

# Mentoring Program

LHS Speech & Debate Team

The purpose of the Mentoring Program for Liberty High School's Forensics Team is to maximize the likelihood of success in first and second year students to the program. Each novice and first-year varsity student who is enrolled in Competitive Theatre is matched with varsity member who agrees to serve in a mentoring role throughout the academic year. Mentors are varsity volunteers who possess personal, academic, and professional qualities that in the judgment of the coach, will enhance the student's likelihood of success and subsequently will positively affect retention of speech and debate students for the team. Degree of success of this program will be measured through both qualitative (survey of participants) and quantitative (survey of students and comparison of retention data) means at the end of the academic year.

The upperclassmen mentor agrees to make contact (in person) with the assigned mentee within a day of the assignment. The assignment is made within the first few weeks of classes. It is recommended that the mentor and mentee arrange to meet informally to get to know one another, discuss like and dislikes, compare events competing in, compare schedules, etc. Good possibilities for this initial meeting include room 903/901, the Cafeteria, the Little Theater, the Library, a restaurant, a coffee shop, etc. At this initial meeting, the mentor should provide the mentee with contact information (i.e. email address, phone number) that (s)he may choose to use in order to request advice, ask questions, or just talk with the mentor. The mentor, while not a counselor, agrees to attempt to assist the mentee in such ways as providing contact and resource information, providing advice on classes and scheduling, introducing the mentee to relevant organizations and activities, and in general ease the transition to the life of speech and debate or high school (if applicable). Above all, they should be a willing listener and encourager. The mentors understand that their role is significant in assisting the assigned mentees, and agree to interact in a positive, professional, and ethical manner. Students enrolled in Competitive Theatre must acquire ten hours of mentoring and these hours certainly may be recorded to serve that purpose. It is recommended that the mentor and mentee meet at least weekly and that open lines of communication be maintained throughout the year. The mentee is encouraged to utilize the expertise and experience of the mentor often, in ways which fall within the parameters discussed above. The Mentoring Program is intended to complement and extend, through personal, one-on-one interactions that last the whole academic year.

To be considered mentoring hours, an upperclassman must collaborate with an underclassman. It is natural to collaborate with students in similar grade levels but this program focuses on unifying our team and ensuring the continued successful tradition of our speech and debate team.

If you have specific questions regarding this program, please ask Mr. Turpin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mr. Turpin".

Mr. Turpin, Director of Forensics