Email Update 2

Hello, and thank you for enrolling in the 2021 Mean Green Comet Debate Institute!

Please read this email carefully as it has a lot of information you'll need as camp approaches.

This email will provide you with information about:

1. NET ID Email
2. the technological platforms that students will be using at camp
3. the technological requirements students will need
4. how to access the technological platforms
5. Technical support
6. Orientations
7. First Sessions / Day 1
8. Schedules

NET ID Email

Your NETD is the user identity assigned to you by UTD that is needed to access the MS Team’s platform we use for camp. A previous email detailing the setup process can be found on our website - https://debatecamp.utdallas.edu/update-emails/email1. If you enrolled more than a week ago and have not received your NETID setup instructions contact the office manager, Colin Quin (aqof05@gmail.com). If you enrolled in the last week you should be receiving it soon, not to worry.

Technological Platforms

The MGC will be using Microsoft Teams as our technological platform for daily learning and interaction. Our staff has been trained and using the platform for over a year. Microsoft Teams provides students and staff the ability to interact for lectures, debates, performances and coaching sessions.

Microsoft Teams – Part of our new digital reality is learning to leverage video conferencing tools for competition. Using Microsoft Teams, students will participate in numerous LIVE practice debates, performances and speeches. Students can also record their speeches and send them to staff members for suggestions and critique. Each division will use a mixture of live and recorded practice speeches and performances. Students will be given instruction by their lab leaders on how to access Microsoft Teams.
Technological Requirements

Students attending online sessions at the Mean Green Comet are required to have a computer, camera (external or on their computer), microphone (external or on their computer), and access to reliable internet.

Our staff has been hard at work testing different options and simulating the daily activities that students will have at the MGC. These test and simulations have led us to the following recommendations for internet connections, microphones, speakers and computer setups. Here are their recommendations:

Internet Connection – A wireless connection is possible, but an Ethernet connection provides a much more stable setup. Many newer laptops do not have Ethernet ports, buy you can order an adapter online for a very reasonable price. If a student does not have hardwired connection into a router, the closer the student can move to the router the better. In conclusion, Ethernet connection are preferred but not necessary.

Microphones – A student will need a computer that has a microphone. While most computers have built in microphones, some will require external microphones. Please check to make sure the computer the student will be suing has a microphone. During our test and simulations, we noticed that use of a headset is more ideal. While gamer headsets are the most ideal (range in price from $30-$45) there are plenty of other options you can find for $25 online. AirPods and other earbuds that are designed for phone calls are mediocre. They will get the job done if needed but the clarity and volume is not the best. If you have to use them, we suggest using the microphone on your laptop. Here are two options our staff have used and can be found on Amazon:

- Gamer - Jeecoo Stereo Gaming Headset
- Non-gamer – Logitech USB Headset H390 with Noise Cancelling Mic

Technical Support

It’s important to us that your camp time is spent learning and interacting with our award-winning faculty, and not spent trouble- shooting technical issues. Colin Quinn, the Camp Office Director, will be available from 9am-6pm daily to answer questions or concerns from students or parents. Students will also be able to ask their lab leaders for help about the different platforms.

Starting June 27th, Colin can be reached at (847) 744-0353

Orientation – High School Divisions – REQUIRED

On June 25th at 1:00pm we will be hosting an orientation on ZOOM. This session will provide students with information about their division, answer any general questions students have about the camp and provide them with MGC rules. This is a required session, and every student must attend before they can attend their first day of camp.

https://debatecamp.utdallas.edu/update-emails/email2/makepdf
High School Orientation Meeting Information:
Time: Jun 25, 2021 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 876 2594 4510
Passcode: HSOrient

Orientation – Middle School Divisions – REQUIRED

On June 25th at 11:00am we will be hosting an orientation on ZOOM. This session will provide students with information about their division, answer any general questions students have about the camp and provide them with MGC rules. This is a required session, and every student must attend before they can attend their first day of camp.

Middle School Zoom Meeting Information:
Topic: Middle School Orientation
Time: Jun 25, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 605 276 0849
Passcode: MSOrient

First Sessions / Day 1

The Mean Green Comet Debate Institute has 11 different divisions and the start dates vary. Please see the schedule below for the time and date when your division will have its first online session. The first online session will be hosted on Microsoft Teams. You will be able to access Microsoft Teams with your NetID.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Debate</td>
<td>June 27th</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln-Douglas (LD + Worlds)</td>
<td>June 27th</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Forum (PF + Extemp)</td>
<td>June 27th</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Debate (Cong + Extemp)</td>
<td>July 5th</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Interpretation</td>
<td>July 5(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School – Lincoln-Douglas Elite</td>
<td>July 5(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School – Lincoln-Douglas</td>
<td>July 7(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School – Public Forum</td>
<td>July 7(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extemporaneous Speaking</td>
<td>July 10(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worlds School Debate</td>
<td>July 12(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School – Intro</td>
<td>July 12(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
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**Schedules**

All of the divisions operate on different schedules. You can find division schedules on the MGC webpage for that division. All division schedules will be posted online 1 week prior to the start of the division. If you cannot find the schedule for your division please contact Louis Petit (louiepetit@gmail.com).