

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fifty-Eight 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 (March 1, 2024) – The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is proud to recognize fifty-eight new schools for earning charter membership in the organization!

Tomball Memorial High School (Tomball, TX)  
St. Mary's Academy High School (Englewood, CO)  
Maryknoll High School (Honolulu, HI)  
Cypress Woods High School (Cypress, TX)  
Crater High School (Central Point, OR)  
Democracy Prep Bronx Preparatory Charter School (Bronx, NY)  
Central High School (St. Paul, MN)  
Marion C. Early R5 High School (Morrisville, MO)  
Lassiter High School (Marietta, GA)  
Poland Regional High School (Poland, ME)  
Hamilton High School (Hamilton, MT)  
Columbia City High School (Columbia City, IN)  
Salem High School (Salem, VA)  
Elizabeth High School (Elizabeth, NJ)  
Charles Page High School (Sand Springs, OK)  
Oliver Wendell Holmes High School (San Antonio, TX)  
Colleyville Heritage High School (Colleyville, TX)  
Ponderosa High School (Shingle Springs, CA)  
Lead-Deadwood High School (Lead, SD)  
Foster High School (Richmond, TX)  
Battle Mountain High School (Edwards, CO)  
Snake River High School (Blackfoot, ID)  
Manchester Essex Regional High School (Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA)  
Taft Charter High School (Woodland Hills, CA)  
The Awty International School (Houston, TX)

Highlands Latin School (Carmel, IN)  
Durant High School (Durant, OK)  
New Philadelphia High School (New Philadelphia, OH)  
Chugiak High School (Chugiak, AK)  
Northridge High School (Tuscaloosa, AL)  
Santiago High School (Corona, CA)  
Miami Arts Studio 6-12 At Zelda Glazer (Miami, FL)  
Carroll High School (Carroll, IA)  
Waukee Northwest High School (Waukee, IA)  
Owyhee High School (Meridian, ID)  
Lyons Township High School (Western Springs, IL)  
Columbus North High School (Columbus, IN)  
The Cambridge Rindge And Latin High School (Cambridge, MA)  
Benton High School (St Joseph, MO)  
Rolla Sr. High School (Rolla, MO)  
Germantown High School (Madison, MS)  
Polson High School (Polson, MT)  
Hazen High School (Hazen, ND)  
Rush Springs High School (Rush Springs, OK)  
Happy Valley High School (Elizabethton, TN)  
Caprock High School (Amarillo, TX)  
Brownfield High School (Brownfield, TX)  
Abilene High School (Abilene, TX)  
School for the Talented and Gifted at Townview (Dallas, TX)  
Uplift Atlas Preparatory High School (Dallas, TX)  
Patrica E. Paetow High School (Katy, TX)  
Brighton High School (Salt Lake City, UT)  
DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts (Ogden, UT)  
North Sevier High (Salina, UT)  
Open High School (Richmond, VA)  
Bellingham High School (Bellingham, WA)  
Delta High School (Pasco, WA)  
The Americas Bicultural School (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

Over the past three years, these schools have earned degrees in the 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 NSDA.

“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. Learn more about school recognition at [www.speechanddebate.org/school-recognition](http://www.speechanddebate.org/school-recognition).

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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 worked to connect, support, and inspire a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate. For more information, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).