

Debate

Two-Year Commitment

Controversial issues arise in aspects of personal, social, public, and professional life in modern society. Debate and argumentation are widely used to make decisions and reduce conflict. Students who develop skills in argumentation and debate become interested in current issues, develop sound critical thinking, and sharpen communication skills. They acquire life-long skills for intelligently approaching controversial issues and clashes of opinion.

7th graders must commit to two years obligation of taking this class. The debate coach may move the student out, if it is not a good fit for the student.

All students are required to compete at the scheduled competitions throughout the school year. This is a major grade. Debaters must check the competition schedule before obligating themselves to other activities. If a tournament is missed for whatever reason, the student must make this tournament up. This will be the responsibility of the student and parent.

Students must apply for this class. The criteria for the interview are based on discipline, attendance, grades (85 overall average), and a teacher recommendation. The student will be contacted to schedule an interview at Knox JHS in room 302 or on Zoom. A parent must be present at the interview. If the student does not meet the standards of attendance, grades, discipline, teacher evaluation, there will not be an interview.

Concepts Covered

1. Role in Society. The student examines the historical and contemporary contributions of debate in decision-making and democratic process.
2. Analysis of issues. The student analyzes controversial issues.
3. Propositions of value. The student develops and demonstrates skills for debating propositions of value.
4. Propositions of policy. The student develops and demonstrates skills for debating propositions of policy.
5. Logic. The student applies critical thinking, logic, and reasoning in debate.
6. Proof. The student utilizes research and proof in debate.
7. Case Construction. The student identifies and applies the basic concepts of debate case construction.
8. Refutation. The student identifies and applies the basic concepts of argumentation and refutation.
9. Delivery. The student uses effective communication skills in debating.
10. Evaluation. The student evaluates and critiques debates.
11. Listening. The student sharpens listening skills and will flow debates.
12. Responsibility. The student must commit to the standard of

- excellence maintained for this debate team.
13. Team Player. The debaters are part of a team and are expected to support the team.

Debate Competitions

Students will participate in one debate form.

Lincoln Douglas Debate (1 person debate – Value Debate)
Student Congress (legislative debating of a proposed bill)
Public Forum - (2-person team debate – Persuasion – Logic)

Students will also compete in at least one Individual Event (IE).

Extemporaneous speaking
Original Oratory
Impromptu Speaking
Oral Interpretation
Theatre Events

Most tournaments occur on Saturdays, which take the entire day. Some take place on a Friday and Saturday. Parents are responsible for their child's transportation and entry fees for each tournament. The fees are typically \$10.00 - \$25.00 for debates and \$6.00 - \$8.00 for IE's. We may have one bus trip to a tournament, this will be at the student's expense, typical \$25.00 each.

If a student misses a tournament, due to illness or excused absence, the student must make the tournament on their own. This must be done under the parent's supervision...only one allowed per year.

The tournaments are selected at the onset of the school year. Debaters must opt out of participating in activities that conflict with Debate tournaments. This is a class requirement and a major grade is given for the competition. If a student misses more than one tournament, they may be moved out of the class.

Debaters will compete at: UIL District Meet, State Middle School Tournament and if available one invitation meet per semester.

Mandatory Materials expected are:

Black Accordion Folder
Two Contrasting Colored Pens (Black and Red)
Timer – students may use their phones
Laptops – optional – We have lockers in my classroom and the Students may use them to lock up their laptops. They must bring their own lock.

Fees: There will be a \$25.00 fee to help with the cost of briefs and resources used to build debate cases.