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# WESTLAKE SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM

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The Westlake Speech and Debate Team has already competed in two tournaments this year and both were incredibly successful.

The first tournament at Hendrickson High School (Hendrickson/Pflugerville Swing) was amazing! As a team, WHS Speech & Debate won a 2<sup>nd</sup> place Sweepstakes Award! This result would not have been possible without the immense success of each of our individuals and teams.

In Public Forum Debate, **Novices Emiliano Castillo and Tian Dong** won the final round of the Pflugerville side of the tournament - a feat that allowed them to move to the Varsity level at their first tournament as a team! **Novices Emma Guan and Teresa Luo** won the final round of the Hendrickson side of the tournament and advanced to the semis at Pflugerville. In varsity action, **Senior Nicolas Ho and Sophomore Jason Luo** won the Hendrickson side of the tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals on the Pflugerville side. **Novice Freshmen Caroline Wehring and Allie Robinson** advanced to the finals at Pflugerville and the Quarterfinals at Hendrickson. **Novice Freshman Jawad Batineh and Novice Sophomore Frank Wei** advanced to the final round at Hendrickson and Quarterfinal at Pflugerville. In varsity, **Seniors Miles Sigel and Michael Dodgin** advanced to the final round at Pflugerville. **Seniors Anisha Reddy and Yasmine Daghestani** advanced to the final round at Hendrickson. **Senior Ali Slimi and Junior Miles Dintzner** advanced to the Semifinal round at both sides of the tournament.

In Lincoln Douglas Debate, **Senior Andrew Lee** advanced to the Semifinal round of the Hendrickson side of the tournament. **Senior Amanda Chen** advanced to the Quarterfinals of at Pflugerville.

In Individual Events, **Junior Maddie Szoo** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Original Oratory in both sides of the tournament, as well as 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> in Program Oral Interpretation in the Pflugerville and Hendrickson sides, respectively.

The team also experienced success at the 30<sup>th</sup> Grapevine Classic! In Public Forum Debate, **Senior Ali Slimi and Junior Miles Dintzner** advanced to the semifinal round, earning a Tournament of Champions bid along the way. This is an incredible result for Ali and Miles, as Grapevine is one of the most competitive tournaments in Texas. In order to qualify for the TOC, Ali and Miles need one more bid. **Senior Nicolas Ho and Sophomore Jason Luo** advanced to the octafinal round. Advancing to the bid round at their first opportunity of the year means that the rest of the PF world needs to look out for Westlake HL. **Junior Preston Williams and Sophomore Xuechen** went 4-1 in preliminary rounds and advanced to the double-octafinal round. Preston and Xuechen compiled the best preliminary record on the team and this result is super solid.

The team is incredibly excited to have had such great results at our first two tournaments of the year!