

DEBATE CLUB Information

NEW for Fall 2009 – Debate Club will be coached by school teachers, trained in debate.

In response to feedback received from parents and guardians who completed the program evaluation survey, SSIA made improvements to the Debate Club program effective in Spring 2009, including:

- enrollment for each class will be limited to 16 students
- behavior rules are clearly outlined with a method for follow-through
- mid-session student progress reports will be sent home
- debate structure and tournament information is available online.

Over the 12-week session, Debate Club coaches will introduce the information included below, and review each concept throughout the program session. To help your child at home as the weeks proceed, ask your child to:

- explain the terms claim, warrant, affirmative, and negative
- go over the order of speeches
- think of cross-examination questions during an opponent's constructive speech
- describe how to plan rebuttal responses
- show you 'flowing', which means taking notes that identify the main points of another's speech
- practice speaking the arguments once those are developed in class
- know how to summarize each argument.

Emails home will keep you posted on the lessons, though there will be some variation by coach. The emails home will also include schedule updates and more information about debate.

The following documents are available online at www.schoolsinaction.org:

1. Order of Speeches – brief description of each speech included in a debate round
2. Code to Your Debate – summary of each speech with examples
3. Debate Club Tournament – description of the event and debate rounds

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Debate Program Manager, Sandy Nielsen at sandynielsen@schoolsinaction.org. Information sent home and weekly emails will also be available online at www.schoolsinaction.org.