

GHS Student Recognized At National Forensics Event

Grandview High School sophomore John Wallace was one of only five Missouri students recognized on stage at the 2011 National Forensic League (NFL) Speech/Debate National Tournament held in Dallas, Texas June 13-18. Only students placing in the top six of any event are recognized on stage. Competing against over 575 students from across the country, he received 4th Place in the Supplemental Debate event (also referred to as Parliamentary Debate) held on June 16-17. John is the first student in the history of GHS Debate and Forensics to be recognized on stage at the National Tournament. More than 3,200 students, across the country and as far away as China, participated in the 2011 NFL National Tournament, one of the world's largest academic contests. Top performers take home more than \$200,000 in college scholarships.

Supplemental Debate is a one on one form of debate where students are given a new resolution to debate each round varying from issues like ending oil subsidies, to lifting the debt ceiling, to withdrawing troops from Afghanistan and so on. Students are required to make their arguments using no evidence or cited materials, just logic and common knowledge. Competitors are eliminated after losing two rounds. John competed successfully until Round 12.

The GHS Debate & Forensics team (led by GHS Debate/Forensics Instructor, Ken Yunker) has been represented at each of the last nine NFL National Tournaments (one of only five schools within their qualifying district to achieve this). GHS students have received an award seven times in the past nine years. John is the only GHS student to have finished in the top six.

National competition occurs in ten main events—Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Original Oratory, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, and Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation—as well as seven consolation and supplemental events. The National Forensic League (NFL) not-for-profit honorary society whose mission is to promote high school and middle school speech and debate activities as a means to develop a student's essential life skills and values. Current members include more than 112,000 high school and middle school students, representing more than 2,900 schools nationwide. For more information, visit www.nflonline.org.

