

Hello Families of Debate Club Participants!

Class Highlights:

The coaches have conducted class discussions about the January debate tournament, and asked the returning debaters to help demonstrate and describe key concepts for those students who are new to debate.

The students have already begun to examine topic evidence, brainstorm affirmative and negative arguments, and practice refutation in preparation for our end-of-session May 22nd cross-school tournament.

Topic: Seattle Public Schools should change to a year-round school schedule.

Vocabulary: Ask your student about these words:

Affirmative: the team that presents a case to solve a problem, or make a change.

Negative: the team that presents evidence against the Affirmative's case.

Claim: an initial statement of an argument. An assertion or statement of fact without explanatory reasoning.

Warrant: why an argument is true. The reason or piece of evidence which includes reasons or justification for the claim's conclusion.

Information:

Family email letters, and information about the tournament and our debate format is posted on the SSIA website, and remain there for your reference: www.schoolsinaction.org, click on Debate. Contact me with questions at any time! sandynielsen@schoolsinaction.org

Schedule:

Debate Club will run for one hour after school through May 20th and snacks are provided. The tournament will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 22nd.

- Coe – 12 students, Mondays, room 301, Coach Ms. Munro
- Blaine – 6 students, Thursdays, room 133B, Coach Ms. Alberts
- John Hay – 7 students, Wednesdays, Library, Coach Mr. Lincoln
- Lawton – 13 students, Thursdays, room 208, Coach Mr. Reddy

Occasionally, we take photos of kids for use on SSIA website and publications. Names of students will not be printed anywhere. You can see examples of photos of students at www.schoolsinaction.org. Please tell me **if you do not permit** your child's photo to be used in this way. If we do not receive a response, we will assume you give permission for photos to be taken.

-Sandy Nielsen
Debate Program Manager