

# Woodland Middle School Wins a National Speech & Debate Association School of Excellence Award!!!



Congrats goes out to the Speech & Debate team who really made a splash at the NSDA National Tournament! Over 180 schools from across the country,

**including five international schools, competed for top honors during the week of competition, held in Dallas, TX this past week. Woodland's own team of eight girls coached by Margaret Hall was among the top winners. These eight students competed with 13 individual entries, winning nine quarterfinal awards, seven semi-final awards and four final awards (top six) in the NATION! Woodland is one of only two middle schools from the state of Tennessee to attend the national competition.**

**First time debaters Riya Narayan and Manavi Bajpai, coached by Ravenwood's own high school national qualifiers Joe Owens and Matthew Goodbred, competed in Public Forum Debate for two full days of matches, making it through all prelim rounds!**

**Triple-threat Caroline Meyer competed in two days of prelims in three events, Humorous Interpretation, Storytelling, and a hilarious 10-minute Duo Interpretation with Ella Miller of "Victor Hugo Middle School presents Les Miserables!"**



**Quarter finalist winners were Chloe Sokolowski in Prose Interpretation, and Fallon O'Donnell in Humorous Interpretation. These girls are ranked among the top 24 in America!**



**Ella Miller made top 12 in the nation and a semi-final win! Natalie Porter also made semi-finalist (top 12) in two events: Poetry & Original Oratory!**

**7<sup>th</sup> grader Kathryn Porter made finals in TWO events, winning 4<sup>th</sup> in Humorous Interpretation and 6<sup>th</sup> in Storytelling....both awards for top 6 in the nation!**



**Finalist Fallon O'Donnell won 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S. for Storytelling with her piece, "My Weird School goes to the Museum".**

**And Natalie Porter won NATIONAL CHAMPION for her Dramatic Interpretation of "always, Patsy Cline". This is the number one spot in America!!!**

**Many thanks to our "Dads" who traveled, Narayan Baharadj and Mijul Bajpai, and to our "Mom Squad" who judged and chaperoned for three days of competition: Kerry Sokolowski, Erin O'Donnell, Tristen Eaves, Jennifer Porter, and Jill Meyer. Thank you's go out to the High School National Qualifiers and top 60 winners from Ravenwood, Sam Anctil and Ansley Rosen, who also judged the middle school competition.**