

The Downers Grove South High School speech team takes a first place Feb. 19 at the Illinois High School Association speech championship.



Photo provided

DG South takes top prize at state

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

DOWNERS GROVE – The Downers Grove South High School Speech Team took home first place at the 2017 Illinois High School Association state speech tournament Feb. 19, according to a Community High School District 99 news release.

The team beat out Wheaton Warrenville South and Prospect high schools for first place in the individual events competition, led by junior Brianna Leys, who won the championship for humorous interpretation.

“Watching the students compete is amazing, and their season-long efforts and determination come shining through,” Principal Ed Schwartz

said in the release.

Senior Beatrice Beirne, who competed in poetry reading, and juniors Jessica Windischman and Jonah Ocutto, a duo competing in dramatic duet acting, each placed second in their respective categories. Senior Grace Ulch scored third place in oratorical declamation and fourth in prose reading, while senior Vanessa Copeland took fourth in both radio speaking and dramatic interpretation. Finally, Junior Hayley DeSilva took fifth in the special occasion speaking category.

Fellow students Lydia Walsh-Rock, Tim Werner and Josh Hernandez also competed for South in the competition.

For information on the program, including video interviews, visit csd88.org.