

Konos Communicators – Speech & Debate

Instructor/Coach: Joanne Lee –pilgrimontheway1@gmail.com– 770 460-7078

Meeting Place/Time: Heritage Church 150 Lester Road Fayetteville, GA 30215
Friday mornings from 9:00 drop off - 9:15 Speech and 11:00 Debate

Course Description: For the first year student, this course will be an introduction to policy debate and public speaking. For the returning student, this course will serve to further develop debate and speaking skills. Students (age 12 through 18) will learn through weekly lectures, group activities, practice debate rounds, individual events practice, and participation in debate and speech conferences, community platforms and NCFCA tournaments. Students in junior track (ages 10/11 for speech and 11 for debate) will hone their skills through in-class lectures, activities, community platforms and competition. This course will require considerable amounts of the student's time and effort, as well as the parents' guidance, involvement, encouragement and monetary support.

Knowledge will be gained in the following areas: economics, history, politics, law, current events, world politics, the founding documents of our country, national and international policy regarding the topic, and more.

Skill will be gained in the following areas: writing, computer use, preparing cases, working with a partner, debating other club members and competitors from the four state region, presenting interpretive, original platform and limited preparation speeches, accepting critique from parents and others, speaking clearly and persuasively, and doing research. In addition, varsity students will be expected to mentor less-experienced students.

Personal growth will be gained in the following areas: showing respect for others, learning how to look at both sides of an issue, learning to handle having one's ideas debated, receiving and appreciating constructive criticism, learning how to quiet oneself and listen rather than justifying one's ideas, learning to defend ideas that are truly worth fighting for, learning how to give to others with less experience, learning to accomplish tasks with a partner, developing stamina, perseverance, and patience, learning to appreciate our country's godly heritage, and learning trust in our Sovereign God.

Course Objectives: In the context of a club which is directed according to the Biblical worldview and dedicated to raising up communicators for Christ, students will understand the fundamentals of speech and team policy debate, demonstrate knowledge of the current NCFCA topic, and hone their skills in public and persuasive speaking through participation in class discussion, practice debate and speech events and community platform speaking.

Required Texts: **Shipe, Christy. An Introduction to Argumentation & Debate. HSLDA: Purcellville, VA, 1998.**

Jeub, Chris. Debating the 2010 – 2011 Resolution. Monument Publishing, 2010.

Club Attire: **Young Men:** Collared-button shirt; dress pants, and shoes. No sandals or athletic shoes, please.

Young Ladies: A modest, casual dress, blouse and skirt (below the knee), or dress pants, with sandals or shoes. No "flip-flops", please.

Tournament Attire: **NCFCA regulations (from NCFCA.org)**

Young Men: Suits or sport coats and ties.

Young Ladies: Dresses or suits. Hemlines shall fall to at least the bottom of the knee. Tight-fitting/low-cut clothing is inappropriate. Midriff must remain covered when gesturing in speeches.

Course Requirements: Participation: In-Class Discussion, Speech Presentation & Debates Students should be prepared, by reading and reflecting on the material, to fully participate in class discussions and other activities of the group. Students should arrive in class by 9:00 am. Class will start promptly at 9:15. Pick up is at 12:15 pm.

Preparation: Textbook Reading, Research, & Speech Practice Students will read the appropriate chapters as listed on the homework page. Students will record their reading as well as time spent in research, case construction, partner meetings, speech writing and practice on a weekly log to be turned in for grading purposes. Because reading, researching, case construction, partnering and speech practice require much time, this is the largest percentage of the grade.

Projects/Presentation: Tournament/Community Participation

First and second year students are **required** to participate in two practice events, one tournament, and community events. Junior track students will participate in club and community events. Tournaments are necessary because they provide the motivation--and fun--which is crucial to developing speaking and debate skills. In addition, they provide invaluable feedback for the student from people other than parents or coaches.

Parents' Participation: Parents are encouraged to come to any or all class sessions, practice, community and tournament events. Parents are required to attend six classes or club competitions and to attend one practice event and one pre-qualifying tournament. This will help parents to encourage their own students and be better judges of other students.

Parents will be asked to support the coaches and parent coordinator in the following ways: by providing snacks on occasion, attending parent meetings, assisting with judging and timing speeches and debate rounds in club, procuring judges and timers for local tournaments, helping in the tournaments, and bringing problems with partnering or student motivation to our attention in a timely manner. Although it is unusual for home schooling parents to delegate responsibility for their children's training to others, we ask that you do this in the area of speech and debate. And we ask that you uphold us in prayer as we carry out this responsibility.

Partnering: Debate partnering is a key ingredient to a student's success. As coaches and administrators, we will make the partnering decisions a matter of prayer. We will take into account parental requests for partners of the same family or gender, **as long as that request is made in writing by the first of September.** We will base partner selection on the students' interest, commitment, and skill levels. Geographical closeness is a factor, but not a major one. We ask that parents support our decisions once made.

Extra Credit: Students may earn extra credit by attending additional conferences, practice tournaments as well as speaking in the community and it will be awarded on a case by case basis.

Fees:

Full Club Package:	3.5 hours of weekly instruction – Speech & Debate = 1 H.S. credit \$65/month, \$55/month second child, \$45/month third child or more
Speech Only:	1 ¾ hours of weekly instruction – Speech only = ½ H.S. credit \$40/month – \$35 for additional students
Debate Only:	1 ¾ hours of weekly instruction – Debate only = ½ H.S. credit \$40/month - \$35 for additional students *prerequisite = 1 year of speech or similar experience
Registration fee:	\$25 non-refundable per student

Debate Books:

<u>An Introduction to Argumentation & Debate</u>	\$13
<u>Debating the 2011 – 2012 Resolution</u>	varies \$50-\$85

Tournament fee	TBA
NCFCA Affiliate fee**	\$35/year
Debate box and supplies	variable

**Necessary to compete in NCFCA tournaments. It is the parent's responsibility to register their students. See www.ncfca.org.

Schedule:

All meetings are required. If your student is unable to attend, please contact the coach in advance, by email. The coach and administrator reserve the right to make changes in the schedule as necessary.

Exact schedule TBA. Schedule will be most Fridays from September through mid May excluding holidays and Fayette County breaks.