

COACH PROFILE

Jan Friedman-Pizzo and Lynn Pizzo

Look Who's
Famous!



► How did you become involved in speech and debate?

Jan: in 1977, I caught the speech and debate bug when I joined the Cherry Creek High School Speech Team in Denver, Colorado. My competitive career was life-changing; I found my passion. After graduation, I started judging and did some assistant coaching. Soon I realized that I wanted to support other teenagers in an activity that I found so rewarding at their age.

Lynn: I got involved in 1989 because of my wife, Jan. I decided to become a coach because I know the value of speaking well and understand that logic is our most important intellectual tool.

► Did you have any speech and debate mentors? If so, who were they, and what did they teach you?

Jan: Speech and debate competitors teach me about perseverance, commitment, loyalty, friendship, and life. Additionally, four individuals are huge influences on my coaching career.

My high school coach, Gary Addington, has been a mentor and supportive friend for more than 35 years. He believed in me as a competitor and after I graduated from college, he gave me the opportunity to be an assistant coach at Cherry Creek. From Gary I learned the

intricacies of managing a team, the importance of giving back, and the value of participation, over winning.

Jane Berry-Eddings of Sprague High School is an exemplary role model. Jane is the director of the Oregon State Speech and Debate Championships. In this capacity, she works hard to demystify the competition, and to make the attending schools feel wanted and important.

South Oregon District Chair Rob Moeny of North Valley High School is a wonderful mentor. He has a calm demeanor and is an effective problem-solver. He engenders a spirit of collaboration and is committed to doing what is right for the competitors.

Finally, the Head Coach of the Butte Falls Team, Marcia Stewart-Warren, taught me about coaching and teaching in a small rural community. She is an exceptionally talented educator who exemplifies the virtues of integrity, dedication, and perseverance.

Lynn: My wife, Jan, showed me the value of competitive speech and debate. Dr. David Frank at the University of Oregon challenged me to articulate in written form how speech and debate applies in the real world. Dr. Kevin Kuswa, currently at Whitman College, taught me about

the great philosophers. Our students constantly provide me with invaluable insight throughout the season.

► Tell us a little about your school and the features that make your program unique.

Jan and Lynn: Butte Falls Charter School is an extremely small school with approximately 70 students, many of whom are living at or below the poverty line. The school is located in a rural Southern Oregon community of fewer than 500 inhabitants. Butte Falls is 30 minutes from the nearest urban area. Our speech program is unique because it is one of only two academic teams available to Butte Falls students. Additionally, we have three coaches who have distinctive perspectives and more than 40 years of coaching experience. The head coach of the program, Marcia Stewart-Warren, started the team more than 15 years ago, adopting us in 2005.

► What challenges do you face as coaches and educators?

Jan and Lynn: One of our biggest challenges is access to the team. We live approximately three hours away from the school; therefore, we have to find creative ways to coach from afar.

Economic constraints significantly limit the competitive opportunities available to the team. Most of our students cannot afford summer