

Northeast Range Junior Chloe Kaufenberg Goes to State Speech Competition

by Northeast Range Staff Writer
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Congratulations to the *Northeast Range Speech Team* on a successful speech season. Northeast Range junior, Chloe Kaufenberg, placed second in the regional section meet and went on to the state competition in Lakeville, Minnesota on April 17, in the category of Serious Interpretation of Poetry. Throughout the 2015 speech season, Kaufenberg maintained a competitive edge by consistently placing second and tying for first at the section meet. The tie was determined by point placement and judge's preference.

"This year was a good season. It was more than I expected," said Kaufenberg, "The trip to state was a great experience." Next season, Kaufenberg is looking at competing in Poetry again and would like to try another category. She usually double enters and competes in two different categories. This increases her chances to win and the speech coach encourages the team to enter into more than one category during the regular season.

There are thirteen events of competition in Minnesota State High School League Sanctioned Speech, ranging from humorous to dramatic, and debate to informative, each category requires a multitude of different skills and abilities. *Northeast Range Speech Team* provides students with opportunities to learn and practice skills that will benefit them not only in school but also in their future as a whole. Students learn valuable lessons in communication, gain confidence and poise, while meeting new people and experiencing life from a new vantage point.

During the 2015 regular speech season, Chloe competed in two categories Poetry and Dramatic Duo. Her Dramatic Duo partner was Northeast Range junior Julia Fontana. The Duo team placed first at the local Ely Speech Meet earlier in the season. Varsity team members, Lukas Morgan and Troy Bissonette, also had a successful year in the category of Dramatic Duo. Morgan and Bissonette placed in the top six steadily during the year. Junior Varsity team members, Laura Ames and Ruthie Morgan, have been shadowing the Varsity Team this year, and will be ready to start competing next year.

The Northeast Range Speech Coach, Jennifer Kaufenberg, is starting a mentoring program next season and hopes to recruit students in grades 5-8 to join the team. New members will be paired with a varsity speakers and have opportunities to compete in local junior speech meets. "These meets also provide opportunities for senior team members, they can be judges at the meets and gain experience on a completely different level," said Mrs. Kaufenberg. Team Captain, Riley Pecha said that the team had a great year and he is looking forward to getting the team ready for the next season. Pecha helps keep the team focused and is an official timer for speech meets. Students in 5-12 grade interested in joining the speech team should talk with a current member or contact Mrs. Kaufenberg. Parents and community members are encouraged to volunteer to help with timing, coaching and mentoring. Anyone interested in sponsoring a Speech Team Member or donating to the Speech Boosters should contact the Northeast Range High School.