

# *Welcome to Speech & Debate Class!*

Dear Liberty Middle School Parents,

August 3, 2020

My name is Mrs. Sarah Pepper and this is my second year at Liberty. I taught 9th - 12th grade English (and a variety of Communications-related electives, including Speech & Debate) with Huntsville City Schools for six years. My degree is originally in Advertising and Public Relations, but my trajectory was quickly redirected toward Education. I was brought to Huntsville with Teach for America, and decided quickly into my two-year commitment that I wanted to teach long-term. I am so thankful I did, and haven't looked back since.

My philosophy on education has not once wavered, and I have found immense success each year in the classroom with this one thing: relationships are key. Despite this year beginning virtually, this principle still stands. Building a positive relationship with your student is my number one goal. If they feel welcome, secure, and confident to succeed in the classroom, they will. Educating your child will be a team effort, and I look forward to supporting each other on this front.

In this nine-week course, there will be a strong emphasis on speaking, listening, writing, and research that is designed to build from the foundation received in Public Speaking. Students will gain critical thinking skills and confidence through a variety of speaking and listening activities. These are implemented to help students communicate more effectively, and more persuasively. This course will teach students a brief introduction to formal research and citation, as well as construct formal arguments, or cases. We will begin with mastering classroom policies and procedures, which will also include familiarizing students with our new virtual platform, Schoology.

Please read the attached classroom policies and procedures on our class syllabus. When completing the Distribution List Sign-Up, there is an "acknowledgement form" included to count as receipt of our classroom expectations. (LMS Website → Our Team → Teachers → Sarah Pepper → Distribution List Sign-Up). I look forward to working with your child this year. Please feel free to contact me at any time: sbpepper@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Kindly allow at least 24-48 hours for responses (perhaps longer over weekends and holidays). Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as they arise.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Pepper

8th Grade Language Arts

Speech & Debate

Liberty Middle School