psalms 19:14

May the words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord my Rock and my Redeemer!

Coach Bio:

Bill Lindsey, Head coach
52 years teaching, coaching
MA Baker University, BA Graceland University

Ryan Wagy, HS Assistant Coach
SCA alum
Union University, B.S in Business Administration
Currently working on MBA in Data Analysis

Summit Christian Academy Speech and Debate program will consist of students who have taken speech or debate classes or will be participating in classes during an active school year. Those taking classes will be invited to participate on the team and receive extra credit when they compete (up to two tournaments for semester class and five tournaments for year course). Students who have taken speech and debate classes and past team members will be able to participate and compete using the following guidelines! Competing on the team has benefits that could be helpful when they are looking for colleges and careers.

Eligibility

Before a student can participate in the Speech and Debate program at SCA, he/she must meet the following requirements:

1. The student must be academically eligible (see academic requirements listed below).
2. The student and parents must access the FinalForms link, complete, read, agree to and sign all online documents. https://scaeagles-mo.e-ppe.com/index.jspa
3. The parents must attend the program's required parent meeting or sign off that they viewed the video meeting

FinalForms Registration

SCA's Speech and Debate Program has partnered with FinalForms to register 7th-12th grade students and collect their **required MSHSAA and SCA documentation.**

Speech and Debate registration will open August 10th. As a Speech and Debate parent, you may then login and complete the necessary documentation.

CREATING AN ACCOUNT: If your incoming 7th-12th grade student(s) plan to participate in the Speech and Debate Program, please use the following information to create a FinalForms account and register your student(s). You may register at this link. When you need to access the site again later, you will also find it on the Athletics page of the SCA website.

Once you are at SCA's FinalForms site, follow the prompts to create your account, add your student(s), and sign your forms. See below the "Parent Playbook" which provides more detailed instruction on how to set up your account. You may review your data at any time to verify it is current. You will be required to sign your forms once per year and after any update.

Once your documents are complete, your student(s) will also need to create their own account in order to complete and sign a few of the forms.

FINE ARTS STUDENT AND ATHLETE: If your student also participates in athletics, you will see the option to enroll them for those sports, as well.

FinalForms Parent Playbook

Parent registration: *How do I sign up?*

1. Go to: https://summitchristian-mo.finalforms.com/

2. Locate the parent icon and click NEW ACCOUNT below.

3. Type your YOUR NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, and EMAIL. Next, click REGISTER.

NOTE: You will receive an email within 2 minutes prompting you to confirm and complete your registration.

If you do not receive an email, then check your spam folder. If you still can not locate the FinalForms email, then email support@finalforms.com informing our team of the issue.

4. Check your email for an ACCOUNT CONFIRMATION EMAIL from the FinalForms Mailman.

Once received and opened, click CONFIRM YOUR ACCOUNT in the email text.

5. Create your new FinalForms password. Next, click CONFIRM ACCOUNT.

6. Click REGISTER STUDENT for your first child.

Registering a student:

What information will I need?

Basic medical history and health information. Insurance company and policy number. Doctor,

dentist, and medical specialist contact information. Hospital preference and contact information.

How do I register my first student?

IMPORTANT: If you followed the steps on the previous page, you may Jump to Step number 3.

1. Go to: https://summitchristian-mo.finalforms.com/

2. Click LOGIN under the Parent Icon.

3. Locate and click the ADD STUDENT button.

4. Type in the LEGAL NAME and other required information. Then, click CREATE STUDENT.

5. If your student plans to participate in a sport, activity, or club, then click the checkbox for

each. Then, click UPDATE after making your selection. Selections may be changed until the registration deadline.

6. Complete each form and sign your full name (i.e. ‘Jonathan Smith’) in the parent signature field on each page. After signing each, click SUBMIT FORM and move on to the next form.

7. When all forms are complete, you will see a ‘Forms Finished’ message.

IMPORTANT: If required by your district, an email will automatically be sent to the email address that you provided for your student that will prompt your student to sign required forms.

How do I register additional students?

Click MY STUDENTS. Then, repeat steps number 3 through number 7 for each additional student.

How do I update information?

Login at any time and click UPDATE FORMS to update information for any student.

MSHSAA Academic Eligibility

For a student to be eligible to participate in speech/debate, MSHSAA has established the following requirements for full time students.

1. If a student does not earn 3.0 units of credit or earn credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, the student would be ineligible for the entire following semester. At SCA, this means a student must pass 7 out of 8 classes in the previous semester.
2. If a student is not enrolled in and regularly attending classes that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned in that semester, then the student would be ineligible for that semester. At SCA, this means a student must be enrolled in at least 7 out of 8 classes in the semester of participation.
3. Special education students must be making standard progress for his/her level the preceding semester in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education. He/she must also be enrolled in a full course at his/her level in said special education program.

The following requirements apply for part-time students.

1. Students must be enrolled in at least two on-campus classes.
2. When a student who has not had any connection to SCA initially applies, two different areas must be reviewed and confirmed before the student is able to represent SCA in MSHSAA competitions.
    a. Academic credit for the prior full semester has to be confirmed and accepted. For this to happen, a student must have earned a minimum of 3.5 credits or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater.
    b. All previously taken courses must be added to the SCA transcript. To be added, courses must meet criterion of SCA courses (i.e., be from an accredited body and/or taught by certified personnel, meet hours p/Carnegie measure, be listed in SCA Course Description Guide, or be approved via the academic dean based on previous listed criterion).

3. Part-time students must provide SCA with verification of all courses completed. (Documentation should include tracked hours from an accredited program OR a virtual transcript.)
4. In addition to following MSHSAA academic semester requirements, SCA students must also meet grade check requirements. Grades should reflect no F's OR no more than one D in all courses in order to participate in MSHSAA competitions.

If a student is ineligible due to MSHSAA regulations, then he/she may not continue to be a part of a Fine Arts program at SCA until they have met the MSHSAA eligibility requirements.

Exemption for Students Earning College Credit

A student who is dual enrolled in college classes being taken off campus with credit being placed on the high school transcript and high school classes may only count up to one full credit earned from the college classes toward academic eligibility and must be enrolled in and regularly attending the remainder of classes at the high school. Directors/Debate Coach may contact the Academic Advisor if they have any questions regarding this policy.

SCA Academic Eligibility

For a student to be eligible to participate in the competing Speech and Debate program at SCA he/she must remain eligible. In addition to those established by MSHSAA (see above), the following circumstances would make a student ineligible.

1. If at any grade check a student has a cumulative semester grade of 59% or below in any class, he/she would be ineligible for two weeks, and then meet all eligibility requirements at that time.
2. If at any grade check a student has a cumulative semester grade of 69%-60% in any two classes, he/she would be ineligible for two weeks, and then meet all eligibility requirements at that time.
3. All grades reset at the end of each semester. Students must meet all MSHSAA requirements as stated earlier at the beginning of each semester in order to participate.
4. If a student is ineligible due to #1 or #2 listed above, then he/she may continue to practice and attend home competitions at the discretion of the director, parents, and Fine Arts Coordinator. A re-check will be done at the end of each two week period, at which time the student must meet all eligibility requirements.

Grade Check Dates

Before December break

First week in February

First week in March

First week in April

Before school is out

Behavior Expectations

- Students will be respectful and observe and practice SCA rules and expectations in school and at all competitions. This includes technology expectations and behaviors in all classes at SCA.
- Violation of any SCA rules and or expectations will result in missing a tournament and demonstration of improvement before student would return to future competitions.
- Disrespect toward teachers, coaches, other students and other teams will not be tolerated. Parents will be contacted and consideration of how to continue on the team will be discussed.
- Continued violations of any of the above will necessitate parent meeting and or Administrative intervention and possible expulsion from the team.
- Good advice: Come prepared, Be an optimist, Love people as Christ loves you and demonstrate who you are as a Christian.

Expected Attire for Competitions

- Students are expected to dress for success at all tournaments or competitions
- Girls should wear dresses or outfits in alignment with the SCA dress code. If an outfit is not considered appropriate for representation of Christian modesty, students will be asked to change into something more appropriate or not be allowed to go to the tournament.Tennis shoes or sports shoes are not appropriate footwear for tournaments.
- Boys should wear suits or slacks with shirts and ties or polo with school logos. No tennis shoes or sports shoes at tournaments.

Practice and Preparation

Students will be expected to check in with the coach at least once a week to work on cases with the coach and to allow the coach to review content and offer assistance. Hours for check ins will be from 3:30 till 4:30 Monday through Thursday afternoons. If a student does not check in they will not be entered into tournaments.

Parent Involvement

Parents, you are valuable to our program. Below are ways to serve our team. Please help and serve as you find time:

- Assist at at afterschool check ins
- Provide snacks and drinks at tournaments
- Be a chaperone during tournaments (this is very helpful)
- Be on the committee for Bulletin Board and Media input for the school.
- Be on planning committee for annual planning for the team
- Pray, Pray, Pray

Fine Arts State Walk

State Walks are an opportunity to recognize students who, through competition or audition, have earned the right to compete or participate at the highest level available. For example, the MSHSAA championship held in Columbia in the Spring. State Walks will occur during the last five minutes of the school day immediately preceding the student/s' departure for the state competition, unless other arrangements are necessary. The State Walk will consist of any students who have qualified to compete or participate at the state level along with their teacher/coach walking through the hallways of the secondary building while all other students are given the opportunity to join them in the hallway to cheer and celebrate their state accomplishments. The State Walk will be broadcasted through SCA social media outlets and a press release issued.

College Signing

A college signing ceremony will be offered to any senior student who is committing to compete at the college level. To be eligible for a college signing ceremony, the student must provide a copy of the letter of intent from the college indicating the student will be participating in that program at that institution. If a letter of intent is not available, the student must provide an alternate form of documentation from the college coach indicating their participation. The signing will take place in the Fieldhouse Hospitality Room. Development will be present and report this on SCA social media and through a press release.

Dual Activities within SCA

When a Student chooses to participate in more than one activity in a season, although every effort is made to avoid it, conflicts in the schedule will occur. It is important that these conflicts be resolved with open communication between the Student, Coach/Director, and Activities Director. The affected parties should work together to resolve the conflict with the Student's best interest as the primary focus. The purpose of these guidelines is to aid the Student, Coach/Director, and the Activities Director in resolving these conflicts ahead of time so they don't become an issue later. Coaches and Directors should meet with and communicate to the Student their responsibilities regarding practices, performances, and competitions prior to the athletic season or co-curricular activity. With that in mind, the following should be considered... - The Coach, Director, and Activities Director should investigate prior to the start of each season any potential conflicts that might occur. Careful attention should be given to the members involved in multiple activities that have concurrent activities. - Consideration should be given as to the impact a Student has on a particular activity. - If there is a conflict between a practice and competition/performance the expectation would be for the student to attend the competition/performance. - A Student should never receive negative comments or repercussions from the Coach or Director as a result of a decision. If the events in conflict are of the same priority level in these guidelines, the Coach and Director involved with the Student in conflict should meet with the Activities Director to discuss the conflicting events and reach a decision that is best for the Student. The following grouping of activities sets the priority levels for Coaches/Directors and Administrators to use in resolving student participation conflicts. Activities have been tiered into three levels. Level 1 Events take priority over Level 2 and 3

Events, and Level 2 Events take priority over Level 3 Events. Additionally, events within each level are listed ranking order.

Level 1 Events
1. National Competitions and/or participation.
2. State Competitions/Festivals/Performances sponsored by MSHSAA or recognized state professional organizations.
3. Quarterfinal/Sectional/District Competitions/Festivals/Performances sponsored by MSHSAA, Major annual events within the school (i.e. School Play).

Level 2 Events
1. Individual School Concerts, Show Week Dress Rehearsal, Conference events, Tournaments, Multi-School events of four or more.
2. Multi-school events of three or less, Regular Season Contest, School Play Practice 1 week before Show.

Level 3 Events
1. Regular Practices and/or Rehearsals outside regular school hours, School Play Practice 2 weeks before show.
2. Festivals/Performances for participation only.

Students who participate in two activities during the same season will only be permitted to do so if both the Coach(es) and Director(s) are in agreement and the Student and his/her parents or guardian sign a Dual Activity Agreement form. The agreement shall include allocation of practice time and athletic event participation based on the published schedule.

MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association)

- SCA is in District 9
- Shea Allen is our activities director and should be able to answer specific questions about meeting MSHSAA guidelines.
- Students involved in competition need to be turned in to Mr. Quessenberry, to check eligibility, by the beginning of October.
- There is a coaching rules test that opens in October and needs to be completed (online) by the end of November. The state rules manual can be found on the MSHSAA website.
- District tournament entries need to be submitted a month before the date the tournament is scheduled (the tournament is usually the third weekend of March, depending on the date of Easter). Schools get one entry for each speech event and two entries for debate events. Students may enter a total of three events, but cannot enter more than one debate event.
- Students are allowed 11 tournaments during the school year (MSHSAA district, state, and NSDA nationals do not count toward that total). The NSDA district tournament, even though it is spread out over several weeks, counts as one tournament.
- If students qualify to the state tournament, registration must be completed by the assigned deadline. Registration includes qualifying student info, entry fees, and who will fill the school's judging requirement.

NSDA (National Speech and Debate Association)

- SCA is in the Show-Me District
- The following is the district committee for the 2024-2025 school years. These coaches can help answer questions that you may have about NSDA requirements and the association's workings.

Chair	Show Me (MO)	Phillip	Helt	Phillip Helt	Rockhurst High School
	Show Me (MO)	Kelsey	Bowers	Kelsey Bower	Grain Valley
	Show Me (MO)	Mark	Baney	Mark baney	Blue springs South

- Student's tournament results will be recorded online at speechanddebate.org. All students competing on the team will need to create an account if you do not already have one.(one time lifetime membership of twenty dollars) JH ten dollars
- The recording of a student's competition results are not limited, except when there are only two judges in a round. If that is the case (i.e. MSHSAA District/State) you may only record one ballot per round.
- Students can also earn service points by speaking at least four minutes in front of at least 25 adults. Plays can be recorded for service. School announcements can not be recorded for service. In addition, Varsity students can earn service points by judging Jr High or novice competitions.
- When students reach 25 competition/service points they can become members. There is a one time membership fee of $20.
- Becoming acquainted with the NSDA website and rules manual, that can be found on the NSDA site, will help answer more specific questions about the NSDA process.
- The Show-Me District National Qualifying Tournament is traditionally held during the first two weeks of March. Students must be paid NSDA members seven days before the first day of the tournament in order to participate. Students may enter only two events. That can be two individual events, or one individual event and one debate event. The congress portion of the tournament is traditionally held at the start of April, and an entry in congress does not count against the limit of two events. Before the tournament starts, students that are doing more than one event have to fill out a nationals preference form showing the order of events they choose if they should qualify in more than one event.

- Unlike other tournaments, district tournament results are recorded through the district committee directly to the national office.
- If a student qualifies to nationals, that tournament is usually held the second/third week in June. Registration for that tournament must be completed by mid-May. Registration includes all necessary student information, entry fees, and names of individuals that will meet the tournament's judging requirements (some judging rounds are required of the coach while additional rounds can be supplied by providing other adult judges, or be bought through the NSDA).

Other Competitions and Opportunities

These will be presented and discussed during the season and students who are competing successfully and are committed will be invited for these opportunities:There are additional costs families will have to pay for participation.

- NIETOC
- NCFL
- Speaking contests
- Reagan Competition
- These are ongoing and some will just pop up occasionally

Setting a Schedule for the Season

- SCA will be invited to attend the KC Suburban Conference meeting in September. At the meeting, most of the tournament dates for those hosting during the season will be offered. The conference chair is Zac McGee from Staley. Most tournaments, and the dates they will be held, are also available on the MSHSAA website.
- SCA allows one overnight invitational tournament, which has traditionally been second semester. In addition, state and nationals overnights are also allowed.
- Not every student will be able to attend every tournament (limitations and conflicts), so there will need to have invitationals scheduled for most every week to maximize student involvement/achievement.

Student Sign-ups

- When an invitation for a tournament on the SCA schedule is received, a sign-up sheet will need to be created and posted. This sign-up sheet should list the events offered and the deadline for signing up. Some schools want as many as two weeks notification for the entries a school will be asking for, some will not need to request entries as late as the Monday before the tournament. Most tournaments limit total entries, so getting entries in early gives a better chance of getting what is asked for.
- Most tournaments will allow a student two individual events and a debate event. Double check the invite to make sure what is allowed (this will have a lot to do with whether competition is in person or online).
- If the tournament is virtual, the sheet should list the date/time that recorded videos will be due.

Transportation

- For tournaments, a van/bus will need to be requested through the transportation director. It is best to get the request in at least two weeks before the tournament dates.
- Unless more than 12-15 students are attending, the coach will be expected to drive the van.

Participation Requirements

- Competitive Debate classes are full year courses, not semester classes.
- Students in debate one and competitive are required to compete at two tournaments a semester.
- The students are expected to do at least one speaking event (Oration, Extemp, Informative, Congress, Radio) and debate at each tournament.
- If students have mastered their speaking event(s), they have been able to prepare and perform an interpretation event (Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Program of Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, or Storytelling).
- Students in Advanced Competitive Debate have also been expected to read novice/Jr High debate cases and write critiques on them as part of a mentoring program. They have also been expected to judge at a novice/Jr High tournament to demonstrate their ability to assess argumentation.

Overnight Trips

Regular Season –

At the high school level, SCA supports a team's decision to take overnight trips as they are beneficial for team bonding and development. With that in mind, they should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Each team is restricted to one regular season overnight trip which should not extend past a onenight duration.
2. It is the responsibility of the team to either raise the funds or pass along the costs of overnight trips to the families.
3. If costs are passed along to the families, coaches must clearly communicate the amount to each family. Each student's FACTS account will be billed.
4. Proper adult supervision will be required throughout the duration of the trip.
5. Hotel reservations for the team will be setup through the Admin/Athletic Office. Parents are responsible to schedule their own travel and lodging accommodations.
6. Non-team members will not be allowed to stay in or enter team hotel rooms.
7. At no point should any student be in a room with a member of the opposite sex.
8. No adult may stay in the same hotel room as any of the students unless they are the student's parent.
9. No on or off-campus events starting after 10pm unless activity has been delayed.
10. Students are expected to stay with the team unless prior arrangements are made with the parents and coach.

Postseason –

1. The Admin/Athletic Department will be responsible for school bus transportation and hotel room costs associated with state-level competitions for athletes and coaches. Parents are responsible to schedule their own travel and lodging accommodations. Rooms will be reserved for the team by the Admin/Athletic Department. If arrangements are made outside of the Admin/Athletic Department, they reserve the right to cancel said reservations if deemed necessary.
2. Lodging expenses related to district, sectional, and quarterfinal competitions will be at the expense of the student if the travel distance is less than two hours. In these cases, each student's FACTS account will be billed. If the travel distance is over two hours away and overnight lodging is deemed necessary, the school will pay for lodging.
3. All food costs are the responsibility of the students and their families.
4. Any costs relating to special recognition beyond MSHSAA state-level competition shall be the responsibility of the family or paid for through the team's holding account.
5. Numbers 4-9 under regular season travel apply to postseason travel as well.

Tournament Information to Students

- Students should receive a schedule of tournaments by the end of September so they can plan for their season.
- Students should receive a tournament info sheet by the Wednesday of the tournament they are attending. The info sheet should include a list of times, who is competing, competition codes, and any additional info that the student would need to be prepared for the competition.

Lettering and Honor Cords

- To letter, students have had to compete at least 5 tournaments, advanced to elim rounds in either speech or debate, competed both semesters of the academic year, and not create any problems for the team or the school.
- The NSDA is also an honor society and graduates are allowed to wear the NSDA honor cords if they meet the following criteria: they competed during both semesters of their senior year, have earned at least the Degree of Honor (75 competition points), and have not created any problems for the team or the school.
- A list of who would receive letters and NSDA honor cords should be turned in to Brittany Miles by the end of April so those can be available.

Other End of Year Awards

These awards have been voted on by the students:

- Debater of the Year
- Best Speaker
- Most Improved Speech/Debate Student
- Best Novice
- 1st Peter 4:10 Award (to the best team mate)

Eagle Elite Fine Arts Award

The SCA Eagle Elite Fine Arts Award is a prestigious honor awarded to a select number of students who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the arts. Recipients of this award show a genuine love for beauty, creativity, and artistic expression across multiple disciplines. The student must consistently display strong character and positive influence among peers and have received 9 letters.This honor is extremely difficult to achieve because each of these programs is a year long program.To qualify, a student must letter in three of the four Fine Arts programs: Choral Music, Instrumental Music, Speech & Debate, Theatre, Visual Arts.

We are excited to have a **Fine Arts Booster Club** to provide visibility of SCA Fine Arts, support our students and programs, and fundraise for needs. We need your help!

Mission of the Fine Arts Booster Club
The SCA Fine Arts Booster Club exists to support and strengthen all Fine Arts programs through fundraising, volunteer service, and community engagement. The Booster Club is committed to promoting the visibility and success of the Fine Arts programs while encouraging students to pursue excellence in scholarship, demonstrate integrity, and exemplify Christian character in all they do.

How Are Fundraising Proceeds Allocated?
Funds raised by the SCA Fine Arts Booster Club are used to enhance and strengthen the school's Fine Arts programs. Each year, the Booster Club provides an annual gift to each Fine Arts program, allowing program directors to purchase equipment, materials, and other resources that benefit their program as a whole and enrich the student experience.

How Can You Volunteer and Get Involved?
We welcome and encourage parents and families to be involved in supporting the SCA Fine Arts programs. To join our volunteer list, please complete the Google Form using the link below. Once your information has been submitted, you will receive email updates throughout the year with volunteer opportunities, fundraising events, and other ways to support the Fine Arts.

You can also stay informed by following the SCA Fine Arts Booster Club on Instagram, where we share the latest news, upcoming events, student highlights, and other Fine Arts updates.

Fine Arts Booster Club

Fine Arts Booster Club Instagram

Looking forward to a great year!
Mr. Lindsey



Summit Christian Academy

Speech and Debate Handbook

Summit Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.