

FORENSICS QUESTION AND ANSWER SHEET

What is Forensics?

Forensics is an academic organization designed to give students the opportunity to have fun while developing and improving their speaking abilities. Students can participate in a variety of categories that emphasize the use of the spoken word to convince, explain, or entertain. Students can work alone, with a partner, or as part of a group. Depending on the category, the material can be serious or humorous and can be memorized, read from a script, or delivered using notes. Some of the categories allow the students to prepare original material, while others use prose, poetry or a speech written by others.

Who can participate in Forensics

Any academically-eligible middle-schooler at Erin School can participate in Forensics. Last year, we had about 30 participants. This year, we're shooting for 50-60.

Where do students practice and compete?

Students practice at school and home. At school, practice sessions usually occur during lunch recess, or before or after school. Each student has an assigned coach and must meet with their coach to practice at least once a week. Competitions occur at other schools (i.e. Silver Lake, Silverbrook, St. Francis Cabrini, Slinger etc). We're contemplating the idea of having an inner-squad meet here at Erin this year.

Why do students participate in Forensics?

Students participate in Forensics for a number of reasons. Some enjoy competing at an academic level. Some students enjoy participating in an organization with their friends. Others like the social aspect of Forensics at meets. And others enjoy developing their confidence and sense of achievement from accomplishing something challenging and new. Many students enjoy Forensics for all these reasons.

When does Forensics start?

Forensics informational meetings occur in December (the 7th and 14th during lunch recess in room 154). Forensics officially begins after Christmas break.

Will Forensics interfere with my other activities? (i.e. basketball)

There may be an occasional game/meet conflict, but we'll work around it. We can make ANYTHING work.

How much does Forensics cost?

To participate in Forensics is \$50.00, unless your family is already signed up for five extra-curricular activities. The additional bus fee for Forensics is another \$30.00. If you are not sure how much you would pay for Forensics, you should contact Mrs. Runte.

How does Forensics work?

To start, a student must commit to the team and choose a category. There are 16 categories to choose from. Once the student has their category, a coach is assigned to the student and the student begins meeting with their coach to master their presentation. About three weeks after Forensics practice begins, we have our first meet. Meets are usually held on Thursday or Friday nights (and an occasional Saturday) after school. We ride a bus to the meet and receive our room assignments. When released, the students go to their room assignment and wait for the judge to call their "number." When called, the student goes to the front of the room and delivers their presentation. When finished with that round, the students go back to the general meeting area and eat dinner. Then comes round two. After round two, the students go back to the general meeting area again to socialize, dance, play games and eat snacks until the results are tallied. When the results are in, there is an award ceremony where the individual place winners are honored and school totals determine the overall school champions. Then we board the bus and come home with all kinds of feedback from the judges of what to work on for the next meet. Over the course of the season, point totals are individually tallied and state qualifiers are determined. The State meet is generally held at the end of March on a Saturday. We end our season with an awards lunch. Parents often ask to watch their child and other students perform. This is not allowed at meets, however, we did have a Forensics room at the Fun Fair last year, and many parents/families were able to see the presentations at that time.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact Ms. DeRosa with other questions at derosa@erinschool.org. Or call 673-3720, ext. 154.

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