

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

Spring 2025

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Register!

About the Elementary Programs

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

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.

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.

Elementary Speech Program: Elementary students will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present impromptu speeches plus two different kinds of prepared speeches (1 prepared speech in the Seattle program) that may include 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp 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 at the end of the program (additional fee).

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 Debate Program: Elementary students debate at a challenging but supportive level. 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 are mostly chosen by students and have included school cell phone use, ending plastic bags, video game effects on kids, 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 placed 1st team and 1st speaker (extra fee).

Yes—students can do both speech and debate programs.

Register!

Here are the programs you can register elementary students for including:

Elementary Debate Program Dates, Times, Fees

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|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| Online Mondays | March 31-May 12 | 5 to 6:30pm | \$269 |
| Bellevue Mondays | March 31-May 12 | 5 to 6:30pm | \$379 |
| Bothell Tuesdays | April 1-May 13 | 5 to 6:30pm | \$379 |
| Redmond Wednesdays | April 2-May 14 | 5:50 to 7:20pm | \$369 |

Elementary Speech Program Dates, Times, Fees

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|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Bellevue Mondays | March 31-May 12 | 6:40 to 8:20pm | \$399 |
| Redmond Thursdays | April 3-May 14 | 6:00 to 7:40pm | \$379 |
| Online Thursdays | April 3-May 14 | 4:30 to 6:15pm | \$289 |
| Seattle Sundays | Apr 27, May 4, 11 | 12:30 to 2:15pm | \$299 |

Each Speech and Debate Program has 6 Classes (Seattle speech is 3 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 day and time as regular class):

Sunday May 18, 12:30 to 2:15pm (Seattle U)

Monday May 19, 5 to 6:30pm (Bellevue and Online)

Tuesday May 20, 5 to 6:30pm (Bothell)

Wednesday May 21, 5:50 to 7:20pm (Redmond Debate)

Thursday May 22, 4:30 to 6:10pm (Online Speech)

Thursday May 22, 6 to 7:40pm (Redmond Speech)

Tournament Dates:

Friday May 23, Online, 4 to 9:15pm Elementary Speech Only

Sunday May 25, In Person, 9am to 6:10pm Elementary Speech and Debate

Locations

* BELLEVUE Location is Bellevue College at the R Building. 3000 Landerholm Cir SE, Bellevue, WA 98005.

* BOTHELL Location is Country Inn Suites Conference Rooms Bothell. 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 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.

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.

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 an instructor--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!