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 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEDecember 15, 2017 |

Ryle speech and debate students Three-pEAt in duo interpretation

Dobbs and Malatesta take home championship three tournaments in a row

**Union, KY**– Sydney Malatesta and Kayla “Rian” Dobbs have become tournament champions for the third time in a row in duo interpretation, a difficult task in the world of speech and debate. The duo team took home the championship at Danville High School on November 18, Boone County High School on December 6, and most recently at Western Kentucky University on December 9, which hosted 339 entries from 7 different states.

Malatesta also placed 3rd in prose interpretation at the WKU tournament. This caps off a successful first semester for Larry A. Ryle High School’s speech and debate team, with 44 individual awards earned. Dobbs and Malatesta earned bids to both the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions and the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions, elite level competitions to be held in April and May. Next semester they have their eyes set on the state championship in March, and qualifying for the “big two” national tournaments: National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) and National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA).

Both students are seniors at Ryle and four year members of the team. Malatesta is the team’s co-captain and is currently ranked 10th in the state in the NSDA.

Speech and debate is an academic activity comprised of multiple events, each a different form of public speaking and requires a unique skill set and talent. Similar to athletic sports, speech and debate activities are challenging, competitive in nature, and require regular practice, coaching, dedication, and hard work.

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If you would like more information about the speech and debate team at Ryle, please contact Rachel Page at 859-384-5300 or email at Rachel.page@boone.kyschools.us.