

August 18th, 2023

Kernel Speech & Debate Program  
*Coach Madison Miller*  
*Asst. Coach Melissa Miller*  
*Asst. Coach Jenna Miller*  
920 N. Capital Street  
Mitchell, SD 57301



Dear Parent and/or Guardians,

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in the Kernel Speech and Debate program here at Mitchell High School. Our team has a rich and successful history that we are thrilled to continue during the 2023-2024 school year. Speech and debate activities foster a love for discourse and research, while simultaneously nurturing leadership and critical thinking skills. The Northern South Dakota District provides students with an opportunity to debate and speak competitively while providing a venue for students to share the excitement of public speaking with peers from around the region.

The members of the team will share the responsibility of preparing speaking events, individually or in a partnership. Moreover, the basis of the Beginning Debate I class is to prepare for future competitions and tournaments. This course requires students to attend at least **THREE** tournaments. Tournaments are typically held on Tuesday evenings, Thursday evenings, Friday evenings, or Saturday mornings. While tournaments may interfere with school, there are numerous opportunities for students to attend. A complete list of tournaments can be found at <https://www.kernelspeechanddebate.weebly.com>. If you feel your student will not be able to participate in three tournaments due to scheduling conflicts, please connect with head coach, Madison Miller, at [madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us](mailto:madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us) to discuss alternate plans, such as switching your child into a different public speaking course at MHS.

Itineraries for each tournament are typically released the Monday prior to the tournament. This itinerary will cover the tournament schedule as well as meal needs, return times, and contact information for coaches. All itineraries will be available via the Kernel Speech and Debate website above and on Google Classroom. Additionally, itineraries are given to all students with the expectation they show their parents. Parent attendance and spectating is allowed at all tournaments.

Because speech and debate is an academic activity, students are required to dress professionally at each tournament. Business attire (suits, ties, dresses, heels, etc.) is strongly recommended. If your child needs assistance procuring these items, please contact Madison Miller ([madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us](mailto:madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us)). We have a small selection of business attire that has been graciously donated to our team so no child needs to go without.

Again, thank you so much for allowing your child to participate. We are looking forward to a fun season!

For any questions or concerns, please contact any of our coaches.  
Madison Miller - Head Coach - [madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us](mailto:madison-ainsley.miller@k12.sd.us)  
Melissa Miller - Asst. Interp Coach - [melissa.miller@k12.sd.us](mailto:melissa.miller@k12.sd.us)  
Jenna Miller - Asst. Debate Coach - [jenna.miller@k12.sd.us](mailto:jenna.miller@k12.sd.us)

Signed,  
The Kernel Speech and Debate Coaches