Mrs. Starlyn Nackos

Murray High School

Speech and Debate

Disclosure Statement

**Course Description**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop public speaking skills while also placing emphasis on research, writing and argumentation. Each student will be expected to take an active role in class participation as well as tournament participation. The format of this class requires students to work together, mentor each other and grow together as individuals and as members of a team.

**Class Materials**

Supplies you will need everyday:

* Professional clothing for tournaments
* A Timer that they will bring to each class
* Spiral Notebook (3 subject, college ruled, 3-hole punched) with detachable pages.
* Index cards
* 3 ring binder with clear front cover sleeve and dividers
* Miscellaneous materials that are needed for specific events (binders, posters, ect.)

**Grading System**

A 100% - 93%

A- 92% - 90%

B+ 89% - 87%

B 86% - 83%

B- 82% - 80%

C+ 79% - 77%

C 76% - 73%

C- 72% - 70%

D+ 69% - 67%

D 66% - 63%

D- 62% - 60%

F 59% and below

**Grading Breakdown**

25% Daily Grade (participation, research, journal, ect.)

25% In-class presentations/Assignments

35% Tournament Participation

15% Portfolio

**Course Expectations**

This course requires all that take part to be self-motivated and driven. Speech and debate allows for students to work independently or with small groups of peers to study and prepare for events that suite their own interests. It will not be a successful year if students take the time given to them in class to pursue other interests or distract the other debaters. As a team, we will support and assist each other. Gossiping and other malicious behavior will never be tolerated. Students will be required to read and discuss currents event topics, take part in class presentations, and other activities that require addressing groups of their peers.

**Make Up Work**

Make up work will be accepted ONLY in situations where the student is sick, on vacation, or on a school excused absence. For every one day a student is absent, that student has **3 calendar days** to complete and turn in make up work. Arrangements to receive make up work ahead of time can be made outside of class time with the teacher.

**Late Work**

Late work will be accepted, but for every day the assignment is late, the total points possible will drop one full letter grade. For example, if a student turns in 100% work 2 days late, they will receive a C.

**Participation**

Participation is crucial to success in this class. Each student will be expected to compete in at least 6 tournaments a year (five as a competitor and one as an observer). It is recommended that students accomplish this early in the year. We want each student to attend as many as possible. If it is ever an issue with cost, please see Coach Nackos privately.

**Credit**

This course fulfills an elective credit necessary for graduation.

**Eligibility**

Students need a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to be a part of debate. If at any point your GPA drops below a 2.0, you will be barred from competition until you can pull your grades up. If you are unable to raise your grades, you’ll be asked to switch classes the following quarter.

**Citizenship**

In-class behavior weighs substantially on the overall citizenship grade for this course. Students in this class are viewed as adults and are expected to act as such.

**Tardies and Sluffs**

This course follows school and district policy. All students will be given 2 passes a quarter to be used for tardies (because sometimes they cannot be avoided) and for hall passes (to be used if materials are left in a locker or for the bathroom). Tardies and sluffs cannot be made up.

**Rules, Rewards and Consequences**

Class Rules

- Class rules will be determined by the students and myself within the first week of class.

Rewards/Benefits for Following Rules

- A fun and comfortable learning atmosphere

- “Fun Fridays” – activity day earned by good behavior

- Success in competition

- Good relationships with peers

- The necessary citizenship grade to graduate

Costs of Breaking the Rules

- Verbal warning/reminder

- Loss of participation points

- Phone call home

- Letter of apology to those affected by behavior

- Removal from the team

**Tournament Dress Code**

Men: Shirt, tie, slacks and suite coat

Women: Skirts or dresses (**knee length** or longer), nice slacks and blouses, or pants suits

**\* Denim, flip flops, sweatshirts, shirts that show the mid-section, and short skirts may not be worn.** You may bring an extra change of clothing to change into on the ride home.

**Citizenship Grades**

This grade is based on the number of entries in the behavior log

**4** – Has exceptional behavior. Positively contributes to classroom environment, meets teacher’s expectations regarding attendance and adheres to classroom rules. No more that 1 tardy.

**3** – Has above average behavior. Student is willing to take responsibility for behavior. Behavior meets teacher’s expectations regarding attendance and adherence to classroom rules. No more that 2 tardies.

**2** – Has satisfactory behavior. Generally meets teacher’s expectations regarding attendance and adherence to classroom rules. No more than 3 tardies.

**1** – Student is often uncooperative and undependable or may have been truant one time. 4 or more tardies.

**0** – Student disobeys rules of the classroom and is irresponsible. Student has 4 or more tardies or may have been truant more than once.

\*If there is a perceived error, any grade change must be completed within the following quarter or by June 30 for the fourth quarter.

Once you have read this packet, please remove the section below, sign it, and return it with your student.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read, please feel free to contact me by email or phone:

[snackos@murrayschools.org](mailto:snackos@murrayschools.org) (801)264-7460 ext. 5215

**Also visit our team website: www.murraydebate.weebly.com**

I have read the disclosure statement for Mrs. Nackos’ Speech and Debate class.

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Student’s Name (Printed)

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Parent or Guardian’s Signature Date

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Daytime Telephone Number