

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER INFORMATION

New Trier High School
2020

SPEECH GUIDELINES

Our 2020 Commencement Ceremony, to be held on May 31, 2020, will include one student speech.

Theme: The Inspirational Speech

The purpose of this speech is to connect to graduating seniors and provide them with an opportunity to look ahead. This “forward looking” speech focuses on life beyond New Trier. The speech may not be more than five minutes in length.

Successful speakers are often storytellers, using poignant, funny, surprising, or other emotional examples to connect with their audience. The Commencement Speaker should speak from his/her own New Trier experiences but also make sure to craft a speech that can speak to all students and their families; the successful speech will make every student feel included. Students should make sure to practice their speech aloud before submitting it for consideration, concentrating on delivery as well as content. A particular focus or theme works better than general platitudes. Ted Talks are great examples of short, focused speeches that can appeal to wide audiences.

Please see the attached rubric the committee will use to score each applicant.

Application Process (All applications submitted will be reviewed by the speech committee)

Students interested in submitting a speech, may schedule an optional ten-minute meeting with the Principal to discuss speech parameters.

1. Written speeches are due **April 6** to the Principal’s office room 208 by 3:45 p.m. You may also email your speech to Mrs. Dubravec dubraved@nthsh.net by 3:45 p.m. on **April 6**.
2. Students will be contacted to present their speech with the committee.
3. Final speaker may be asked to provide revisions.
4. Speaker will rehearse speech after the commencement rehearsal.
5. Student may not revise speech after final approval.

2020 Commencement Speaker Rubric

Written Speech Rubric	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Speech Organization <i>The speech has an intro/thesis, conclusion, and supporting paragraphs.</i>				
New Trier Connection <i>The speech emulates New Trier ideals, memories, and spirit.</i>				
Parent Relatability <i>The speech has the potential to engage parents and relatives.</i>				
Student Relatability <i>The speech has the potential to engage students and teens.</i>				
Speech Readiness <i>The speech has the polish to be easily edited or does not require major edits.</i>				
Notes				

Application/Presentation Rubric	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Vocal Delivery <i>The speaker demonstrates adept use of articulation, inflection, and pacing.</i>				
Nonverbal Communication <i>The speaker demonstrates the physical poise, expression, and gravitas.</i>				
Audience Engagement <i>The speaker attempts to/has points that engage the audience.</i>				
Performance Readiness <i>The speaker has the skills to perform and/or to improve their delivery.</i>				
Energy and Enthusiasm <i>The speaker shows positive, energized image.</i>				
Notes				