

Climb Programs for Middle School Students (6th-8th graders)

Fall 2023

We are glad you are interested in our programs!

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Register!

About the Middle School Programs

Middle School students are encouraged to participate in our Speech, Congress, and Debate Programs.

Speech is great for a student that likes to work more on their own and wants to gain presentation skills including organizing material with relevant and engaging information along with good delivery.

What students learn and do in our Speech Program

Middle School students in our Speech program will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present one or two different kinds of speeches. We are offering 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp-Impromptu speaking; 3) Informative-Persuasive-Humorous (ADS) speaking; 4) Interpretation (Play Prose Poetry performances). Students have an optional and highly encouraged culminating experience in a Speech tournament (additional fee).

Debate is great for students that like to work more in teams/groups and wants to directly respond to what others have to say, preparing on topics relevant and challenging for elementary students.

What students learn and do in our Middle School Debate Program

Middle School students debate in the very popular MS 3 on 3 Parli format. They research topics, take both sides on the topic, and present cases, refute opposing cases, defend their cases and summarize the debate to persuade their judges. Topics have included school cell phone use, Supreme Court justice appointment processes, sending people to Mars, and should zoos be banned. Recognitions for all and awards for top teams and speakers finish the program. Students are also encouraged to participate in the tournament shortly after the end of the class, one where Climbers have repeatedly won awards (extra fee).

Congress is great for students that like to work more on their own but to reach out to others to examine, research, and discuss government policies. Students in Congress learn bill advocacy and argumentation skills.

What students learn and do in our Congress Program

Middle Schoolers in CONGRESS learn how to argue policy proposals in a congressional like setting. They'll research and learn about bills, how to make a persuasive case for change, and how to question, refute, and defend their bills. As they progress, they'll learn parliamentary procedure and effective, strategic ways to win over others. This is an excellent event for students who want a balance between speaking and debating. Students are also encouraged to participate in the tournament shortly after the end of the class, showing off the skills and knowledge they have developed.

Yes—students can do both speech and debate programs.

Register!

Program Dates and Fees

Here are the programs Middle Schoolers can register for:

IN PERSON PROGRAMS

Program	Location	Dates and Times	Fee
Middle School Debate	In-Person Seattle U	Sunday Oct 22, Oct 29, Nov 12, 2pm to 5:30pm	\$309
Middle School Debate	In-Person Redmond (North end of downtown)	Tuesdays Oct 3 - Nov 14 4:00 to 5:40pm EVENING CLASS IS FULL 7:10 to 8:50pm <i>No class Oct. 31</i>	\$329
Middle School Speech	In-Person Seattle U.	Sunday Oct 22, Oct 29, Nov 12, 12:30pm to 1:45pm	\$179 (1 speech)

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Program	Online	Dates and Times	Fee
Middle School Debate	Online Zoom	Mondays Oct. 2 through Nov. 13, 5:40 to 7:20pm <i>No class Oct. 30</i>	\$229
Middle School Debate	Online Zoom	Wednesdays Oct 4 through Nov. 15, 5:40 to 7:20pm pm <i>No class Nov. 1</i>	\$229
Middle School Speech	Online Zoom	Tuesdays Oct. 3 through Nov. 14, 4:30 to 6:20pm Or Thursdays Oct 5 through Nov. 16, 4:30 to 6:20pm <i>No class Oct. 31 nor Nov 2</i>	\$229 (2 speeches)
Middle School Congress	Online Zoom	Tuesdays Oct. 3 through Nov. 14, 6:30 to 7:45pm <i>No class Oct. 31</i>	\$209

*Sorry, we do not have a speech program in-person in Redmond at this time.
We also do not have an in-person Congress program at this time.*

Register!

New & Experienced Students

NEW DEBATERS: Students begin by learning key skills for debating. The structure of an argument, responding to opposing arguments, ask and answering questions, taking notes, making cases, researching, and synthesizing the arguments in a debate into a persuasive argument. Students work in small groups--our staff to student ratio is typically 1 to 6 students. Students engage in debates with expert feedback and engage in redos to improve their speaking and argument skills. All the while, they are building up social connections and friendships with other students who share their goals.

RETURNING EXPERIENCED DEBATERS: Experienced students build off the debate knowledge they have gained. Working in small labs of 4 to 6 students, they learn advanced skills and strategies and how to put them into action. They work on and debate different topics. They are challenged by more difficult debates. They are challenged to improve their cases and responses. All along, they are working with their debate friends--a supportive, high achieving group who want the best for each other.

NEW SPEAKERS: Students will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present 2 different kinds of speeches. We are offering 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp-Impromptu speaking; 3) Informative-Persuasive-Humorous (ADS) speaking; 4) Interpretation (Play-Prose-Poetry performances). Throughout you work with other friendly students who are just as interested in ideas and communication as you are.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS: Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in new speeches. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our experts to take their speeches from decent to great. Throughout students work with other experienced students who bring their own talents and skills into the mix to advance at a peer level student understanding and engagement in high quality speeches.

NEW IN CONGRESS: Middle School Students in Congress will learn the foundations to prepare, practice, and advocate for and against bills. Students learn how to craft a bill, how to argue for and against the bill, ask and answer challenges and questions to the bill. Throughout, students engage with other smart and collegial students who are interested in policies and the needs of our communities.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED CONGRESS MEMBERS: Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in congressional debating. Experienced congress members work at a higher level to make their arguments the strongest possible. Students work with other experienced congressional debaters. The result is stronger, more advanced levels of congressional argumentation.

Register!

About Fees and the Refund Policy

Lower income household? When you register, choose one of the two options for 50% or 95% fee reduction (no forms--just a click). We want our programs to be affordable to all families.

Fees include: All instruction, materials on topics.

Refunds

If you drop 7 or more days before the first class, you will receive 95% refund.

If you drop 72 or more hours before the first class, you will receive 85% refund.

If you drop 24 or more hours before the second class starts, you will receive 65% refund.

If you drop 24 hours or more before the third class starts, you will receive 45% refund.

After the third class, there are no refunds.

We do NOT refund for missing a class, for being late to a class, nor for missing a tournament that is part of the program, nor for dropping the class after the first 3 classes.

Students can makeup missed classes by viewing our program's PowerPoints and/or joining the class on a different day (arrange with Jim Hanson).

You can switch days of the week at no cost IF there is space available to do so.

The refund policy is based on the fact that registration processing takes our time and once we hire a staff member--we have to pay them for the entire program even when students drop and it is disruptive to teams and labs who have to be reconfigured.



Register!