Climb Programs for Elementary Students (3rd-5th graders)

Winter 2027

Elementary students are encouraged to participate in our Speech and Debate Programs.

Locations, Dates, Times, Fees .....Error! Bookmark not defined.

About the Debate Programs .....Error! Bookmark not defined.

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Register!

Locations, Dates, Times, Fees

---Elementary Debate Program

Bellevue Wednesdays Elem Debate **Jan 13-Mar 3 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 10* No Class Jan 20, Feb 17**	**500 to 630pm**	**$429**
Online Zoom Wednesdays Elem Debate **Jan 13-Mar 3 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 10* No Class Jan 20, Feb 17**	**500 to 630pm**	**$319**
Redmond Tuesdays Elem Debate **Jan 12-Mar 2 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 9* No Class Jan 19, Feb 16**	**500 to 630pm**	**$399**

---Elementary Speech Program

Online Zoom Wednesdays Speech **Jan 13-Mar 3 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 10* No Class Jan 20, Feb 17**	**510 to 620pm**	**$299**
Redmond Mondays Speech **Jan 11-Mar 1 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 8* No Class Jan 18, Feb 15**	**500 to 610pm**	**$379**
Redmond Tuesdays Speech **Jan 12-Mar 2 +** **SU Prep Class Mar 9* No Class Jan 19, Feb 16**	**640 to 750pm**	**$379**

Each Weekday Program has 6 Classes.

The Seattle U Prep Class is for those who sign up for the Seattle U Event separately.
The cost for this extra class plus the event itself ranges from $60 to $80. The SU Event happens Sunday March 14, In Person, 9am to 615pm Elem Debate; 2pm to 615pm Elem Speech.

Locations
** BELLEVUE Location is Bellevue College at the T Building. 3000 Landerholm Cir SE, Bellevue, WA 98005.*
** ONLINE is over Zoom, Link will be provided.*
** REDMOND Location is Redmond ADA Social Cafe at 16126 NE 87th St. Redmond WA 98052.*
Price variations are due to room costs and instructor transportation reimbursement.

Register!

About the Debate Programs

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

Elementary students debate at a challenging but supportive level. They research topics, take both sides on the topic, present cases, refute opposing cases, defend their cases and persuasively weigh the arguments in the debate to persuade their judges. Topics have included school cell phone use, ending plastic bags, video game effects on kids, and space exploration. Recognitions for each student's unique skills as well as top teams and speakers finish the program. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Seattle University event shortly after the end of the class, one where Climbers have placed 1st team and 1st speaker (extra fee).

NEW DEBATERS: Students begin by learning key skills for debating including the structure of a good argument, responding to opposing arguments, asking and answering questions, taking notes, making cases, researching, and synthesizing the arguments in a debate into a persuasive argument. Students work in small groups of 6 to 8 students with their instructor. 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. ***See below for 3rd graders.***

RETURNING EXPERIENCED DEBATERS: Experienced students build off the debate knowledge they have gained. Working in small labs of 6 to 8 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. Returners climb to accomplish the highest level of debating. Building on skills, preparation and practice, and tournament participation and success, students demonstrate stronger debate knowledge skill and expertise. It is an exciting way to grow as an arguer.

WE RECOMMEND THAT MOST 3RD GRADERS TAKE THE SPEECH PROGRAM FIRST before doing the debate program UNLESS your 3rd grader is more talkative, has good concentration, and gets good grades/reviews in school.

Register!

About the Speech Programs

Speech is great for students that like to work more on their own and want to gain presentation skills including organizing material with relevant and engaging information along with good delivery.

Students in our Speech program will prepare, practice, and present a PowerPoint or Manuscripted speech and they will engage in Impromptu speaking. By the end of the program, students will have improved delivery skills, the ability to communicate ideas more clearly and effectively, and a quality speech to be proud of. Students are highly encouraged to sign up for a culminating experience in a Speech Event at the end of the program (additional fee).

BEGINNER SPEAKERS: Students learn effective content and delivery all while gaining self-confidence. We teach students step by step how to prepare speeches. Students incorporate supporting material into their speeches that keeps audience interest and strengthens their speech argument. Students practice speaking with an emphasis on energetically connecting with their audience including poise and eye contact. Throughout, each student works with other participants who are just as interested in ideas and communication.

RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS: Students advance their preparation, practice, and presentation skills. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our instructors to take their speeches from good to great. Students put into practice carefully crafted rhetoric that distinguishes their presentations. Students become more polished speakers delivering in a way that impresses those listening.

Yes—students can do both speech and debate programs (just pick programs that happen at different times/days).

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 in small 6 to 8 person labs for personalized attention, example arguments and speeches, materials with extensive tips, and a feedback system for students and parents that provides guidance for improving.

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. You do not receive a refund for switching to a lower cost program unless you do so 72 hours or earlier of the first class.

You cannot switch to another session such as moving from a Fall to a Winter program.

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!