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

Winter 2027

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

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Register!

Locations, Dates, Times, Fees

---Middle School Debate Program

Grand Knights Bel-Red Thursdays MS Debate **Jan 7 & 14 +** SU Prep Class Jan 15* Register for the Grand Knights Bel-Red Debate Classes Here	**500 to 800pm**	**$250**

---Middle School Debate Program

Bellevue Wednesdays MS Debate **Jan 13-Mar 3 +** SU Prep Class Mar 10* No Class Jan 20, Feb 17	**640 to 810pm**	**$439**
Online Zoom Wednesdays MS Debate **Jan 13-Mar 3 +** SU Prep Class Mar 10* No Class Jan 20, Feb 17	**640 to 810pm**	**$339**
Redmond Mondays MS Debate **Jan 11-Mar 1 +** SU Prep Class Mar 8* No Class Jan 18, Feb 15	**510 to 620pm**	**$299**

---Middle School 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. Grand Knights has two double length 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:

Saturday March 13, at Seattle U, 9am to 615pm MS Debate. No Speech on Saturday.

Sunday March 14, at Seattle U, 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.*
** GRAND KNIGHTS is at Grand Knights Chess Academy 13620 NE 20th St Ste K, 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.*

Program price differences are due to Room costs and Instructor transportation reimbursement.
https://grandknightschess.com/product/middle-school-debate-by-climb-the-mountain/

Register!

Register for the Grand Knights Bel-Red Debate Classes Here

About the Debate Programs

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

Middle School Debate Program: Middle School students debate in the very popular MS 3 on 3 format. They research topics, take both sides on the topic, present cases, refute opposing cases, defend their cases and show how their case is stronger in 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 each student's unique skills as well as top teams and speakers finish the program. Students are also encouraged to participate in the event shortly after the end of the class, one where Climbers have repeatedly won awards (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--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. Returners climb to accomplish the highest level of debating. Building on skills, preparation and practice, Coaching and AI drills, and tournament participation and success, students demonstrate stronger debate knowledge skill and expertise. It is an exciting way to grow as an arguer.

Register!

About the Speech Programs

Speech is great for students that like to work more on their own and wants 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!