



## Speech & Debate Team Wins Third Consecutive State Championship

University School's speech and debate team defended the team's state title by winning the championship for a third consecutive year. The victory was all the more impressive considering that the 26 qualifiers represented the youngest team University School has ever sent to the state tournament, according to Forensics Head Coach Steven Shappaugh.

"Our coaches encourage us to strive to be better," said junior and state runner-up for humorous interpretation, Rachel Wallack. "University School has had champions in every event, so it encourages the younger members to work and it encourages the team to defend our championship title."

### Individual Student Successes:

<b>Daniel Greene</b>	State Runner-Up, Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking
<b>Brandon Hopen</b>	State Runner-Up, Lincoln Douglas Debate
<b>Rachel Wallack</b>	State Runner-Up, Humorous Interpretation
<b>Grant Besner</b>	State Finalist, Duo Interpretation
<b>Michael Rub</b>	State Finalist, Duo Interpretation
<b>David Branse</b>	State Semifinalist, Lincoln Douglas Debate
<b>Saahil Jain</b>	State Semifinalist, Lincoln Douglas Debate
<b>Samantha Koreman</b>	State Semifinalist, Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking
<b>Kalie Marsicano</b>	State Semifinalist, Original Oratory and Duo Interpretation
<b>Michael Rub</b>	State Semifinalist, Humorous Interpretation
<b>Sarah Julius</b>	State Semifinalist, Duo Interpretation
<b>Grant Ebenger</b>	State Quarterfinalist, Public Forum Debate
<b>Jonathan Stettin</b>	State Quarterfinalist, Public Forum Debate
<b>Marc Geller</b>	State Quarterfinalist, Public Forum Debate
<b>Rohan Rajan</b>	State Quarterfinalist, Public Forum Debate
<b>Jacob Ronkin</b>	State Quarterfinalist, Lincoln Douglas

Sophomore and state runner-up for domestic extemporaneous speaking, Daniel Greene, pointed to another key to the school's depth and ongoing success: "We are focusing more on the team than on individual events so we are well-rounded. That comes from helping each other regardless of what we actually do in speech and debate. We are willing to work one-on-one and have group sessions."

Rachel also commented on the expanded Lower School Junior Debate program and the fact that University School Middle School students competed for the first time last year in the National Championships. "If you start younger, it is easier to reach that high level. It will help our team be strong in every event."