

8th Grade Speech and Debate

Dr. McNeill

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Course Welcome/Intro

Welcome to 7th Grade Speech and Debate. I am glad you are here. I am available for extra help before or after school, by appointment, and via email evenings or weekends.

Required Course Materials

Students are required to bring to every class period:

- Fully-charged Chromebook
- Case-It Binder with pens, pencils, highlighters, loose-leaf paper
- Independent reading novel If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

Classroom Expectations

Cell phones are not used in class. Cell phones should be kept in case it binder, locker, or at home.

Larsen Middle School Expectations

- Live Respectfully
- Make Responsible Choices
- Safety First

Reassessment Policy

Students may reassess prior to the next Summative Assessment after completing a Request for Reassessment Form and scheduling the time for reassessment outside of class time. Please Note: The reassessment score will always replace the original assessment score, whether higher or lower.

Other Classroom Policies Grade Calculations:

- Levels of mastery within a strand for English Language Arts will be calculated using Mean (average).
- Reassessment scores will automatically replace the previous score, even if it is lower.
- Only Summative Assessment scores will count toward an overall grade calculation
- Practice work is expected to be completed, and may be recorded in Infinite Campus as feedback and as a communication tool for students and parents. Graded practice scores will be entered into Infinite Campus as a "+" (understand it!) "/" (almost have it!) or "-" (don't have it yet!). Any assignments may also be marked in Infinite Campus as "M" (missing), "I" (incomplete), "T" (turned in), or "X" (exempt).

Larsen Middle School • 2019-2020
Parent Signature Form

8th Grade Speech and Debate
Mrs. McNeill

Please share with your parents or guardians and have this signed and returned by

_____.

Students:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus and agree to bring my best attitude and effort to this class every day.

Parents/Guardians:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus.

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Parent/Guardian preferred language: _____

How would you prefer to be contacted? (You may select multiple methods)

_____ Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ Email

1. What is the best time of day to reach you by phone?

2. Is there anything I should know about your student's learning process?

Speech and Debate

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is comprised of 2, 1 semester courses.

Speech: This course is meant to build on the skills learned in the 7th grade Speech/Debate class. Students will continue to strengthen their public speaking skills in a supportive setting and will be challenged to practice presenting to a variety of live audiences. In addition to public speaking, additional performance opportunities may be provided. Students will analyze the role of communication in our lives, the communication models, spatial relationships, delivery styles, and the effectiveness of language, gestures, organization techniques and the use of technology to enhance one's public message.

Debate: This course is recommended for the student who has studied and practiced basic presentation and research skills in 7th grade Debate, and to build on more advanced debate and group discussion skills. These skills include advanced public speaking and research. Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills along with logic and impromptu speaking techniques.

Students will engage in class discussion, group work, research, practice with various individual and group presentation and debate formats/styles, note-taking, peer critiques, and development of visuals.

DISTRICT RESOURCES

- District Website: <https://www.u-46.org/Page/10320>
- Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class on a daily basis. If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Infinite Campus is used to communicate students' coursework and academic progress in the course. The semester letter grade will be informed by the student's learning proficiencies across all grading categories throughout the semester. An in-progress semester letter grade for the course will be calculated within Infinite Campus by averaging each of the grading categories.

SPECIFIC COURSE ACTIVITIES

In order to demonstrate proficiency in course standards, students will need to:

1. Participate in class activities (take notes, contribute to group work, complete in-class tasks, ask questions, etc.)
2. Complete assigned homework as needed in order to practice and improve learning.
3. Use assessments to track learning progress and identify strengths and weaknesses with the course content and complete outside practice in activities when necessary.
4. Complete all assessments
5. Create and follow through on a plan of improvement, when demonstrating little to no understanding of learning

MAKEUP POLICY

Assessments that are missed will be marked “missing” or “not evaluated” in the grade book until completed. Students have five school attendance days to complete a missed assessment. Incomplete assessments result in a lack of evidence of student’s understanding and may cause a student to fail.

REASSESSMENTS

Students will have multiple assessment opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of achievement on any assessment that is used to determine an overall proficiency and grade. The opportunities may be initiated by the instructor or the student, but always at the discretion of the teacher. Reassessments must be completed within a reasonable time of the original assessment being returned to the student.

LATE WORK

Any late work that a student may have must be turned in within the reassessment window. Once the reassessment window is closed, the assessment will no longer be accepted.

EXTRA CREDIT AND BONUS POINTS

To ensure that grades reflect progress toward and achievement of the standards, giving extra credit points or bonus points will not occur in this class. The vision of U-46 is that behavior/participation will be reported separately from academic achievement and is not a component of a student’s academic grade.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM POLICY

Academic dishonesty refers to cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or otherwise representing the work of others as one’s own through verbal, written, graphic, electronic, or other means. Students determined to have been academically dishonest are subject to disciplinary action. Consequences will depend on the severity of the offense, the number of offenses, the impact on other students and teacher, and/or the curriculum. Academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and will not be condoned.