

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

Spring 2025

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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.

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.

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.

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!

You can register middle school students for:

Middle School Debate Program Dates, Times, Fees

Online Mondays	March 31-May 12	6:40 to 8:20pm	\$289
Bellevue Mondays	March 31-May 12	6:40 to 8:20pm	\$399
Bothell Tuesdays	April 1-May 13	6:40 to 8:20pm	\$399
Redmond Wednesdays	April 2-May 14	4:00 to 5:40pm	\$379
Seattle Sundays	April 27, May 4, 11	2:30 to 5:45pm	\$399

Middle School Speech Program Dates, Times, Fees

Bellevue Mondays	March 31-May 12	4:50 to 6:30pm	\$399
Online Thursdays	April 2-May 14	4:30 to 6:15pm	\$289
Redmond Thursdays	April 2-May 14	6 to 7:40pm	\$379
Seattle Sundays	April 27, May 4, 11	12:30 to 2:15pm	\$299

Middle School Congress Program Dates, Times, Fees

Online Wednesdays	April 2- May 14	6:30 to 7:45pm	\$269
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Each Speech Congress and Debate Program has 6 Classes (Seattle debate is 3 double length classes, Seattle speech is 3 regular length classes).

No class the week of April 7-10 except Redmond which has April 14-17 off from class.

You are encouraged to sign up for the Seattle U Tournament separately. The cost ranges from \$60 to \$80. Students taking the program are ready to participate in this tournament. Signing up includes:

Extra Pre-Tournament Prep Class (same time-day as regular class):

*Sunday May 18, Speech 12:30 to 2:15pm; Debate 2:30 to 4:30pm (Seattle U)
Monday May 19, Speech 4:50 to 6:30pm; Debate 6:40 to 8:20pm (Bellevue & Online)
Tuesday May 20, Debate 6:40 to 8:20pm (Bothell)
Wednesday May 21, Debate 4:00 to 5:40pm (Redmond Debate)
Wednesday May 21 Congress 6:30 to 8pm (Online)
Thursday May 22, Speech 4:30 to 6:15pm (Online)
Thursday May 22, Speech 6:00 to 7:40pm (Redmond Speech)*

Tournament Dates:

*Friday May 23, Online, 4 to 9:15pm (Congress, Speech)
Saturday May 24, In Person, 9am to 6pm (MS Debate only)
Sunday May 25, In Person, 9am to 6:10pm (Elem Debate, MS Debate, Speech)*

Locations

- * BELLEVUE Location is Bellevue College at the R Building. 3000 Landerholm Cir SE, Bellevue, WA 98005.
- * BOTHELL Location is at Country Inn Suites Bothell Conference Rooms. 19333 N Creek Pkwy, Bothell, WA 98011
- * REDMOND Location is North Downtown at 16126 NE 87th St. Redmond WA 98052.
- * SEATTLE Location is at Seattle University. 901 12th Ave, Seattle WA 98122.
- * Online is over Zoom, Link will be provided.

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. 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.

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