



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Speech & Debate

Mrs. Kassidy Hutchison

Teacher Contact Information	Email: kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us Phone: 256-430-0001
Course Description	Fee: \$10 Prerequisite: Introduction to Public Speaking This course is designed to develop student competency in research, writing, speech, and debate skills. Discussions over the course of the term will include current events, historical legal cases and classic debate topics. Students will engage in various critical thinking activities including debates, speeches, presentations, and analytical writing. This course integrates listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Rudimentary research skills will be introduced and word processing skills taught. This course will cover a variety of speech and debate events as outlined by the National Speech and Debate Association such as, but not limited to, Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, Public Forum, Congressional Debate, and Speech events.
Course Objectives	Students will develop a foundation of critical thinking, research, and effective speaking skills that transpose well beyond a classroom. Students will practice and model active listening, concise note-taking, quick and critical thinking, written and oral communication skills, sportsmanship, the ability to take constructive criticism, how to effectively research and cite credible sources, as well as how to work within structure and tight time constraints.
Course Outline	Unit 1 (Week 1): Debate Foundations / Effective Speaking / Impromptu Speaking Unit 2 (Week 2): Flowing / Impromptu Speech Unit 3 (Week 3): Evidence & Research / MLA Citations Unit 4 (Week 4): Refutation / Debate Strategies Unit 5 (Week 5): Constructing the Case Outline Unit 6 (Week 6): Cross-Examination Unit 7 (Weeks 7-9): Final Preparation and Final Debate Rounds <i>*These units may run in tandem or overlap with one another as needed. There will be many smaller debate and speaking activities woven in each week to prepare students for their final debates. This course outline is subject to change at any time with or without notice.</i>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. 3. Bring your school-issued Chromebook (fully charged) and the charger daily. Keep all personal electronic devices (cell phones, headphones, tablets, etc.) stored in the backpack on silent during class. 4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 5. Listen and follow directions. 6. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology. 7. Follow all school rules. 8. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.

Progressive Discipline <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral
Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation) Writing may be assessed using Turnitin.com
Late Work Policy	10% will be deducted off the assignment per week late. After three weeks, the maximum grade a student can receive on a late assignment is 65%.
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school per excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. After the three day window for make-up work, the late work policy will become applicable. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).
Materials & Supplies	<u><i>2022-2023 LMS Supply List</i></u>
Homework	Students will not be assigned work to complete outside of the class block. The only way students will have homework is if they do not complete their classwork within the class block. Students will be required to review and study for major assignments at home.

This syllabus is subject to change at teacher discretion with or without notice.

Speech & Debate

Mrs. Hutchison 2022-2023

kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Please use the QR code to sign up for my weekly distribution list emails! →



Welcome to Speech and Debate! We are going to have a great year together.

Please make sure you and a parent/guardian carefully read over the syllabus and expectations for this class. Additionally, make sure your parent/guardian completes the **Distribution List Sign Up** which can be accessed through the QR code above or my teacher webpage on the LMS website. Once you have finished, have your parent/guardian complete this page so you can return it to class by Monday, 8/8. Thank you!

Student Last Name (Please print)	
Student First Name (Please print)	

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)	
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Syllabus Acknowledgement

Please sign below to acknowledge the following:

I have read and understand Mrs. Hutchison's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.

As a **student**, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines.

As a **parent**, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child.

As a student , I have read and understand Mrs. Hutchison's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.	(Student Sign Here)
As a parent , I have read and understand Mrs. Hutchison's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.	(Parent/Guardian Sign Here)