



**Shanley High School**  
St. John Paul II Catholic Schools Network

Michael Breker, Director of Activities  
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To: NDHSAA Board of Directors

From: Michael Breker, Director of Activities, Saint John Paul II Catholic Schools

Regarding: Speech Meet Sanction

Date: September 23rd, 2019

Dear NDHSAA Board of Directors,

Shanley High School is requesting the John Edie Holiday Debates hosted by Blake be a sanctioned event in the eyes of the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

The John Edie Holiday Debates for both Speech and Debate are held December 20<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup> in Blake, Minnesota. It is currently acceptable for North Dakota teams to attend this meet but can only compete in Debate as this is Debate season in North Dakota (Nov 8<sup>th</sup> to Feb 8<sup>th</sup>). Since the Speech season for Class A schools is January 4<sup>th</sup> through mid-April, this event is out-of-season and schools and individuals can therefore not participate in the Speech portion.

Other states have different regulations and dates in regard to speech, debate, and student congress. It is acceptable for Minnesota schools to attend this event and participate in multiple events. The fact that this event is out-of-state also allows our students to compete against a different set of students and judges and, hence, an opportunity to learn and experience new things. This event would also help with value. We have stopped sending programs to this event in recent years as the cost of sending students and coaches to multiple events out-of-state is financially difficult. If this event were sanctioned by the NDHSAA, Shanley High School, along with other North Dakota schools, would use this event to foster an increased level of competition and a unique experience for our students while maintaining a level of fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Breker

*...to inspire exceptional student achievement by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ in an environment guided by the Gospel Spirit, as taught by the Catholic Church*