



## The Mission

“... all students should be empowered to become effective communicators, ethical individuals, critical thinkers, and leaders in a democratic society. We exist to promote secondary school speech and debate activities and interscholastic competition as a means to develop a student’s lifelong skills and values and to increase the public’s awareness of the value of speech, debate and communication education.”

As a member of the National Forensic League/NSDA, students pledge to uphold the highest standards of integrity, humility, respect, leadership and service in the pursuit of excellence.

**Integrity:** An NFL/NSDA member obeys the highest ethical standards and adheres to the rules of the League. Members recognize that integrity is central to earning the trust, respect, and support of one's peers. Integrity encompasses the highest regard for honesty, civility, justice and fairness.

**Humility:** A member does not regard him or herself more highly than others. Regardless of a person's level of success, he or she always looks beyond oneself to appreciate the inherent value of others.

**Respect:** A member respects individual differences and fosters diversity. He or she promotes tolerance, inclusion and empowerment for people from a variety of backgrounds.

**Leadership:** A member influences others to take positive action toward productive change. Members commit to thoughtful and responsible leadership which promotes the other core values in the NFL/NSDA Code of Honor.

**Service:** A member exercises the talents he or she has been given to provide service to his or her peers, community, and the League. At all times an NFL/NSDA member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.

There are multiple events for students to participate in beyond Policy Debate. They are listed and explained in the following documents:

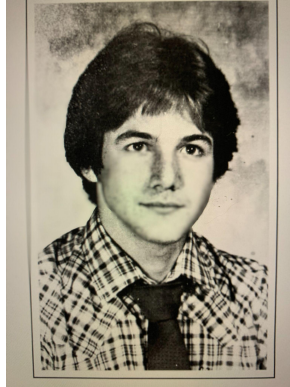
[Competition Events | National Speech & Debate Association](#)

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## Awards

### James J. Walick Award



Instituted in 1982, the James J. Walick award is given to the underclassman that distinguishes themselves in the competitive categories of speech and debate. The award is dedicated to the memory of James who would have graduated in 1984. James advanced to the Ohio High School Speech League state finals in his second year of competition.

James was an example of dedication to Christ-like lifestyle (patience, charity, and gentle disposition, respectful and appropriate level of maturity) academically excellent, and demonstrates peer leadership and fraternal support.

The award is given in consultation with the moderator of Forensics, past Walick recipients and announced to the Walick family.

Since 1982, Mr. Joseph and Marie Walick, parents of James, have honored their son's memory with a stipend to the award winner to be used for his education at Saint Ignatius High School. There is a commemorative plaque honoring the young Ignatians located in the Gallery on the fifth floor of the main building. We wish to continue that tradition on behalf of the Walick family and all the fine young men they have helped.

## The "2014" Award



The "2014" Award is given to recognize the student or students that exemplify the Ignatian qualities of scholarship, leadership, sportsmanship and eloquentia perfecta in the Rhetorical Art of policy debate.

This award is given to honor Kevin Pucci, Andrew Beddow and Sean (J.D.) Lavelle from the class of 2014. In four years of competition they achieved three state championships (both teams being champions in 2014; Kevin a three time winner with three different partners) several district championships and numerous national appearances. All were members of the National Forensic League, a Forensic honor society, and received the highest honor of Outstanding Distinction.

These young men were the most successful cumulative policy debate teams in Ignatius history. They were also responsible for recruiting, mentoring, teaching, and leading the next generation of policy debaters, above and beyond their participation and competition in policy debate all four years.

## Frank Canfield, S.J. Award



Instituted in 2017, the Frank J. Canfield, S.J. award is given to the debaters that distinguish themselves in the competitive category of Policy debate. The award is dedicated to Father Frank Canfield, S.J. who was a friend to all and spiritual refuge to anyone in need.

There is an additional award to the winner to be used for his education at Saint Ignatius High School. In addition there is a commemorative plaque honoring the young Ignatian men located in the south display case on the first floor of the main building. The text is as follows:

“At age 80, as I look in the rearview mirror of my life, I see that I’ve been pushed and pulled in different ways I didn’t plan,” “It’s been a gift of age to realize that, quietly, the Lord has led me along, asking me to cooperate with the gift of each moment. Many times, I didn’t want to. I’m no St. Francis Xavier; there’s more fear in me than most of the world knows. But when I finally put my ego where it belongs, I find a peace, a feeling of ‘Ah, this is right.’”

"do your best to be “in the precious present” "**No one** works harder than debaters!"

### Competitive Forensics at Saint Ignatius High School

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