



## **CHSSA Hall of Fame Nominee – Chris Wardner**

Chris Wardner first experienced debate when his English teacher offered extra credit for participating in a debate tournament. After this first experience, Chris was hooked and competed throughout high school. This passion led to a B.A. in Communication Studies from San Jose State University and more than 20 years of teaching.

To share this passion with others, Chris began his coaching career at Pinewood School. A small but comprehensive team, Pinewood was recognized at both the state and national levels. He continued this trend of excellence when he joined Leland High School as a coach in 2007. Ultimately, he guided nine students to the top six at the national tournament, including two national champions and five state champions.

In addition to his accolades as a coach, Chris uplifted others through his public service in forensics. He has been a CHSSA proxy, secured Mission College for the 2016 State Tournament, and served as vice president and co-president for Coast Forensic League. He believes that engagement with others who share his passion for speech and debate has made him a better educator. Chris has taught over 1,200 students in the fundamentals of public speaking and over 200 of his middle school students have participated in high school forensics. Because of Chris, eleven different Coast Forensic League schools have Almaden Country Day School alumni on their teams.

For these reasons and the others that could not fit, the Coast Forensic League supports Chris Warder for induction into the CHSSA Hall of Fame.

