Welcome to Kettle Moraine Middle School Forensics!!

Middle Level Forensics is a wonderful extra curricular activity for students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. It gives students the opportunity to develop their speaking abilities and have fun! Categories are numerous and students can perform in groups or individually. The KMMS Forensic Team competes with middle schools in the greater Milwaukee area. Meets are scheduled on a variety of dates so students who are involved in other co-curricular activities can participate.

What to expect:
Practices will be once a week on Tuesday’s from 2:45-4:00. During this time students will have the opportunity to practice one-on-one with a coach. Students should also practice at least 40 minutes a week on their own time at home.

We are offering 4 meet options for all of the students in addition to the state meet. Your child is welcome to attend as many or as few meets as works with your schedule. To qualify for the state meet, your student needs to attend a minimum of 3 meets and average a score of 37 (out of 42). If your child attends all 4 meets, the best 3 meet scores will be used. Please let us know if your child will not be able to attend a meet at least a week in advance of the meet.

On the days of the meets:
Boys are expected to wear dress pants and a nice shirt. 
Girls are expected to wear dress pants and a blouse or a skirt and appropriate top. (No clothes that indicate that you are from KMMS)

Note: If you are going to miss a tournament, you must tell one of the coaches at least one week in advance. When you look at the schedule, if you notice a conflict, let us know as soon as possible.

Please complete the student information form and return by Monday, November 23rd. We look forward to working with your child!

We will be having a student and parent informational meeting on Tuesday, November 17th from 5:00-6:00 in the Create area at KMMS. We would love to see as many parents and students as possible. If you have questions, the meeting would be a great time to ask them! Feel free to email with any questions too!

Forensics meets require a student entry fee, judges fees, and transportation costs. As a result it costs $35 per student to participate. This is in addition to the one-time school co-curricular fee of $25. We do not want to restrict participation in Forensics for financial reasons, please contact Ms. Bequest or Mr. Winiecki if you are in need of financial assistance.

Thank you,

Amanda Bequest and Matt Winiecki
Forensic Coaches
bequesta@kmsd.edu and winieckim@kmsd.edu
Please return this form by Monday, November 24th to the KMMS Guidance Office
Students may not be allowed to participate in Forensics if their application is not returned

Student Information

Name:______________________________________Grade:_______
Have you participated in forensics in the past or are you new to forensics?

Do you have a category you are interested in? If you don’t know about the categories, there is an attached document that lists different categories. If you look through those and are still unsure, we can help guide you towards a category on the first day.

Your school email address:_______________________________________

Parent Contact Information:

Parents/Guardian Name:_______________________________________________________
Phone Number  Home__________________________ Cell____________________________
Email Address________________________________________________________________

We need to have one parent judge for every five entries at all of the competitions we will be attending. Please indicate below if you would be willing to be trained. You could do as many or as few meets as you would like or are able. I will contact you with more information if you indicate that you are interested in helping us out.

_____I would be interested in helping out by judging at some or all of the meets.

_____I am not able to help at this time.

Parent’s signature:______________________________________________

_________________________________
Categories:

We have selected 10 categories that we recommend (the starred categories). If you really have an interest in one that is not starred, you can talk to us about it to see if it would be a good fit.

*Humorous Solo: In this category a single student presents a memorized, humorous selection using voice, gestures, movement and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

*Infomercial: In this category one or two students prepare and deliver a short speech that emulates or parodies a television infomercial selling a real or imaginary product or service. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. Props and attire appropriate to the speech should be used. (Time: 2-5 minutes)

*Serious Solo: In this category a single student presents a memorized, serious selection using voice, gestures, movement and facial expression. The material may be in the form of a monologue or a selection that includes any number of characters. Movement is limited only by what is appropriate to the material and style of the presentation. The presentation shall be performed without use of costumes, make-up, special lighting or properties. (Time: 3-8 minutes)

*Informative: In this category, the speaker prepares and presents a brief, well-organized speech which has the primary purpose of informing. This category also allows the student to give an informative biographical speech. A review of a book, movie, computer software, game, or TV program is allowed as long as it is primarily informative in nature. The participant should provide facts and ideas in an interesting and understandable fashion. Direct quotes, statistics, comparisons, analogies, and examples can be used to develop the speech. (Time: 2-4 minutes)

*Prose: A presentation in this category is to be a selection or cutting from prose literature. The selection is to be read, not memorized. The speaker is to interpret the passage using voice, facial expression and gestures. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

*Impromptu Speaking: In the Impromptu Speaking category, the speaker will present an “off the cuff” speech about a common knowledge topic to be selected immediately before speaking. The student will be given two minutes to gather his or her thoughts and to jot down notes if desired. Topics may be given in the form of a word, phrase, statement, or question. The focus will be on the speaker’s ability to think on his/her feet. Sources need not be cited, as topics are within the experience or knowledge of the speaker.

A speech in this category may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. (e.g. If the topic is puppies, a student might give an informative speech about the care of puppies, a persuasive speech about the need for neutering, or an entertaining speech about his own experiences with puppies.) (Time: 2-4 minutes, 2 minutes talking, no grace period.)

*Poetry: A presentation in this category may be a single poem, a cutting from a single poem, or several related poems or cuttings. The material may be original. It must be read and not memorized.

All the skills of reading aloud, including vocal flexibility, clear articulation, and correct pronunciation, as well as the use of pause and rate variation, can be used to interpret a poem and convey its meaning and emotions to the audience. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

*Group Acting: An entry in this category is a presentation by a group of students from two to seven in number. The presentation must be performed memorized by all participants. No scripts or prompting will be allowed. The group presentation is to be given without costumes, make-up, or properties. Movement appropriate to the character and situation is expected and necessary. Primary focus of performers should be on themselves, or each other. Asides to the audience are permissible. (Time: 5-12 minutes)

*Storytelling: The art of storytelling is older than reading, dating back to long before printing was invented, but it is modern too. The storyteller uses vocal variation, gestures, facial expression and physical movement to suggest different characters and character relationships in order to make the story come alive in the mind of the listener. A presentation in this category is to be a narrative told in the third person. Emphasis should be placed on a natural, spontaneous
delivery given in the participant’s own words. If the story does not lend itself to retelling in the student’s own words, it is not an appropriate selection. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

**Special Event:** The challenge in this category is to prepare and deliver a speech that is brief and fits a defined occasion and audience. The tone of the speech should be creative, entertaining and imaginative. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two or three. Props, visual materials and costumes are not only allowed, but encouraged in this category. (Time: 3-6 minutes)

**Oratory:** A presentation in this category will consist of one or more persuasive or inspirational speeches that have been written and/or delivered by some person other than the participant. The speech may be presented from memory, or it may be read from a manuscript. This category should provide opportunities to recreate worthwhile thoughts of others, to learn appreciation of effective organization and phrasing, and to gain experience and training in visible and audible speaking techniques. (Time: 4-8 minutes)

**Persuasive Speech:** Life situations often result in the need to persuade others. We may want to convince other people to believe differently than they do at present or to take a particular action in response to a current situation. We can offer a solution to a problem or perhaps to reinforce and strengthen current attitudes. The Persuasive Speech category allows participants to prepare and deliver such a speech. A good persuasive speech will contain evidence and reasoning, as well as sound emotional appeals. (Time: 3 ½-7 minutes)

**Moments in History:** In this category, the speaker will prepare and present a speech on a historical topic drawn from a designated decade or era. The decade or era will be determined at the beginning of the season and be the same for the entire season. Material and ideas from sources other than just personal opinion should support the ideas presented and must be cited appropriately. One visual aid must be used. The visual aid should support the speech but not dominate it. (Time: 3-6 minutes)

**News Reporting:** In this category one to three students work together to prepare and deliver a TV-like news broadcast. The program will include news, weather, sports and an editorial. Sources of information may include newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and the Internet. The students must give real information that is no more than two weeks old. Students should read from a manuscript for the news and sports. Non-electronic props and visuals may be used, and students may wear appropriate clothing. (Time: 5-10 minutes)

**Demonstration:** A demonstration speech explains how to do something while demonstrating the process at the same time. A presentation in this category may include an individual speaker or a team of two. Materials outside the speaker’s body must be used to enhance the demonstration. Attire appropriate to the presentation is allowed. (Time: 4-8 minutes)