



Forensics Team Info:

What is Forensics, anyway?

The Forensics team is an Academic team that gives students the opportunity to have fun while developing and improving their writing and speaking abilities. Students work with a specific topic, selection of literature or comedic sketch and present in front of other competing students and a judge. There are many different categories to match the varied types of students that participate. There are trophies, medals or ribbons to be won at every competition. Students can earn the right to compete at the State competition at the end of the season.

What age student participates in Forensics?

All sixth through eighth grade students are eligible. We do not audition our students to be part of the HA team. All MS students at Holy Apostles are welcome to participate.

Is this an individual or group activity?

Well, both. They can compete in a solo category, like storytelling or solo acting. Or they may participate in a group category, like group interpretation or group acting. If your child is in a group it will be helpful to check that all of their schedules work together. Not only for practicing, but for tournaments. If part of your child's group can't go to a tournament, the whole group is unable to attend.

When do we practice?

Wednesdays after school from 3:15-4:15pm, November to March.

What do we do at practice?

We usually start with a group meeting. We discuss about upcoming events and give handouts. They will be divided into small groups and assigned to a coach for the day. Each group goes to different room to practice. While they are waiting their turn to present their piece, they may practice their piece or work on homework.

Do we have a snack?

Yes! Students will sign up to provide the snacks/drinks for the practices. Parent sign up occurs at the beginning of the season. Please send individually bagged items or drinks, as kids take them 'to go' to their coach's room. Suggestions: rice krispy treats, granola bars, fruit snacks, juice pouches, water.

Can parents ever see the students perform?

Unfortunately, forensics is not like volley ball where you can go and cheer your team on. When we go to tournaments, the students are performing in classroom with other students in their category. Parents are not able to watch at tournaments. We will have a student performance at the end of the season.

Is parent participation required?

Yes! **We need your help in working with your students at home; editing and timing their pieces and giving advice and feedback. (Rubrics and rules for each category will be available to assist you.) We could not exist without the many wonderful volunteers that work with us. We need coaches during practice days, and judges and homebase parents at tournaments. Coaches and judges will be trained. A Home Base parent is someone who spends the day with the students- taking attendance, making sure they get to their sessions on time, and release students at the end of the day.

When do tournaments occur?

Tournaments happen on Fridays and Saturdays or occasionally Sundays, from the end of January to the end of March. The state tournament is at the end of March/early April. Date/Location is TBD at this moment.

How do the kids get to the tournaments?

Parents are responsible for driving their child to the meet. Car pools work well; try to make a plan with other parents that live near you.

How long do the tournaments go?

Tournaments begin early in the morning, with start times around 8:00 am and end around 3 pm. Tournament may leave after their final round (around 2:30/3:00pm, depending on the tournament)

Do the students need to go to all the tournaments?

No. They may go to as few, or as many (up to 5), as they like. If they want to qualify to compete at the state tournament they need to score an average of 57 points, with no rounding, from three tournaments they've attended. The more tournaments you go to, the better your chances are of achieving this. The HA team plans to go to 6 tournaments. Again, students are only allowed to attend 5 meets per season.

How does a student sign up for a tournament?

A schedule of all the tournaments we plan to attend will be sent home in December. Both parents and students should look this over, figure out which meets they can go to, sign it, and return it to Forensics folder in Library. **It is important to return this form by the deadline as sign ups for tournaments begin over the holiday break.**

If I have other questions, who can I contact?

Sue Bindl (sbindl@hanb.org) 414-217-9300 cell

Website for category specifics:

<http://www.mlfawisconsin.com/categories/>

Links to help choose performance pieces:

<http://www.mlfawisconsin.com/coaches/coaches-resources/>