

WELCOME TO DEBATE !!

Welcome to Intro to Speech and Debate. Round Rock High School Speech and Debate has existed since the 1970's and during that time has qualified numerous students to the state and national level contests. We take seriously the job of continuing the highest level of success for this program. In this course, students will learn about the major tournament events, and practice them in class. Tournament participation is strongly encouraged. If a student would like to join the team, the Debate Handbook is available on Ms. Nichols' website for review.

Cara Beth Nichols, Round Rock High School, Director of Forensics

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School Address: Round Rock HS Debate

201 Deep Wood Drive, Round Rock, TX 78681

Team Website: nicholshistory.weebly.com

Office Hours: 7:15-9 am, M-F

Remind Text Message

[Intro Class](#)

Text to: 81010

Message: @ddebabies

Why Speech and Debate?

The possibilities are limitless when you challenge yourself to engage with the world. Throughout the course of many academic pursuits the ability and expertise gained through forensic competitions is lifelong and everlasting. John Sexton, President of NYU Law, recently, said 95% of what I know, today, is because of high school forensics. Improved cognitive function and interpersonal communication skills are just a couple of the reasons to try speech and debate, but beyond the academic advantages forensic [speech and debate] is a family of highly motivated and supportive individuals. Travel is a unique educational tool and one of hundreds of ways to learn about the world, but with guided practice, family and community support and a positive and safe classroom environment, individuals seek to learn from others and the rewards are exponentially greater over time. In the recent Forbes list of the *30 under 30*, a periodic evaluation of rising stars in fields from engineering to architects to marketing managers and clothing designer, of the 30 listed, 27 indicating having been involved in high school speech and debate. This is more than an activity that will help increase test scores and college admissions, while rigor may have that effect, this activity is a multifaceted life-building toolkit in preparation for new challenges and unforeseen dilemmas. The extensive research evidence is readily available, but please ask if you would like to see some examples of the studies and research articles.

What skills will I learn through speech and debate?

Round Rock HS and Round Rock ISD have a history of success in speech and debate competition, and you will learn a great deal by being a part of our program. This co-curricular activity helps develop skills in presentation, research, problem solving, writing, critical thinking, social/political awareness, and more. Students who participate in speech and debate learn to confront the challenges associated with speaking on difficult globally significant issues. More than anything, former students treasure the lifelong relationships they build through participation.

Grading Policy: Six weeks grades are calculated according to the following:

40% Summative Exam Grades: These can include, but are not limited to, Multiple Choice exams, Short Answer Questions, projects, and public speaking presentations. Summative assessments will be cumulative.

60% Formative Grades: These include, but are not limited to, Current Events warm up, Current Events quizzes, weekly extemp files, homework, and participation.

- **HOMEWORK**

- Practice! Practice! Practice! Students are strongly encouraged to enter tournaments.
- Students may compete at one tournament their novice year without paying Debate Team dues.
- For speeches and projects, students are expected to spend time outside of class researching and writing.
- Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to read the news on a daily basis.

Supplies: Students need to bring the following to class each day: charged chromebook or personal device, spiral notebooks or notebook paper, highlighter, pencil/pen. Donations of kleenex and hand sanitizer are appreciated.

Quiz Corrections: *If the student homework completed “on time”,* the student may complete quiz corrections to receive **half-credit back** for each question missed regardless of original grade.

- No on-time work, no corrections. There is a one week window for completing quiz corrections. *If you did not turn in your homework the day of the quiz but complete it within that week, you may do quiz corrections.*
- If your original was a 90, you had your homework and come in to complete quiz corrections, your quiz grade will be bumped to 95. 80% -> 90, 70->85, 60-> 80, 50 ->75, 40 ->70, 30 ->65, 20 ->60, 10 -> 55, & if a zero, corrections can bring it to a 50.

Exam Corrections/Retakes: Per District policy, if a student makes less than a 70% on an summative assignment(exam), students may be allowed to remediate with their teacher in an attempt to recover their to a maximum of a 70.

Absences: IF you miss class on a day that a test or quiz has been administered, expect to take it the next day you come to class. If it is discovered that you have skipped on a test day- you get a ZERO on the test. I randomly check on absences – so don’t skip. You must always check my website for homework assignments and anything else you might need to know.

Computer Usage: Students are provided laptop computers. Students will use these computers at various times in class throughout the year. Laptops are to be used for learning purposes only. Should a laptop be used for reasons other than the assigned instructional purpose, the student may lose privileges for the day or longer. Further consequences may be assigned should the student continue to abuse these privileges. Teachers will monitor usage throughout the classroom.



Intro to Debate Course Syllabus
Round Rock High School
2018-2019

****Please return this sheet to Ms. Nichols****

Student Printed Name: _____

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Telephone Number: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

I have read and understand the contents of **Round Rock High School's Intro to Debate Course Syllabus**. A copy of this document is also available Ms. Nichols' website for your review. Students and parents will be made aware of any significant changes prior to implementation.

Student signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Today's Date _____