

**Course Name:** Debate

**Duration:**  1 Semester  Full Year

**Grade Level:**  9th  10th  11th  12th (check all that apply)

### Are there any prerequisites for the course?

There are no pre-requisites for the course.

### WHAT this course is about:

Debate is about learning how to construct arguments on various topics and look at both sides of any issue put in front of you. The Speech element allows you to give a speech that persuades or informs people about a topic you are passionate about, interpret and present selections from your favorite play or books, look critically at world events and practice making up speeches on the spot.

### WHY take this course:

Speech and Debate is a course that will help you to prepare for life outside of high school. It teaches research skills, critical thinking, time management and how to interact with those that have a different opinion than you. It helps to improve public speaking skills and allows you to hold informed discussions on multiple issues happening in the world.

### WHAT you'll learn:

In speech and debate you will learn research skills, time management and public speaking skills. You will also learn how to construct arguments ahead of time for debates and on the spot as you respond to arguments made by an opponent on the other side of the debate topic. In addition to debate, you will learn how to speak without preparation on a variety of topics and how to present a prepared speech to have an impact on the audience that gets them thinking about the issue or topic you are presenting.

### WHAT you'll do:

You will spend the year working on one debate style where the topic will change every two months. This allows you to continue to hone your research skills and continue to interact with multiple topics and people that are going to think differently about the arguments that can be made. On the speech side of things, you will prepare your speech and then work on memorization and blocking in order to really bring the piece to life and leave a lasting impression. If you do an unprepared speech type, you'll be working on presentation skills throughout the year so that next time someone asks you to talk about a topic out of the blue you can do so in a composed manner.

### WHERE this could take you:

This course provides a great foundation for the future as you can confidently take your next steps knowing that you can tackle research efficiently, present yourself well and speak with confidence in front of large groups. There are also several debate scholarships available for college and many opportunities to use skills learned in debate in every day life.

**OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)**