

Speech and Debate Syllabus

Class Schedule

Monday and Wednesday: Student led activities 2:30-3:30 (please check the website regularly for Monday and Wednesday assignments/activities)

Tuesday and Thursday: Class from 2:50-4:30

Friday: Tournament Prep 2:30-4:00.

Most tournaments are held on Saturdays. Some tournaments are both Saturday and Sunday. A complete Schedule will be distributed at the parent workshop which will be held in the school library on Saturday August 29th from 9:00am-11:00am

Course Description

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in public speaking and debate. Students will learn to write, analyze, and deliver speeches of a persuasive, expository and impromptu nature. Students will also develop skills in argumentation and critical questioning and will have the opportunity to compete in a variety of speech and debate competitions.

Beyond providing students the opportunity to improve public speaking skills, this course will also encourage students to develop interpersonal communication skills as they work through problem solving, negotiation and simulation exercises. In addition to regular coursework students will be expected to follow current events closely and will use these events to hone their skills in speaking and argumentation. Students will be expected to become members of the Speech and Debate team and will be required to compete at league tournaments. Some students will qualify to participate in invitational tournaments as well.

Course Objectives

- Understand the difference between persuasive and informative speeches and learn the proper applications of each.
- Present prepared and extemporaneous speeches on a variety of topics.
- Understand the role of the audience as participants, listeners and critics.
- Develop mechanisms for coping with anxiety related to public speaking.
- Understand the basic steps for preparing and presenting a speech from determining the topic to the final delivery.
- Analyze sources in order to determine their credibility and learn to incorporate these sources effectively in prepared and extemporaneous speeches and or debate cases.

Course Outline

Foundations of Public speaking

Understand the importance of public speaking

Determining the right speech for the occasion

The Public speaker's ethical obligations

Introduction to competitive speaking

Introduction to Debate

Building Confidence

- Understanding and managing anxiety
- Professional Conduct

Listening: What speakers should know

- How to keep listeners interested
- Reading nonverbal cues and responding to them
- Incorporating your audience effectively
- Being an active and attentive listener
- The importance of listening in communication

Analyzing your audience

- Situational information
- Demographic information
- Psychological information
- Audience receptivity
- Collecting and analyzing audience information (before and after the speech)

Selecting and researching your topic

- Determining and defining topics
- Preparing outlines
- Gathering evidence
- Avoiding research mistakes and judging source credibility

Supporting your Ideas

- Using explanations, statistics, and instances
- Making comparisons, presenting analogies, drawing conclusions
- Expert Opinions and the skill of interviewing
- Understanding the difference between proof and clarification

Organizing your speeches, cases and rebuttals

- Patterns of organization (topical, chronological, spatial etc)
- Writing a sound body, a captivating introduction, and a memorable conclusion
- Creating notes, storyboards and outlines

Delivering your message

- Appearance, posture, facial expressions and gestures
- Tone, emphasis, and articulation
- Rehearsing and memorizing

Major assignments

Along with weekly readings and class discussion, students will be expected to complete the following major assignment:

- Short impromptu speech: A three to five minute impromptu speech will be given by each member of the class. Topics will be randomly selected.
- Formal extemporaneous speech: Students will have minimal time to prepare a 7-10 minute extemporaneous speech on a topic relating to current events.
- Persuasive Speech: Students will write and deliver a 7-10 minute persuasive speech in class. Students will be assessed on their writing and delivery and will be expected to incorporate the techniques discussed in class including the use of visual aids and evidence.

- Informative speech: Students will write a 7-10 minute informative speech on a topic of their choosing.
- Debate Cases: Students will write affirmative and negative cases for the current debate topic and will participate in impromptu debates (SPAR)
- Students will review and evaluate their classmates' speeches, providing positive feedback and suggestions for improvement.
- Students will prepare and present their speeches and debate cases in competition

Grading System/ Policies

This class is pass/fail. Students who attend practices and tournaments regularly will receive a grade of Pass. Students who are frequently absent or ill prepared for tournaments will receive a no-pass.