Legacy High School

Debate Team – Syllabus, Rules, and Expectations

Debate Coach: Howard Ritz School Phone: (917)299-1100 Cell Phone: (940) 782-8968

Email: howardritz@misdmail.org

Inro To Debate and Debate I,II, III will develop the student’s research skills, organization of information, and effective use of materials as applied in various forms of debate and other competitive speaking. The student will become proficient in the elementary processes of logic, reasoning, and critical thinking.

**INTRODUCTION TO DEBATE Placement: 9-12**

Prerequisite: None Credits: 1 This is a Full YEAR Course and students are expected to be enrolled for both the fall and spring semesters.

This course is for students interested in developing their informative and persuasive speaking skills to be used in classroom debate and speeches. The student will learn about the basic theories of the different debate styles with the potential of advancement to the competitive debate team. Since the purpose of this course is to prepare students for the Varsity Competitive Debate team, students will be required to attend at least one competitive debate tournament each month. In the event a student cannot participate in one of the scheduled weekend debate tournaments they will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment upon receipt of a written request for such from their parent or guardian. (tournament schedule can be viewed at [www.legacydebate.weebly.com](http://www.legacydebate.weebly.com) ) In order to customize instruction and utilize students’ talents and focus on their particular needs in a student centered environment, students will be given individualized assignments from time to time to fit their particular needs and position on the debate team.

**COMPETITIVE DEBATE Placement: 10-12**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Debate & **Student Application** Credits: 1-6

This course offers opportunities to continue skill development, critical analysis, and effective delivery techniques formed in Introduction to Debate. Activities include the Lincoln-Douglas and Cross Examination debates. Students will be expected to enroll in the debate classes for both the fall and the spring terms and to participate in debate tournaments throughout the year ( at least one tournament per month). Credit will be given as follows: 1st year Public Speaking I/Debate I, 2nd year Public Speaking II/Debate II, 3rd year Public Speaking III/Debate III.

Grades will be calculated in two major categories with sub categories.

Daily Work = 60%

Includes: Classroom Participation, Brainstorming Activities, Current Event Articles, Quizzes, Notes, Flow sheets from Classroom and tournament debates, rough drafts of speeches, debates, and other presentation notes, Ballot sheets properly filled out when acting as a debate judge in class. Credit will be given for After School Practice Meetings on Thursdays. (Make sure you have a record of your attendance each time you attend a practice after school. Other assignments as directed by the instructor.

Major Grades = 40%

Tournament participation, Debate presentations in and out of class, Organization and Completeness of researched files and folders, Major Tests, projects, Topic Analysis Presentations, Philosophy and other major classroom presentations.

The course will be teaching the following concepts:

1. Extemporaneous Speaking (Persuasive and Informative)
2. Cross Examination Debate
3. Lincoln Douglas Debate
4. Current Events in the News around the world
5. Other topics of student interest (Philosophy, Prose/Poetry, Original Oratory)

**Make-Up & Late Work Policy:**

It is the **STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY** to inquire about, complete, and return any missed assignments when absent. Students have **ONE** class period to make-up work for each (excused) day absent.

If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, that assignment is due at the beginning of the first day the student returns to class. Quizzes and tests must be made up after school, or at another time approved by the teacher. However, I will not write a pass for students to leave other classes to complete missing assignments.

I expect students to submit all work at the designated time. If a student fails to do so, late work will be accepted no more than **ONE CALENDAR DAY** after the original due date. However, students will incur a 20 point deduction. Students who fail to turn in assignments will be asked to sign a paper stating so for record keeping purposes. If a student refuses to sign it, I will make a note of that as well.

Cheating Policy- **ZERO TOLERANCE!!!**

Academic dishonesty results in a zero for the assignment for all participants. Parents will be notified.

**Test Retakes**

Students will have the opportunity to retake tests for a maximum of 70% of the original score possible. However, this privilege will only be extended to students who attend tutorials prior to the retake.

Participation Grades

This is a communication course, so students are expected to be fully engaged and participating at all times. Participation grades will be taken at the teacher’s discretion, as students should always put forth an effort to take an active role in their learning and in this class.

**Tutorials**

Tutorials are offered every **Tuesday and Wednesday until 4:00 p.m. by appointment only**. Students should arrive before 3 p.m. in order not to forfeit their time and have to reschedule. Debate Practice is every Thursday at 3pm until 4pm or however long students require additional preparation for tournaments.

**Expectations:**

Students are expected to abide by the rules stated in the student handbook from the moment they enter the classroom until they leave.

Dress code – No sagging, wearing hats or sunglasses, revealing or inappropriate attire. Dress Professionally especially for competition in and out of class. Business attire is required for all students competing outside of class. (Business Ladies: dresses or dress slacks and blouse/ (jacket preferred) Young Men: dress shirt and tie, dress slacks, shoes, (Jacket preferred)

**Electronic device policies will be strictly enforced!** Cell phones, mp3 players, cameras, video games, etc. are not permitted in instructional areas. The first time a student is caught with an electronic device it will be collected and kept at the teacher’s desk, and released to the student with a warning at the end of class. The second offense will result in the device being handed over to the proper assistant principal according to the Student Handbook. Students who refuse to give up their device will be removed from class and given a ‘zero’ for any work assigned that day. MISD IPADS are to be used only for instructional use and unauthorized use during class time will result in Disciplinary actions as well as a zero for that day’s work.

Continues on next page

Follow directions the first time they are given.

Come to class prepared with all necessary and required materials…ready to learn!

Treat everyone (including yourselves) with **Respect.**

**Consequences for Minor offenses (Class Disruption will result in immediate referral to office:**

1st Offense- Warning/ Conference with student

2nd Offense- Parent Notification and teacher issued detention

3rd Offense- Parent Notification and teacher issued detention

4th Offense- Parent Notification and Office Referral

**Encouragements:**

Verbal Praise

Positive email or phone call home

Extra points/ Trophies/and yes you can even earn a Letter Jacket in Debate. Paid trips to qualifying tournments.

Requirements for the Class:

1. This is a “No Hate” zone. Any conduct or activity reasonably considered racist, gendered/sexist, or religious persecution of any kind will NOT be tolerated and may result in referral to the office and possible dismissal from the debate class.
2. Students must attend and participate in no less than 1 tournament per month.

\*Please note that some subjects may arise in class of a sensitive nature. It is not my intent or the intent of Legacy High School to persuade, change, ridicule, or change students’ belief systems. If these subjects arise in an educational manner it will strictly be to challenge the logic, reasoning, and thinking behind these matters in order to properly defend them on both sides of the argument. \* Our goal is not to teach students “What to Think” but “How to Think Properly and Critically”

**Return this formed signed by you and your parent**

**I have read and understand the syllabus, rules, and expectations of Legacy High School Debate Class. I am committed to making myself as well as those who have invested in my success and life proud of my behavior as well as my accomplishments and to comply with the expectations stated herein.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Printed Student’s Name Printed Parent’s Name Witnessing Signature**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Student Signature of Parent Witnessing Signature**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Signature Date of Signature**

**Debate Syllabus Addendum**

Materials Needed:

For Daily Class (have here ASAP (bring to class by September 3)

and EVERY day you are a debater at LHS)

* 1. Large spiral bound notebook
	2. Black & Red pens
	3. 3 legal pads (white or yellow, letter or legal)
	4. Several pens (multiple colors – at least 2 Black and Red) VERY FINE point.
	5. Yellow highlighters
	6. 1 digital timer with count up/count down. Can use IPad or IPhone App)
	7. Flash drive (minimum 4gb)
	8. Email account to access teacher’s online DropBox account.
	9. Optional: Laptop computer or a device that can store information on its hard drive or accessible flashdrive.

*MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR NAME BOLDLY & PERMANENTLY ON EVERYTHING!*

Requirements for the Class:

1. This is a “No Hate” zone. Any conduct or activity reasonably considered racist, gendered/sexist, heterosexist, or religious persecution of any kind will NOT be tolerated and may result in referral to the office and possible dismissal from the debate class.
2. Dishonesty, cheating, lying, vulgarity will NOT be tolerated.
3. Varsity Students must attend and participate in no less than 1 tournament per month.
4. DO NOT MAKE APPOINTMENTS DURING CLASS TIME OR PRACTICE DAYS! PLAN AHEAD!
5. Each Debate student will work 8 hours of the Uil Academic Invitational Tournament on February 1, 2014
6. Students will be required to obtain at least 3 judges to assist us for our debate tournaments throughout the year, especially the Uil Academic Tournament on February 1, 2014
7. Students will participate in all fund raising activities for the team
8. TARDY POLICY – will be strictly enforced.
9. You will not talk while others have permission to talk
10. You will complete assignments on time
11. You will follow the rules and expectations (including the dress code) of the Legacy High School Debate Team
12. You will bring materials to class daily
13. You will respect and protect the rights, property, body, and dignity of others.