

# Speech and Debate

North Pointe Prep

2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS



Mr.

Cameron Conti

Email:

cconti@pointeschools.org

## Supplies

An important part of middle school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits.

The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- Folder or Binder
- Spiral bound notebook or loose-leaf paper
- #2 Pencil, Pens, Highlighter
- Index Cards

## Course Description

This course is designed to help you become more proficient public speakers and presenters. In this course students will learn several speech presentation styles including:

- Humorous
- Original Oratory
- Impromptu
- Persuasive
- Dramatic
- Declamation
- Informative
- Poetic
- Storytelling

This elective will also teach student several debate styles, including:

- Congressional
- Lincoln-Douglas
- Public Forum
- Policy Debate
- Extemporaneous

The aim of this elective is to help students become more comfortable in their own individual speaking styles as well as teach them how to effectively and respectfully engage in debate over a wide range of topics.

Content Warning: While all speech and debate topics will be subject to final approval by myself, as this is a speech and debate class, there may be instances of potentially controversial topics.



“There are only two types of speakers in the world.  
The nervous and those lying about it.

– *Mark Twain*

## Course Expectations

This is a public speaking course. While most of the course will focus on learning the various styles of speech and debate, researching topics, writing mechanics and how to craft arguments, there is also a performance aspect to this course. All students enrolled in this class will be expected to speak and debate live in person in front of the class on a regular basis. It is highly encouraged that students participate in all speaking opportunities during class. Those wishing for further instruction are encouraged to seek help during afterschool tutoring.

## Attendance

Students are expected to be in class every day. Please refer to the Student Handbook on the school's policies toward absences. Unexcused absences and absences due to in-school or out-of-school suspension receive scores of zero on any assignments or assessments due that day.

I do understand there are unavoidable circumstances in which a student will be absent. When this occurs, it is the student's responsibility to acquire materials (i.e.: notes, assignments, etc..) they missed.

## Tardiness

Tardiness is unacceptable. It does not only affect the individual who is tardy, but their classmates. The first offense will result in a formal warning. Habitual tardiness will result in administrative action to suspension and/or loss of credit for this course.

## Class Expectations



- Be on time
- Respect yourself and others
- Be prepared



- Do your best work
- Maintain an environment for learning
- Keep a positive attitude



- Take responsibility
- Dress appropriately
- Use your time wisely

# Grading Policy

## Grading Philosophy

Grading in this course will reflect a student's achievement relative to the assigned coursework (i.e.: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, group projects, etc.).

## Course Grading

Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. This grade will correlate with the effort and achievement of individual students on class assessments and assignments. All assessments and assignments will be recorded in the online grading resource as "Total Points". All points, regardless of category (i.e.: tests/quizzes, classwork, homework), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade. Students and parents can access course grades using the Online Academic Resource via the Student Grades link on [www.northpointeprep.com](http://www.northpointeprep.com).

## Late Work

All assignments are due on the specified time that I set. A large part of this course will include presentation of a speech or participation in a debate. As such, late work will not be accepted. The obvious exception is if the student is ill or absent. Per the Student Handbook, students are granted two days upon their return to make up class work and must complete tests and quizzes immediately upon their return.

## Grade Breakdown

The grade percentages that correlate with the actual letter grade are listed below. Semester Final Grade= 40% Q1/3 + 40% Q2/4 + 20% final exam.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Extra Credit   |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 90-100%+   | A            | Extra credit will be available at my discretion. Students are welcome to propose an extra credit opportunity, but they must bear in mind that not every proposal will be accepted. |
| 80-89%     | B            |  |
| 70-79%     | C            |  |
| 60-69%     | D            |  |
| Below 60%  | F            |  |

## Tutoring

If a student is earning a grade of F, they are strongly encouraged to attend tutoring from 2:35pm-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays until their grade improves to at least a D. Students with a current grade of "D" are also strongly encouraged to attend tutoring to raise their grade. A student currently below a "D" or 58%, may sign an Individualized Academic Plan. This plan is designed for students to commit to specific, problem-solving strategies to improve their grade to at least a D.

## Student Behavior

### Student Attention

Students will be expected to pay attention during the lesson. Paying attention while someone else is speaking is a major part of creating a respectful environment. In addition, most of the course material will be presented via lecture. Notes are mandatory to do well in this class. Much of the information will not be blatantly printed on the provided materials. This means that you will have to attend to the entire lecture and generate your own, marginal notes consistently. This is preparation for a college environment, where student-centered note-taking is a crucial skill.

### Cell Phone/Device Policy

Cell phones and other devices (i.e.: smart watches, tablets, handheld games, etc.) are not to be used during the class period unless instructed otherwise for the facilitation of coursework. If a cell phone, or other like device, causes a disruption to the class, it will be confiscated for the class period. Multiple occurrences will lead to confiscation for a full academic day and/or turning the device into the front office to be picked up by a parent. Insubordination regarding device use may result in administrative, disciplinary action. Devices may not be in sight during any testing period. This includes when a student is finished with an assessment. Use or presence of a device during an exam or quiz will automatically render a score of zero for the student.

### Course Failure Policy

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.

### Parent Communication

Parents may contact me using the contact information listed at the top of this syllabus. Email is the best mode of contact. If students are having behavior problems or academic issues, I will contact parents to inform them of the problem and enlist their aid in solving it. If the issue remains unsolved, administration will take over to resolve it.

# SYLLABUS SIGNATURE FORM

Please carefully review the syllabus and fill out the form below. Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns that you or your student may have. You may also write your questions in the space provided below.

Again, please note that while all speech and debate topics will be subject to final approval by myself, as this is a speech and debate class, there may be instances of potentially controversial topics.

Parents and Students: signing the form below serves as an acknowledgment of the course syllabus and the content that will be studied during the duration of the course.

I have read and understand the information provided in the syllabus.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions, Comments or Concerns: