

NFL NATIONALS



BIRMINGHAM, AL. – The National Speech & Debate Association is proud to announce that Grace Sheene, a recent graduate, and Charlie Hall, a rising junior at Danville High School, advanced beyond preliminary rounds to the national awards rounds at the National Speech & Debate Tournament—the largest academic competition in the world. Sheene (Dramatic Interpretation) and Hall (Oratory) advanced through six preliminary rounds, the National Octofinals, and the National Quarterfinals (featuring the top 30 performers in the country), before being eliminated from the competition. Additionally, in the supplemental events for students eliminated prior to the final rounds, Hall advanced to the Quarterfinal rounds (top 24) in Storytelling.

NCFL NATIONALS

Five Kentucky schools and the University of Louisville played host to the 66th annual National Catholic Forensic League Grand Nationals (the Speak for the Roses) May 27 and 28. Nearly 3000 students from 550 schools nationwide competed in six speech and four debate events over two days. Danville High School served as one of the “host” schools and ran three events at the Manual HS / Noe MS campus on Saturday in conjunction with Murray HS. Team Kentucky had its best showing in several years with twenty-three breaks into awards rounds. Three students advanced all the way to the national finals: Nelson and Nelson from Boone County (Duo Interpretation, third place) and Laurel Riggs from Bethlehem (Declamation, fifth place).



After four rounds of preliminary competition, six DHS students advanced into the Octofinals (top 48, approximately the top twenty percent) Awards round. Haley Hopkins (Declamation), Abigail Anderson and Matthew Ballard (Duo Interpretation), and Billy Critchfield (Extemporaneous Speaking) all were awarded as Octofinalists. Natalie Grubbs (Declamation) and Grace Sheene (Dramatic Performance) advanced out of Octos into the Quarterfinals (top 24) before being eliminated, placing them among the top speakers in the country and gaining them special recognition at the national awards ceremony Sunday night. Additionally, DHS competitors Emma Merryman (Declamation), Charlie Hall (Oratory), Celeste Fieberg (Oratory), and Katie Critchfield (Extemporaneous Speaking) all placed in the top third of competitors in their events, narrowly missing the awards rounds, making Danville's overall results one of the team's best yet.

NSDA DISTRICTS

Danville High School completed a clean sweep of the four state speech organization state tournaments with a win at the Kentucky District of the National Speech and Debate Association contest held at Centre College March 17 and 18. In that meet, Danville took first in Speech team sweepstakes and second in Congress. Three DHS students qualified to represent Kentucky at the largest academic contest in the world, the National Speech and Debate Association's National Speech and Debate Tournament, in Birmingham in June: Grace Sheene, first place in Dramatic Interpretation; Charlie Hall, first place in Oratory, and Abigail Anderson, second place in Oratory. Sheene and Hall also qualified in two other events by placing second in them (Sheene, second in Program Oral Interpretation; Hall, second in Humorous Interpretation) but deferred those events for their championship events. Danville also won the District's Traveling Trophy for accumulated team points; Henry Clay won the Debate team contest with Louisville Trinity taking top team honors in Congress. Also advancing through numerous elimination rounds into the Awards rounds were McCallum Morley, fourth in Dramatic; Joseth Warner, quarterfinals in Dramatic; Caroline Bugg, fourth in the House and semifinals in International Extemp and octofinals in United States Extemp; Abigail Anderson, semifinals in Humorous; Kami Chappell, fourth in Informative; Claire Strysick, semifinals in Informative; Billy Critchfield, fourth in United States Extemp and sixth in International Extemp and fourth in the Senate; Katie

Critchfield, semifinals in International Extemp; Celeste Fieberg, semifinals in Oratory and octofinals in Program Oral Interp; Mackenzie Howe, semifinals in Oratory and in Program Oral Interp; Matt Ballard, semifinals in Program Oral Interp.

KHSSL STATE

Danville High won the state speech tournament for the second straight year. Sponsored by the Kentucky High School Speech League at the University of Kentucky, the state speech tournament featured teams from around Kentucky who advanced from seven regional contests held in February. Danville's title was its seventh with Rowan County second, Henry Clay third, Murray fourth, and Lexington Dunbar fifth. Danville won by fifty points over second place Rowan and broke thirty-one entries out of preliminary rounds into awards rounds in the fourteen speech events.

Three Danville students were named state champions in their events: Emma Merryman in Impromptu Speaking, Charlie Hall in Oratory, and Grace Sheene in Prose. Advancing to the final round for Danville were Emma Merryman, second in Declamation; Billy Critchfield, fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking; Caroline Bugg, sixth in Extemporaneous Speaking; Paige Glasser and Grace Sheene, fifth in Improvisational Duo; Claire Strysick, second in Informative Speaking; Katie Critchfield, sixth in Informative Speaking; Abigail Anderson, second in Oratory; Charlie Hall, second in Storytelling.

Also advancing into awards rounds after three preliminary rounds were McCallum Morley, semifinals in Broadcasting and quarterfinals in Dramatic; Mackenzie Howe, quarterfinals in Broadcasting and in Program Oral Interpretation; Havannah Martin, quarterfinals in Broadcasting and semifinals in Dramatic; Natalie Grubbs, semifinals in Declamation and quarterfinals in Storytelling; Claire Strysick, quarterfinals in Declamation; Virginia Harp and Samantha Sallee, semifinals in Duo Interpretation; Abigail Anderson, semifinals in Humorous; Becky Mohr, quarterfinals in Impromptu; Matt Ballard and Charlie Hall, quarterfinals in Improvisational Duo; Sara Barringer, semifinals in Informative; Celeste Fieberg, semifinals in Oratory and quarterfinals in Program Oral Interpretation; Paige Glasser, semifinals in Poetry and in Prose; Joseth Warner, quarterfinals in Prose.

Danville also won a year's possession of the team Traveling Trophy for accumulated sweepstakes points. Additionally, at the state debate tournament the day prior, three DHS students advanced into the Super Congress session after six hours of preliminary debate: Billy Critchfield, Kami Chappell, and Becky Mohr.

CFL DISTRICTS

DHS began March with its twenty-first straight win of the annual Louisville Diocese of the Catholic Forensic League's annual national qualifier for the Grand Nationals. DHS placed first by a wide margin, nearly doubling the score of second place Bethlehem and third place North Oldham. Twelve DHS entries advanced to compete in the National Tournament over Memorial Day weekend in Louisville (Danville is one of several Kentucky schools co-hosting the national event). Advancing for the Admirals were Emma Merryman, Natalie Grubbs, and Haley Hopkins in Declamation; Grace Sheene in Dramatic Interpretation; Abigail Anderson and Matt Ballard in Duo Interpretation; Billy Critchfield and Katie Critchfield in Extemporaneous Speaking; Joseth Warner in Oral Interpretation; Charlie Hall and Celeste Fieberg in Oratory; Caroline Bugg in Student Congress.

KESDA

Danville High School won decisively at the twenty-eighth annual Kentucky Educational Speech and Drama Association Senior Forum held in Lexington February 23-25. DHS beat rival Rowan County by 110 points with points earned in fifteen speech and two debate events. Placing third through sixth at the Forum were Lexington Dunbar, Boone County, Murray, and LaRue County. This is Danville's fifth win at KESDA (previous titles were in 2008, 2011, 2012, and 2016).

Two sophomores led the team with outstanding performances in five events and top placings in the John Edwards Memorial Pentathlon Competition. Pentath recognizes strong scores in five events including at least one of each of the three types of speaking – Original Speech, Interpretation of Literature, and Limited Preparation. Charlie Hall took second in Pentath with Emma Merryman placing fourth. Danville also won four of the individual contests overall with Grace Sheene first in Dramatic Interpretation, Haley Hopkins first in Declamation, Paige Glasser first in Prose, and the senior Group Interpretation The Little Mermaid (Abigail Anderson, Matthew Ballard, Havannah Martin, McCallum Morley, and Grace Sheene) taking the top prize. As an additional honor, the Speaking Admirals won the Margaret Greynolds Traveling Trophy for Team Efficiency for earning the most points per team member, the first time DHS has ever won this honor.

Students competed in three days of competitions with three preliminary rounds in each event. In the largest events, the top twenty-four entries in each event advanced to meet each other in Quarterfinals on Saturday. Events then advanced to Semifinals (the top 12) and Finals (the top 6) for the Forum Awards. DHS award winners at KESDA are listed below by (awards earned in finals) or an (S) for Semifinals or a (Q) for Quarterfinals. Congressional Debaters who advanced out of the preliminary chambers to the Super Session are

also noted.

BROADCASTING: McCallum Morley second, Mackenzie Howe (S), Evey Kinkade (S), Havannah Martin (Q); **CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE:** Caroline Bugg (Supers), Kami Chappell (Supers), Katie Critchfield (Supers), Billy Critchfield (Supers), Becky Mohr (Supers); **DECLAMATION:** Haley Hopkins first, Natalie Grubbs second, Emma Merryman third; **DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:** Grace Sheene first, Havannah Martin (S), McCallum Morley (S); **DUO INTERPRETATION:** Natalie Grubbs and Charlie Hall third; **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:** Billy Critchfield fourth, Caroline Bugg fifth, Katie Critchfield (S); **GROUP INTERPRETATION:** Anderson Ballard Martin Morley and Sheene first, Grubbs Hopkins Kinkade Merryman and Stryck second; **HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION:** Abigail Anderson fourth, Haley Hopkins (S) ; **IMPROMPTU SPEAKING:** Emma Merryman sixth, Celeste Fieberg (S), Becky Mohr (S); **IMPROVISATIONAL PAIRS:** Matthew Ballard and Charlie Hall third, Paige Glasser and Grace Sheene (S) ; **INFORMATIVE SPEAKING:** Claire Stryck fourth, Kami Chappell sixth, Katie Critchfield (S), Emma Merryman (S); **ORIGINAL ORATORY:** Charlie Hall second, Abigail Anderson (S), ; **POETRY:** Grace Sheene third, Paige Glasser sixth, Emma Merryman (Q), Claire Stryck (Q); **PROSE:** Paige Glasser first, Grace Sheene second, Joseth Warner fourth, Charlie Hall (S), Libby Hale (Q), Havannah Martin (Q); **PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE:** Billy Critchfield and Katie Critchfield (S); **STORYTELLING:** Charlie Hall fourth, Libby Hale (S).

KHSSL REGIONALS

On February 4, the Danville High School speech (forensics) team placed second at the Bluegrass Regional Tournament of the Kentucky High School Speech League. The Bluegrass Region consists of Fayette County and the 40-some counties directly south of it and is one of seven Regions of KHSSL. Students competing at Regionals advanced on to the KHSSL State Speech tournament to be held at the University of Kentucky March 10-11. Lexington Henry Clay won the Region (9 points over DHS) with Lexington Dunbar placing third overall.

Students competed in two preliminary rounds with awards given to students for their overall scores. First through fourth or first through sixth places were awarded in each of fourteen individual events (dependent on the size of each event). DHS had three regional champions: Natalie Grubbs in Declamation, Sara Barringer in Informative Speaking, and Grace Sheene in Prose. Also earning individual honors for DHS were McCallum Morley (fourth Broadcasting and third Dramatic Interpretation), Emma Merryman (third Declamation and second Impromptu Speaking), the team of Sara Barringer and Kelsie Steber (third Duo Interpretation), Kelsie Steber (fourth Humorous Interpretation), the teams of Paige Glasser and Grace Sheene (second) and Haley Hopkins and Joseth Warner (fourth) in Improvisational Duo, Katie Critchfield and Claire Stryck (tied for fifth in Informative Speaking), Charlie Hall (second Oratory and second Storytelling), Celeste Fieberg (fourth Oratory), and Paige Glasser (sixth in Prose).

BARKLEY FORUM

On January 28-29, six DHS Forensics students competed in the annual Barkley Forum for High Schools at Emory University in Decatur, Georgia. The contest featured one hundred entries from around the country in six speech and four debate events. Senior Grace Sheene advanced through five preliminary rounds to place in the Quarterfinals (top 24) in both Dramatic Interpretation and Prose/Poetry. She was awarded Barkley Forum keys for her achievements.

LAFAYETTE BEELER/BARDSTOWN SWING

January 14, the team journeyed to Lafayette High in Lexington for a pair of tournaments held at LHS. At the Thelma Beeler Invitational sponsored by Lafayette, Danville placed first by fifty-seven points over Lexington Henry Clay with Bardstown Bethlehem third, Lexington Dunbar fourth, Louisville's Kentucky Country Day School fifth, and the Notre Dame Academy sixth. DHS took a third of the individual honors given at the meet, advancing twenty-eight entries to the awards round. DHS awards at the Beeler: Broadcasting: McCallum Morley second, Havannah Martin third; Declamation: Natalie Grubbs first, Claire Stryck second, Emma Merryman third, Haley Hopkins fifth; Dramatic Interpretation: McCallum Morley second, Grace Sheene fourth, Joseth Warner sixth; Duo Interpretation: Abigail Anderson and Matthew Ballard first, Sara Barringer and Kelsie Steber fourth; Extemporaneous Speaking: Billy Critchfield

first, Katie Critchfield fourth, Caroline Bugg fifth; Humorous Interpretation: Abigail Anderson fifth; Impromptu Speaking: Emma Merryman second, Billy Critchfield third; Becky Mohr fourth; Improvisational Duo: Paige Glasser and Grace Sheene fifth; Informative Speaking: Briona Burnett fourth, Grayson Fowlkes fifth, Claire Strysick sixth; Oratory: Abigail Anderson third; Poetry: Emma Merryman first, Becky Mohr third; Prose: Grace Sheene first, Havannah Martin sixth; Storytelling: Evey Kinkade sixth.

At the Bardstown HS sponsored tournament later on January 14 (held at Lafayette), DHS placed second behind Lexington Henry Clay. Dunbar was third with Bethlehem, Kentucky Country Day, and Notre Dame rounding out the top six. DHS advanced twenty-four entries into the awards rounds: Broadcasting: McCallum Morley second; Declamation: Natalie Grubbs first, Emma Merryman second, Claire Strysick fourth, Evey Kinkade sixth; Duo Interpretation: Abigail Anderson and Matthew Ballard second, Sara Barringer and Kelsie Steber fifth; Extemporaneous Speaking; Caroline Bugg first, Billy Critchfield second, Katie Critchfield fifth; Humorous Interpretation: Abigail Anderson second, Haley Hopkins fourth; Impromptu Speaking; Emma Merryman fourth, Becky Mohr fifth; Improvisational Duo: Paige Glasser and Grace Sheene fifth; Informative Speaking: Claire Strysick first, Kami Chappell fifth, Kelsie Steber sixth; Oratory: Abigail Anderson second, Mackenzie Howe fourth; Program Oral Interpretation: Mackenzie Howe sixth; Prose: Grace Sheene third, Joseth Warner fifth; Storytelling: Libby Hale fifth.

ROWAN COUNTY HARLEN HAMM

On January 7, DHS won the Harlen Hamm Invitational at Rowan County High School. Lexington Henry Clay, North Oldham, Lexington Dunbar, Boone County, and Michigan's Midwest rounded out the top six in team scores. Senior Captain Grace Sheene led the team with wins in Prose and Improvisational Duo (with partner Paige Glasser), second in Dramatic Interpretation, and third in Program Oral Interp. Sheene was named the outstanding performer in the tournament as she earned the most points of any competitor there. Additionally, fellow Captain McCallum Morley placed first in Broadcasting, the team of Abigail Anderson and Matthew Ballard won Duo Interpretation, and Natalie Grubbs was tournament champion in Declamation. Additional award winners for DHS were Abigail Anderson (sixth Oratory), Caroline Bugg (second Congressional Debate), Billy Critchfield (third Extemporaneous Speaking), the team of Haley Hopkins and Joseth Warner (seventh Duo Improvisation), Emma Merryman (sixth Impromptu Speaking), and Claire Strysick (sixth Declamation and sixth Informative Speaking).

WKU HILLTOPPER

At the WKU Hilltopper held in Bowling Green December 10, DHS placed second of twenty-six schools from six states behind Rowan County. LaRue County, Murray, and Bardstown Bethlehem placed third through fifth. Thirteen Danville events advanced through three preliminary rounds to the Final round held for the top six entries; Poetry and Prose (the largest events) also held Semifinal rounds for the top twelve entries in prelims. With senior Matthew Ballard anchoring both, DHS won both duo events with Abigail Anderson and Ballard taking first in Duo Interpretation and Charlie Hall and Ballard winning Improvisational Duo. Also earning trophies for the Speaking Admirals were McCallum Morley (fourth in Broadcasting and fourth in Dramatic Interpretation), Abigail Anderson (fifth in Broadcasting and sixth in Humorous Interpretation), Haley Hopkins (third in Declamation), Billy Critchfield (second in Extemporaneous Speaking and fifth in Impromptu Speaking), Caroline Bugg (fifth in Extemporaneous Speaking), Becky Mohr (sixth in Impromptu Speaking), Celeste Fieberg (fourth in Oratory), Grace Sheene (Prose semifinals), and Charlie Hall (third in Storytelling).

BOONE COUNTY

On December 3, the team competed at Boone County High School's Blizzard Blowout speech and debate

tournament and captured first place of sixteen Kentucky high schools competing. Rowan County, Lexington Henry Clay, North Oldham, Ryle, and Lexington Dunbar placed second through sixth, respectively. Team Captain Grace Sheene led the Speaking Admirals with first place finishes in Dramatic Interpretation and Prose and second in Improvisational Duo with partner Matthew Ballard. Natalie Grubbs was the tournament champion in Declamation; Charlie Hall won the Storytelling event. Also winning awards for the Admirals were Abigail Anderson (fourth Broadcasting and sixth Oratory), Haley Hopkins (fifth Declamation and second Humorous Interpretation), Evey Kinkade (third Declamation), Claire Strysick (second Declamation), Havannah Martin (fifth Dramatic Interpretation), Billy Critchfield (fifth Extemporaneous Speaking), Emma Merryman (third Impromptu Speaking), Becky Mohr (fourth Impromptu Speaking), Celeste Fieberg (fifth Oratory), Mackenzie Howe (fifth Program Oral Interpretation), and Joseth Warner (sixth Prose).

TOURNAMENT OF FIRSTS

Boone County High School took top honors at the twenty-third annual Tournament of Firsts Speech Tournament held at Danville High School November 19. Seventeen schools competed for the team trophies with Bardstown's Bethlehem High in second, Rowan County third, Beechwood High fourth, Lexington Dunbar fifth, and LaRue County sixth in the team competition. Students competed in fourteen speech events plus Congressional Debate for a full day of competition.

Danville High, the reigning speech state champions, did not compete in the tournament with the exception of Congressional Debate but hosted instead. Danville senior Billy Critchfield placed second overall in Congressional Debate for the Speaking Admirals. DHS will next compete at the Boone County Blizzard Blowout on December 3.

NORTH OLDHAM

Danville High School's reigning state champion forensics (competitive speech and debate) team has started the season off strong with pressive showings at the first two tournaments.

On Saturday, the full team competed at North Oldham High School, taking first in the overall team sweepstakes based on the combined scores of its members. Boone County, LaRue County, Louisville Assumption, Bardstown, and Kentucky Country Day finished out the top six teams. Senior Captain Grace Sheene had the strongest showing in the tournament, placing first in Dramatic Interpretation, first in Prose, and sixth in Improvisational Duo (with Matt Ballard). Danville took first in four more events: Natalie Grubbs in Declamation, Haley Hopkins in Humorous Interpretation, Emma Merryman in Impromptu Speaking, and Charlie Hall in Storytelling. Additional DHS award winners: Abigail Anderson, fourth in Program Oral Interpretation; Caroline Bugg, seventh in Congressional Debate; Briona Burnett and Charlie Hall, third in Improvisational Duo; Billy Critchfield, third in Congressional Debate; Katie Critchfield, third in Extemporaneous Speaking; Celeste Fieberg, fifth in three events – Broadcasting, Oratory, and Program Oral Interpretation; Haley Hopkins, second in Declamation; Haley Hopkins and Joseth Warner, fourth in Improvisational Duo; Mackenzie Howe, sixth in Broadcasting; Havannah Martin, second in Dramatic Interpretation and third in Broadcasting; Emma Merryman, third in Declamation; Becky Mohr, third in Impromptu Speaking; McCallum Morley, fifth in Dramatic Interpretation; Madelyn Mullins, sixth in Extemporaneous Speaking; Claire Strysick, fourth in Declamation.

LARUE COUNTY

November 5, the twenty-one experienced members of the team competed at the Ruth Blair Invitational at LaRue County High School. The team took second to rival Rowan County with Bardstown Bethlehem, North Oldham, Bowling Green, and Murray completing the top six teams. The team won seventeen individual awards and was led by sophomore Emma Merryman, who took first in Declamation and third in Impromptu Speaking and Poetry. Additional award winners were Matt Ballard and Grace Sheene, first in Improvisational Duo; Celeste Fieberg, fourth in Oratory; Billy Critchfield, third in Extemporaneous Speaking; Abigail Anderson, third in Oratory and fourth in Program Oral Interpretation; Grace Sheene, fifth in Prose; Charlie Hall, second in Storytelling; McCallum Morley, sixth in Broadcasting; Evey Kinkade, sixth in Declamation; Haley Hopkins, sixth in Humorous Interpretation; Haley Hopkins and Joseth Warner, fifth in Improvisational Duo; Briona Burnett and Charlie Hall, fourth in Improvisational Duo.