



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

VOX Knights



Top: Junior high and high school VOX Knights that competed in the October 2017 National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) and National Junior Speech and Debate Association (NJSDA) meet gather with VOX Knights officers and coaches for a group photo.

Right: Elementary VOX Knights that competed in the October 2017 Primary Grade Forensic Competition (PGFC) gather with VOX Knights officers and coaches for a group photo.



"I want to continue to do what I love and love what I do." This simple response explains why Mount Carmel School senior, Monica Usi, has been participating in various speech and debate competitions since the 1st grade, including the Primary Grade Forensic Competition (PGFC), National Junior Speech and Debate Association (NJSDA), National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA), the International Thespian Society (ITS), the Valentine N. Senggebau Poetry Competition, and Mock Trial. For over a decade, Monica has pushed herself because, as she put it, "I enjoy expressing myself through speech, poetry, and debate, and have become a better speaker and a better person along the way."

Monica is not alone in her passion for speech and debate. Over the years, hundreds of Mount Carmel School Knights of all ages have distinguished themselves as accomplished orators who have won countless PGFC, NJSDA, and NSDA 1st place ribbons, seven CNMI Mock Trial Championships, and 18 wins in the annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition. Capitalizing on this impressive track record, this year, speakers and debaters at the school came together to form a new club, VOX Knights.

Taking its name from the Latin word for voice, VOX Knights brings together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions, including NSDA, NJSDA, PGFC, Mock Trial, and ITS. Together, these students have committed themselves to the club's mission to "dicere veritas est iustitia," which in Latin means, "speak truth and justice."

Boasting a membership of over 100 students, VOX Knights is headed by a team of seasoned orators who have competed in virtually all local speech and debate events. The president, Jeff Matthew Melchor, embraces a growth mindset to push himself and push others. "Every year I join, I always have hope that I will succeed. However, every year I failed, it only made me hungrier to be successful." Jeff added, "The reason I join is to prove to myself that I can do it." Jeff's persistence has paid off, earning him and Monica a couple of Mock Trial championships and the privilege of representing the CNMI at the National High School Mock Trial Competitions in Boise, Idaho in 2016 and in Hartford, Connecticut earlier this year.

Helping Jeff is fellow orator Monica, who, although busy in Student Council and the school's Theatre Club, stepped up to serve as the vice president for VOX Knights. When asked why she wanted to lead in that role, Monica answered, "I want to help myself and others become better speakers and better people."

Monica and Jeff are joined by two other seasoned orators, Secretary Kalea Borja and Treasurer Jim Michael Ham, both of whom have achieved distinction in NJSDA and NSDA. In addition to leading VOX Knights, Kalea decided to compete in ITS to "widen my knowledge in theatre and to improve my public speaking skills in a different field." For his part, Jim said he competes "to enhance my speech skills and to improve my vocabulary."

Helping the VOX Knights officers are a group of equally committed coaches and advisers, including Toby

10 Things to Know About Getting Into Your Dream College

by Eric Hoover for The New York Times

ARE YOU A LEGACY? LEADER? ATHLETE? MINORITY? HAVE A 4.0? 1400? HAVE YOU DEMONSTRATED ENOUGH INTEREST? DO YOU PERSEVERE? HA

Admissions is **unfair**

Here's why

ARE YOU LOW INCOME? PLAY THE OBVIOUS GAME? ARE YOU STRATEGIC ENOUGH? ARE YOU GRITTY? PLAY THE OBVIOUS GAME? ARE YOU STRATEGIC ENOUGH? ARE YOU GRITTY? PLAY THE OBVIOUS GAME?

There's no magic formula for getting into a selective college, but over a decade covering admissions for The Chronicle of Higher Education, I've picked up a thing or two. These takeaways, based on hundreds of interviews with admissions deans over the years, may help you navigate the process.

Admissions decisions aren't all about you.

When colleges choose applicants, they're juggling competing goals, like increasing diversity and bringing in more revenue. Admissions officers aren't looking for students who fit just one description – say, those who've earned all A's or won the most awards. So don't take rejection personally.

Grades and test scores still carry the most weight. Colleges often say they want to get to know the real you, but that's probably true only if your academic accomplishments (and the rigor of courses you've taken) pass muster.

You're more than a number. After colleges identify a big batch of students with outstanding credentials, differences among them become more important, admissions deans say. Among some of the attributes they tell me they would like to see evidence of (in essays, extracurricular activities, recommendations) are: leadership, risk taking, emotional intelligence, fire for learning, critical thinking, curiosity, empathy, optimism, grit, perseverance and the ability to overcome obstacles.

Express your authentic self. Overwhelmed by slick, boastful essays, colleges are eager for what they call "authentic" glimpses of applicants – their experiences, passions and goals. Some deans believe they'll get deeper insight through alternative formats like videos, pictures, audio files or documents (an Advanced Placement English paper, maybe). A handful of prestigious schools, including Yale, the University of Chicago, Pomona College, Reed College and the University of Rochester, recently introduced this option. As with essays, too much polish is no good, deans say, so you might think twice about hiring a professional videographer. At Yale, about 400 applicants (out of nearly 33,000) for this year's

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Continued on back

Announcements

Holiday Charity

As we do every year, this year we will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive for non-perishable food items. These items will be collected by each homeroom, presented at our school's Thanksgiving Mass, and donated to Karidat. In addition to the food drive, Student Council will be sponsoring a soup kitchen during the holidays and our honor societies will be spearheading our school's toy drive. More information on these activities will be provided as the holidays approach. We thank you in advance for your generosity and charity.

MCS Theatre Club presents Disney's Mulan Jr.

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club proudly presents DISNEY'S MULAN JR on Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2, on the school grounds in a very special stage designed just for the show. Tickets are \$15.00 for front-row premium seats, \$10.00 for preferred seats, and \$5.00 for general seating. Showtime is 7:00 pm each night. Tickets go on sale in the MCS Business Office on Monday, November 13.

In the Future

Veterans Day Observance

TOMORROW, Friday, November 10 (no classes)

8th Grade Cupcake Gram Freshmen Cookie Gram

Monday, November 13

Sophomore Mini-Carnival

Wednesday, November 15

Senior Movie Night

Friday, November 17

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA Varsity Basketball

TODAY

MCS Girls 2 v ACS @Ada Gym at 3:30 pm

TOMORROW, Friday, November 10

MCS Girls 1 v MBA @Ada Gym at 5:30 pm

MCS Boys v MBA @Ada Gym at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, November 14

MCS Girls 1 v MCS Girls 2 @Ada Gym at 6:30 pm

Thursday, November 16

MCS Girls 2 v MBA @Ada Gym at 4:30 pm

MCS Boys v SIS @Ada Gym at 5:30 pm

Cross Country Finals

Saturday, November 11

Saipan Country Club Golf Course at 7:00 am

ESLR of the Week

#2. Consistently exhibit Catholic attitudes, values and behaviors.

Dream College

continued from front

freshman class sent in something in an alternative format. In at least one case, the submission – a video showing leadership and impact on others – was, the dean told me, a “difference maker.”

Diversity counts. Are you a first-generation or low-income student? Many colleges are trying to increase access, so it can help to emphasize your background – and how your personal story relates to your achievements – in essays and interviews. Admissions officers are thinking harder about socioeconomic context, such as the quality of an applicant's high school, to better understand the opportunities they've had and the challenges they've faced.

But money does matter. At many colleges, financial circumstances comes into play. Being able to pay all or some of the freight is a bonus. And some qualified students of limited means might get rejected for no reason other than lack of money.

Geography is (partly) destiny. Many selective colleges want students from all over, ideally from all 50 states. Last year's presidential election illuminated the urban-rural divide, which some colleges have been trying to bridge by paying closer attention to promising applicants from less-populous areas. Generally, a Northeastern college will look more favorably on an applicant from Montana than an equally strong one from the Northeast.

Legacies aren't a shoo-in. Legacy status certainly helps, but big-name colleges reject plenty of these applicants. Don't assume Mom or Dad's connections alone will get you in.

VOX Knights

continued from front

Smith, Filmah Buenaflor, Criselda Aldan, Grace Rosete, Zita Sablan, Vir Abueme, and Galvin Deleono Guerrero.

So far this year, VOX Knights have already landed several wins in PGFC, NJSDA, NSDA, and ITS. In the October PGFC meet, the following elementary students placed accordingly: Jaze Enzo San Nicholas (1st place Impromptu), Donray Barcinas (2nd place Impromptu, 4th place Readers Forum), Justin Mallari (3rd place Readers Forum), Oscar Buenaflor (3rd place Impromptu), Ayanna Matsumoto (4th place Impromptu), and Ayden Sean Yumul (5th place Impromptu).

In the October NJSDA meet, the following junior high school students placed accordingly: Kyla Monique Cabrera (1st place Impromptu A, 3rd place Poetry Masters C), Jill Anne Mallari (1st place Poetry Masters C, 3rd place Original Oratory), Raesyl Gerard Solis (2nd place Impromptu A, 3rd place Poetry B), Renee Kiser (2nd place Impromptu B), and Hannah Lacap (2nd place, Poetry B).

In the October NSDA meet, the following high school students placed accordingly: Jeff Mathew Melchor (1st place Dramatic Interpretation, 1st place Prose Masters A, and 4th place Impromptu A), Theresa Zheng (1st place Impromptu B, 2nd place Poetry Masters A, 5th place US Extemporaneous), Michelle Palacios (1st place Poetry Masters A), Amy Rose Cabanting (2nd place Dramatic Interpretation, 5th place Poetry Masters A, 5th place Prose Masters A), Monica Usi (2nd place Original Oratory, 5th place Expository), Jonelle Toskas (3rd place Poetry Masters B, 4th place Original Oratory, 4th place Expository), and Jim Michael Ham (4th place Impromptu C).

In the October ITS meet, the following high school students placed accordingly: Jan Bobadilla (1st place Short Film), and Kalea Borja and Alvin Palacios (3rd place Short Film).

Parent Council Corner

1st Annual Turkey Trot Tuesday, November 21

GREAT PRIZES:

Samsung Galaxy Tablet
for Most Cash Collected
Class Prizes:

1st Class: Chicken,
Spaghetti, & Pizza party
2nd Class:
Spaghetti Party
3rd Class: Pizza Party



Pledge forms have been distributed and are due by Friday, November 17.

Do (real) good. A new initiative called “Turning the Tide” urges admissions offices to reward applicants for sustained community service. And some colleges, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are taking a closer look at what applicants have done to help others, be they neighbors or family members. You don't have to fly to Belize to do good (admissions officers are often skeptical of these fleeting trips). Showing up to tutor someone at the library each week might be even more impressive, and rewarding.

Colleges want to be your first choice. About one in five colleges allot “considerable importance” to “demonstrated interest,” whereby applicants convey their willingness to attend the college they're applying to. Open those emails. Connect with admissions officers. Let them know when you visit campus. Only those who are sure about their first choice and don't need to compare financial aid packages should choose the strongest expression of demonstrated interest: applying early decision, which is binding.

PRODUCED BY
Disney
MULAN JR.

Music and Lyrics by
Matthew Wilder and David Zippel,
Stephen Schwartz,
Jeanine Tesori and Alexa Junge

Music Adapted and Arranged and
Additional Music and Lyrics by
Bryan Lousselle

Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by
Patricia Cotter

Based on the 1998 Disney film "Mulan"
and the story "Fa Mulan" by
Robert D. San Souci

Friday, December 1 \$15.00 for premium seats
Saturday, December 2 \$10.00 for preferred seats
7:40 p. m. each night \$5.00 for general seating
Mount Carmel School Campus tickets available at the MCS Business Office

For more information, call 234-6184 or visit
www.mountcarmelsaipan.com

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.