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Twenty Two Schools Earn Prestigious National Charter Status

This is the highest honor schools can achieve as a part of the National Speech & Debate Association.

DES MOINES, IOWA (DECEMBER 2022) – The National Speech & Debate Association is proud to recognize twenty two new schools for earning charter membership in the organization!

Arkansas School for Math, Science and the Arts (Hot Springs, AR)

Colorado Academy (Denver, CO)

Columbus Academy (Gahanna, OH)

Dr. Phillips High School (Orlando, FL)

DSST Byers High School (Denver, CO)

Dublin High School (Dublin, CA)

Durango High School (Durango, CO)

Eudora High School (Eudora, KS)

FAU High School (Boca Raton, FL)

Horizon High School (Winter Garden, FL)

Jackson-Reed High School (Washington, DC)

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City, OK)

Naperville North High School (Naperville, IL)

New Horizons Academy (Doral, FL)

Palmer Ridge High School (Monument, CO)

Strasburg High School (Strasburg, OH)

Sylvan Hills High School (Sherwood, AR)

The Chapin School (New York, NY)

Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (Somerset, NJ)

Valley Christian High School (San Jose, CA)

Wildwood Middle High School (Wildwood, FL)

York Community High School (Elmhurst, IL)

Over the past three years, these schools have earned degrees in our Honor Society for outstanding participation in speech and debate activities. Degrees are earned by students and coaches through speech and debate competition, community service, and leadership activities. Each degree represents hours of learning, practice, and improvement from the team.

Charter membership is the highest honor that schools can achieve as a part of the National Speech & Association.

“Participation in speech and debate changes lives,” said J. Scott Wunn, Executive Director of the National Speech & Debate Association. “We are extremely proud of our charter schools, coaches, and students for their hard work and dedication to this transformative activity.”

From building confidence, improving communication, and increasing critical thinking skills to better preparing students for college, speech and debate activities provide life skills vital to a young person’s success in the future. Schools that provide speech and debate programs report increased attendance, higher test scores, rise in college acceptance, and reduced dropout rates. Charter schools reflect a sustained commitment to these values.

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About the National Speech & Debate Association

The National Speech & Debate Association is the largest interscholastic speech and debate organization serving middle school, high school, and collegiate students in the United States. The Association provides competitive speech and debate activities, high-quality resources, comprehensive training, scholarship opportunities, and advanced recognition to more than 140,000 students and coaches every year. For nearly 100 years, the National Speech & Debate Association has empowered more than 2 million members to become engaged citizens, skilled professionals, and honorable leaders in our society. For more information, visit www.speechanddebate.org.