

FORENSICS REGISTRATION – Due no later than Wednesday, November 9, 2011

November 3, 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Forensics Season! I am excited to have another opportunity to work in this exciting way with our many talented young people. We had a very successful season last year...and I look forward to great things to come again this year! I am also pleased to announce that Ms. Carol Kellogg will be the Co-Coordinator with me this year. In addition to the many Coaching and Judging duties she has performed in recent years, she'll be assisting me with other organizational responsibilities as well as helping to coordinate the SFC Meet on February 23, 2012. Welcome, Ms. Kellogg!

As a French and English teacher, I am obviously a strong believer in the power of words and effective communication. I am an advocate of ALL students learning to be confident and comfortable in the variety of speaking situations that have been and will continue to be a part of their daily lives. Forensics offers an unmatched opportunity to ensure success both now and in the future for our students.

The program is open to all students in grades 6-8, and everyone is encouraged to join! Practices will begin in December after the initial organizational work is completed, and the season will conclude at the end of March. Coaching assignments will be determined by Ms. Kieser and Ms. Kellogg upon on-time receipt of registration sheets. Students and coaches will be notified of their coaching assignment and will then set up a practice schedule. Some coaches are available to coach during lunch break, while others are available before or after school. Students usually practice twice weekly for 30 minutes.

There are a variety of categories from which your child may choose. A brief description of each has been presented to the students. Copies of this information are posted by the 6-8 grade homerooms, by Ms. Kieser's Classroom, and on the SFC Website. You can also visit <http://middlelevelforensics.org/> and select "**Categories**" for descriptions of each. Please take a look and see the options available...they are very diverse and can suit all students' interests and skills. Each student will select one category in which he/she will participate for the entire season. If the category is already filled to capacity, the 2nd or 3rd choice your child has indicated on the registration form will be assigned. The same piece will be performed for the duration of the season. Some categories are solo, while others involve groups. Some categories require creative writing, or memorization, while others require selecting a poem or piece of literature and reading it aloud.

If your child intends to participate in a category with another student(s), before registering please have them compare schedules and extra-curricular activities, and come to an agreement on their commitment level with regard to tournament dates and practice schedules. If it does not appear that their schedules are the same, I suggest that they work in a solo category or find a partner that is equally committed to this experience. This is a very critical element that will strongly impact a student's success at meets. I have spoken at length with the students about this crucial decision.

If your child has signed up to participate in this program, it is expected that he/she and you, the parents, keep this commitment throughout the entire Forensics season. It is not acceptable to start the season and then quit. Many volunteers and students are involved in this program, and are negatively affected when a child/family does not keep the commitment. Coaching, judging, financing, and scheduling, are just a few of the areas that are negatively impacted when even one person chooses not to follow through on a commitment. Additionally, students are responsible for keeping their practice appointments with their coaches.

I know that Meet Dates are a key piece of information that you parents appreciate having in a timely manner. I know...I have three children whose schedules I must coordinate! I fully appreciate your desire to have this information. However, this year our state association is experiencing a shortage of schools who are willing to host meets, therefore we have not yet been given a schedule of tentative dates. They are in the process of

“recruiting” more schools to host, so they will be trying to get us more information as soon as they can. I do not expect it until after the Thanksgiving holiday—likely into December. ***I am going out on a limb and giving you what I HOPE will be dates of meets we can attend...but you must please understand at this point it is no more than wishful thinking!*** But, hopefully it will help you plan at least tentatively as you try to coordinate your child’s school and extracurricular activities. I will surely give you more solid information as soon as I can.

In recent years, over half of our team members have earned the honor of participating in the State tournament. Often our team and some of our team members receive trophies at state! It is my suggestion that each student compete in as many, if not all, of the meets as possible to have the most beneficial experience, and to increase his/her chances to qualify for the state tournament. To qualify to compete at the state tournament, a student must have earned an average score of 37 points out of a possible 42 in at least 3 of the scheduled meets. In the past, we have had to cancel a meet due to inclement weather. There were some disappointed students who were not able to use that particular meet as a potential state-qualifying meet, and then they did not have enough high scoring meets attended to qualify for the state tournament. So it’s in your child’s best interest to attend as many meets as possible. While I understand that your child might also be involved in other extra-curricular activities during this time frame, please consider working it out so that he/she can also participate in forensics. Many others have successfully done so in the past, and have felt it was worth it. With good communication and follow-through regarding scheduling, this is possible. Forensics is a very valuable experience!

When I am able to confirm our Meet Dates, I will notify you, and included with the Meet Dates will be permission slips to attend the forensics meets. Some may involve bus transportation to and from school, while the others will be for those meets to which students must find their own transportation both to and from the meet. You will need to sign and turn these forms along with your meet choices/participation when that information is sent home. So please watch Thursday folders for that information to come, hopefully in early December.

Although Forensics is fun, it involves a commitment on the part of the students and their parents. In addition to your parental consent, we need the following from You, the Parent:

1. Your willingness to chaperone during one of the Forensics tournaments during the season. **AND/OR**
2. Your willingness to coach an individual or group of students either before or after school, or during lunch. **AND/OR**
3. Your willingness to be trained to be a judge, and judge for a few of the tournaments. (Based on the number of students from our school that are involved, our school needs to provide at least five to seven judges for each meet.) **AND**
4. Your assistance in hosting a meet at our school (2/23/2012) whether it is in the planning of or in working at it that Thursday evening. Everyone is needed/expected to assist with this.

Your child needs:

1. Classroom and homework assignments completed to the best of his/her ability. Failure to keep up with schoolwork can result in removal from tournaments and/or the team per our School Academic Eligibility policy.
2. A willingness and commitment to give up some Thursday/Friday evenings, and 2 or 3 Saturdays during the season to participate in tournaments.
3. A commitment to attend practice sessions as scheduled with the assigned coach.

Thank you for reading this letter carefully. Please discuss it with your child so that he/she is aware of his/her responsibilities. In order to help me move forward in arranging coaches and schedules, **I ask that this registration slip be completed and returned no later than Wednesday, November 9, 2011.** Thank you for your time and assistance, as I understand quite well that extra-curricular activities also involve your time and commitment as a parent! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at school, 334-7142 or dkieser@stfcabrin.com .

Sincerely,
Diane Kieser and Carol Kellogg, Forensics Coordinators

2011/2012 FORENSICS REGISTRATION FORM –
PLEASE TURN IN THIS SHEET and TENTATIVE MEET DATES SIGNUP SHEET
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011, to the School Office c/o Ms. Kieser

I have read the registration letter. I understand/will comply with the guidelines of the Forensics Program.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Homeroom Teacher/Room Number _____

Parent E-mail address _____

Top 3 Category choices you have made in order of preference ... 8th Grade gets first dibs, then 7th, then 6th.
(Indicate if you would like Ms. Kieser/Ms. Kellogg to help you choose a category):

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Name(s) of your partner/group member/s. Permission from Ms. Kieser required if groups are larger than 3 people: _____

*****For 7th and 8th Graders Only ... My Coach Last Year was _____.**

I would/would not prefer to work with this same coach again this year if s/he is available. This information will be CONFIDENTIAL.

*****IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A PARTICULAR PERSON AS YOUR COACH, PLEASE WRITE HIS/HER NAME HERE. THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES, BUT YOUR REQUEST WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.** _____

Parents please complete the information below – I welcome all assistance you can offer:

I/we am willing to be a **coach** for _____ one _____ or more students.

(No prior experience is required! I WILL OFFER GUIDANCE! We need you! There is always a shortage!)

****I am available to coach (days/time preferences) _____ during lunchtime _____ after school**

**** I PREFER TO / PREFER NOT TO coach my own child.**

--AND/OR--

I/we am willing to **judge** at some meets. No prior experience is required!

(It is a requirement that new judges attend one 2-hour training session – I WILL OFFER A SESSION HERE AT SFC FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.)

--AND/OR--

I will **chaperone** during a tournament.

--AND--

(all parents are needed to help in some way for our large meet! Thank you!)

I will assist in preparing for and/or working at the meet hosted at SFC (2/23/2012)

Please indicate the time that you would be available to assist on the day of the meet...details will follow as we approach the meet date:

_____ 2:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. _____ 5:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

_____ 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. _____ I will also provide 2 dozen baked goods.

_____ **YES**, I HAVE had the **Safeguarding God's Children** training

_____ **NO**, I have **NOT** had the **Safeguarding God's Children** training (See www.archmil.org for dates/locations of upcoming training sessions.)

Due no later than WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011.

Send to the school office - c/o Ms. Kieser, Forensics

Comments/Questions/Notes to Ms. Kieser:

November 3, 2011

These are the **EXTREMELY TENTATIVE** MEET DATES AS I MENTIONED IN THE INFORMATION LETTER. **I can't stress enough that NOTHING IS CONFIRMED as yet.** However, I do realize that having at least a general idea of our meet dates will be helpful for you and your child in deciding whether or not s/he should sign up for the team.

So, in light of that thought, I am giving you the list of **POSSIBLE** meets. I HOPE to have confirmation of the dates by the first week of December, and then I will try to get a reservation secured at each meet. I will surely send that information out to you as soon as I'm able. In the mean time, please consider these dates as you are making your decisions about joining the team.

When I have our dates confirmed, I will send home that information along with details for signup for meets, judging, chaperoning, etc. Again, this is **PRELIMINARY** information given in hopes that it will help you make an informed decision.

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011. **You may wish to make note of these tentative dates on your calendar before turning this in! ☺*

Thank you,

Ms. Kieser and Ms. Kellogg
Forensics Coordinators, 334-7142 dkieser@stfcabrini.com

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED SHEET
ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM BY WED. 11/9/11.**

Student Name _____ 6F 6R 7N 7A 8G 8U

Please place an X by those meets that you believe you would be able to attend. I will have you make an official commitment to attending once I have the meets confirmed.

TENTATIVE/WISH LIST OF 2012 Season Meet Dates

- _____ **Friday, February 3** Silverbrook Middle School 3:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. Car
- _____ **Saturday, February 11** Badger Middle School 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Car
- _____ **Friday, Feb. 17 or Saturday, Feb. 18** TBD...looking at a couple of options (Likely Bus)
- _____ **Thursday, February 23** St. Frances Cabrini School, 4:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- _____ **Saturday, March 10** Webster/Cedarburg Middle School 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Car

- _____ **Saturday, March 24, 2012 STATE MEET for qualifiers only.** Neenah High School.
Approximately 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Bus