Course Description

This course introduces students to the art and skill of public speaking and debate. Students enter at varying levels of ability and experience, and their techniques and skills are honed throughout the year through a variety of exercises and study. Actual speaking and debating are, of course, required, but, additionally, students are taught a number of rhetorical devices, logical argument, and fallacies. Additionally, students participate in certain “real-life” projects that involve learning and practicing the rudiments of parliamentary procedure, and courtroom trial procedure.

In order to improve their speaking and debating abilities, students are expected each semester to choose at least two competition events to practice and polish for presentation for a final performance grade. These competition events are events recognized by the National Speech and Debate Organization. Some of the events include: Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Duo Acting, Humorous Interpretation, Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, and others.

Though not required, students are encouraged to compete in local and regional speech and debate contests held at other high schools. Many of these off-campus competitions are nationally sanctioned, so motivated students have the opportunity to work toward winning a place at national competition.

Materials Needed

* Blue and/or black pens
* A spiral binder

Homework

There is minimal required homework, though students are encouraged to allot an average of five to ten minutes an evening practicing their chosen presentation events.

Though not required, students often do become motivated to spend out-of-class time researching debate topics, reading in order to find presentation pieces for class, and practicing their classroom presentations.

Teamwork

If a student is a member of a team engaged in a long-term activity, such as debate or duo-acting, the expectation is that the student understands the importance of working together in preparation and practice. On a team, the responsibilities are shared, along with the goal of supporting your teammates in delivering a quality performance. In short: honor appointment and practice dates.

Due Dates and Late Work

Performances and assignments are due on the deadline provided by the teachers. Late work is not acceptable, especially since considerable class time is allotted for preparation. You, the student, are responsible for any material covered during an absence; this includes any assignments given, pop quizzes, impromptu performances, etc. It is your responsibility to get any notes from another student, and then meet with the teachers. You must do this the day you return to school. If you miss an in-class assignment, performance, etc., you must make it up within one week of your absence. All school policies for make-up work apply.
Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is not just an educational matter but a moral one as well. A major aspect of a classical education is instruction on growing in character and our goal of becoming a virtuous person. With this in mind, BFHS takes very seriously the willful misrepresentation of another student’s work as their own. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (intentional or unintentional), cheating on exams, and copying the work of other students. Every effort will be made by the teacher to discern intentional plagiarism from unintentional plagiarism. In the case of the latter, remediation will take place between student and teacher in order to review how to properly cite others’ work. This is not a punitive measure, rather an opportunity for the student to understand and correct his/her citation skills. On the other hand, intentional plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with severely, including a zero on the assignment, suspension, removal from extracurricular activities or leadership positions held in the school and, in the case of repeat offenders, expulsion.

Speech and Debate Grade Weights

30% Participation/Scholarship
20% Quarter Performance
20% Performance/Presentation Prep
30% Performance and Presentation

1st & 3rd Quarter Grades will only consist of the grade weights above (100%)
1st & 2nd Semester Grades will consist of the grade weights above (80%) and a midterm/final (20%)

Grading

90-100% A
80-89% B
70-79% C
60-69% D

59% below F

Rules

1. Be in your seat with all necessary materials when the bell rings
2. Listen to your teacher and classmates respectfully
3. Be as respectful when others are speaking and performing as you would want them to be of you.
4. Be responsible for yourself and for our classroom

Consequences

1st Warning, verbal warning
2nd Warning, verbal warning, participation points lost
*Students who behave inappropriately will get 2 warnings and, if the behavior continues, will be issued an after school detention and/or another consequence at the teacher’s discretion
**Severe behavior will be referred to the principal’s office immediately.
Speech and Debate Syllabus

Ms, Cheyenne Trimels
ctrimels@bfcsaz.com
www.bfhstrimels.weebly.com

Mr. David Floyd
dfloyd@bfcsaz.com
www.bfhsfloyd.weebly.com

Your signature below attests that you have read and understood the course requirements, procedures, and policies. Please remove this page, and both student and parent sign. Student please return the form with signatures to Mr. Floyd and Ms. Trimels by Friday, July 2th.

STUDENT NAME _______________________________________   Period _________

STUDENT SIGNATURE__________________________________   Date __________

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE ________________________   Date __________

PARENT EMAIL _________________________ PHONE # (_____ )___________