

Debate/Speech Programs in PA 2023-2024

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Full Year Courses Offered	错误!未定义书签。
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Program Overview

BLDA is partnering with Pythagoras Academy to give speech and debate training to students. Starting with Grade 1 students can join after school workshops and sessions that develop language efficiency and public speaking skills.

Each course will allow students to participate “in class” and “at tournaments” to provide them with a full educational experience. “In Class” participation allows students experiences that enrich their speaking experience and expertise.

Main Theme

Why Debate

1. English Version

Critical Thinking

Numerous studies show that debaters have much better critical thinking skills as they learn how to create logical, sound arguments related to some of the most complex current issues.

Communication Skills

Communication skills are a critical component of personal development for future success. The ability to communicate and convey ideas is truly a necessity; one can have a great idea, but if he/she cannot communicate it to others, then he/she cannot add much value.

Leadership

Strong leaders need to have the ability to analyze situations and have critical thinking skills. Strong leaders also need to have excellent communication skills as they need to be able to lead, engage, and work with other people.

Debate is a formal contest of argumentation between two teams or individuals. More broadly, and more importantly, debate is an essential tool for developing and maintaining democracy and open societies. More than a mere verbal or performance skill, debate embodies the ideals of reasoned argument, tolerance for divergent points of view and rigorous self-examination. Debate is, above all, a way for those who hold opposing views to discuss controversial issues without descending to insult, emotional appeals or personal bias. A key trademark of debate is that it rarely ends in agreement, but rather allows for a robust analysis of the question at hand. Perhaps this is what French philosopher Joseph Joubert meant when he said: "It is better to debate a question without settling it, than to settle a question without debate it." (from idebate.org).

2. Chinese Version

在英语类国家，演讲辩论通常是学生最喜欢的课程之一。辩论演讲所展示的批判性思维理念被认为是教育为核心的理念，在西方教育中无处不在。北美学校非常注重综合能力的培养，其中包括领导力，学校一般都开设有领导力课程，在课程中老师会要求每一个学生来公共演讲，并设计某个项目在全校进行推广，所以，北美中学生善于沟通，思维灵活，演讲能力和领导力非常卓越。

有研究表明，那些从小就开始接触思维训练的孩子，语言理解能力丰富、创造力强，这种训练还能帮助孩子提高智商。更重要的是，这些受过训练的孩子，在将来接受高等教育时更容易获得良好成绩，在职场上也更容易成功。因此想要成功的申请加拿大或美国名校，要先锻炼一下自己的辩论能力才行。

《华尔街日报》曾报道过一项辩论调查的结果：美国高中的平均升学率是70%，而辩论队员的升学率达到98.58%；辩论队长进入常青藤大学的概率又比一般学生高60%。

Comparison: Public Speaking and Debate

1. Chinese Version

演讲又叫演或演说，是指在公众场所，以有声语言为主要手段，以体态语言或多媒体工具为辅助手段，针对某个问题，鲜明，完整地发表自己的见解和主张，阐明事理或抒发情感，进行宣传鼓动的一种语言交际活动。一名出色的演讲者不仅需要深刻研究自己的主题，分析观众心理，考究文稿，还必须要能凭借自己的语言能力，辅助手段和情感，感染和说服观众。

辩论是指见解不同的人彼此阐述理由，辩驳争论。相对于演讲，辩论除了语言表达能力之外，更侧重于反应力和语言的逻辑性，由于辩论非常具有针对性，所以为了驳倒对方的观点，时常进行“殊死”争辩，言辞较为激烈。同时，除了与对手进行辩论外，还需要团队协作能力，与队友合作分工。而且话题也更多有关于国际时热门的政治，经济和文化话题有关，学生需要对这些话题进行深度的理解分析。**因此，综合来说，辩论对学生要求更高更多，因此对学生的年龄和年级有一定要求。**

2. English Version

Debate is a formal contest of argumentation between two teams or individuals. More broadly, and more importantly, debate is an essential tool for developing and maintaining democracy and open societies. **More than a mere verbal or performance skill, debate embodies the ideals of reasoned argument, tolerance for divergent points of view and rigorous self-examination.** Debate is, above all, a way for those who hold opposing views to discuss controversial issues without descending to insult, emotional appeals or personal bias. A key trademark of debate is that it rarely ends in agreement, but rather allows for a robust analysis of the question at hand. Perhaps this is what French philosopher Joseph Joubert meant when he said: "It is better to debate a question without settling it, than to settle a question without debate it." (from idebate.org).

Storytelling

Age: Grade 1 - 3

Program Name: Storytelling class

Course Time: Thursday 3:40 pm - 4:40 pm

Class Size: 4-8 students

Overview:

This course focuses on speaking confidence and speech organization by creating and reciting original stories and personal narratives. Students will be able to use the basic parts of the story (Characters, setting, plot) in speeches with clear organizations, speaking confidence and characterization, and dialogue much like a theater performance. Students also will be able to share personal narratives with clear beginning, middle and ends as well as showcase their storytelling abilities on popular stories or current events.

Prerequisite: N/A

Public Speaking

Age: Grade 4 - 8

Program Name: Public Speaking

Course Time: Tuesday 3:40 pm - 4:40 pm

Class Size: 4-8 students

Overview:

This course focuses on teaching students speaking and speech writing techniques to ensure persuasion and speaking confidence. Students will be introduced to extemporaneous and informative speeches. Each speech style will give students the chance to explore different ways to deliver compelling, interesting and dynamic speeches. This course focuses on providing the building blocks necessary to deliver speeches in a professional manner.