

27 March 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Kentucky's State Debate Tournament returned to in-person competition in 2023. The 103rd State Debate meet was held at Transylvania University in Lexington March 24-25. Lexington's Henry Clay HS took top honors with Lexington Dunbar, Beechwood, Ryle, Louisville Trinity, and Owensboro named the top six teams. Trinity's Amy Zuccaro was named Coach of the Year; Henry Clay High School won the trophy for Sustained Excellence over time. Students competed live in four preliminary rounds with the top four entries advancing to semifinals in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Novice Public Forum Debate; finalists were named in Novice Lincoln-Douglas and Varsity Public Forum. Sixteen Finalists advanced to the Congressional Debate SuperSession with honors awarded to the top six. Speaker awards for the top six performers in each of the Debate events were also given. Individual awards and placings for each of the five events are listed on the next pages.

Additionally, at the ceremony Daviess County High School's Beth Newcomb and Murray High School's Raegan Settle were named the winners of the annual Bale Scholarships for graduating KHSSL seniors.

The speech and debate season in Kentucky runs from October to January with 14 Regional Speech Tournaments held in February around the Commonwealth to qualify for State followed by State Junior Speech (grades 4-8), Senior Speech (grades 9-12), and Debate (grades 4-12) tournaments. Students compete in twenty speech, debate, and drama categories from Storytelling to Congressional Debate to Oratory in the speech and debate divisions.

KHSSL offers membership to all schools -- public, private, and homeschooled -- serving students in grades 4-12 in Kentucky. With member schools from Paducah to Paintsville, Kentucky's oldest student activity trains students how to conduct themselves in public settings, how to successfully communicate ideas, how to empathize with others via character analysis, how to read critically and how to research properly with contests to encourage excellence and develop grit. Our participating students show mind over chatter. For more information how to get your students and school involved, browse to www.khssl.org.

For further information, contact KHSSL Executive Director Steve Meadows at khssl@khssl.org or 859-927-1100. He can also easily put you in touch with the coaches of local teams for quotes, etc.

2023 KHSSL STATE DEBATE RESULTS

TEAM SWEEPSTAKES (COMBINED SCORES)

1 ST	HENRY CLAY HS	74 POINTS
2 ND	DUNBAR HS	49 POINTS
3 RD	BEECHWOOD HS	22 POINTS
4 TH	RYLE HS	18 POINTS
5 TH	TRINITY HS	14 POINTS
6 TH	OWENSBORO HS	11 POINTS

COACH OF THE YEAR: AMY ZUCCARO, TRINITY HS

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD: HENRY CLAY HS

BALE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

BETH NEWCOMB, DAVIESS COUNTY HS

RAEGAN SETTLE, MURRAY HS

2023 KHSSL STATE DEBATE RESULTS

NOVICE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

1 ST	AYESHA HAMID	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	SAM KOTTER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

TOP SPEAKERS

1 ST	SAM KOTTER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	AYESHA HAMID	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
3 RD	ELIZABETH BUTTES	ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL
4 TH	OLIVIA ZHANG	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
5 TH	KADEN BLANKENSHIP	OWENSBORO HIGH SCHOOL
6 TH	KENNEDY PRESTON	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

VARSITY LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

1 ST	ARIEL FADER	RYLE HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	MATTHEW KOTTER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

SEMIFINALISTS:

DAVID DANIEL	OWENSBORO HIGH SCHOOL
EVELYN DYER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

TOP SPEAKERS

1 ST	ARIEL FADER	RYLE HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	MATTHEW KOTTER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
3 RD	DAVID DANIEL	OWENSBORO HIGH SCHOOL
4 TH	NIKITA NAIR	ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL
5 TH	EVELYN DYER	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
6 TH	DOROTTYA GAL	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

2023 KHSSL STATE DEBATE RESULTS

NOVICE PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1 ST	DEITZ & BEIERLE	TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	ADAMS & KING	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

SEMIFINALISTS:

ALLEN-GUY & YELOWITZ	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
SONG & WAHL	TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

TOP SPEAKERS

1 ST	HAYDEN DEITZ	TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	VONNIE ALLEN-GUY	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
3 RD	IAN BEIRLE	TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
4 TH	MYLA PRYOR	HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL
5 TH	CONNIE YELOWITZ	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
6 TH	STELLA BENSENHAVER	ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

VARSITY PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1 ST	LOFWALL & WHITLEY	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	BHASKAR & KAHLOON	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

TOP SPEAKERS

1 ST	KARSON WHITLEY	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	YUSUF KAHLOON	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
3 RD	ZOE BREITIGAN	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
4 TH	JUSTINE LOFWALL	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
5 TH	VIBHA BHASKAR	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
6 TH	AIMEE STAMM	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

2023 KHSSL STATE DEBATE RESULTS

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

1 ST	DAKSHA PILLAI	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
2 ND	CHRIS ROBERDEAUX	BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
3 RD	CLINT CORKRAN	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
4 TH	BELLA GALAVOTTI	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
5 TH	ALEJANDRA SAAVEDRA	BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
6 TH	WINSTON FUGATE	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL

SUPER SESSION MEMBERS:

KAYA AMIN	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
MATIAS ALVAREZ	RYLE HIGH SCHOOL
WILL BROWN	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
LEAH BUZARD	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
WILL HARGIS	HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL
JACK LILES	RYLE HIGH SCHOOL
BEN MCBRIDE	TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
ALEX MINTER	BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL
AHAAN THOMAS	DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
GRACE WAINSCOTT	BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL