

Quo Vadis (QV) Speech & Debate Club 2013-14

Requirements:

- Attend Club faithfully and have your child(ren) ready to participate!
- Participate in the Lafayette Speech & Debate Tourney.
- Check your email faithfully.

Expectations & Philosophy:

- **This is a club for families who are serious about developing effective communicators.** This is NOT just a speech class. While you can give high school speech credit after your child completes our club season, you will be frustrated if you come into the club expecting a speech class. The club time will be used primarily for practice and critiquing. While some instructions will take place, the majority of the time students will be speaking, doing activities, or watching other speeches. Debate will be more of a traditional classroom setting through about 1/2 of the semester. At that time, class debates will begin. However, even in the classroom in debate, the lecture is supplemented with activities.
- Your oldest child should be at least 12 by 1/1/14. However, if a family is particularly interested, we do waive the age recommendation. Please discuss this with us!
- Club members can be in speech and/or debate. However, we expect club members and their parent to attend the weekly club meeting. We'll meet over lunch; you can bring your lunch or buy it at the Community Center's café. **Parents are asked to be there the entire time their child is there, but we will work with families on an individual basis if this isn't possible.** Our goal is to assist families, not have a bunch of rules & regulations!
- Since this is a club, we will be working very hard to build teamwork and a feeling of belonging. More experienced students will assist newer students.
- This club is a Christian communicators' club. One does not have to be a Christian to be in this club, but please know that all leadership and teachers (including students who are in a coaching position) must sign their agreement with our Statement of Faith. (This is included on the registration form.) Also, all teaching will be with the goal to develop effective communicators for the cause of Christ, not just polished speakers. Also see the link "Communicating for Christ in Our Club" on the webpage.
- As a club, we will encourage competition – not that this is an end of itself, but it is a VERY effective tool to develop skills. Of course, whether a student competes at tournaments other than ours must be for the parents to decide what is best for their own family. With that said, we may occasionally dismiss a club meeting if there is a good practice tournament that we can attend to compete or observe.
- Since we believe competition is so beneficial (and fun!), our club hosts a practice tournament. (This year it is Nov. 23, 2013) **Each club student MUST compete in this tournament, and club families must help.** It is a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun! Parents will have the opportunity to assist in running the tournament by helping to serve the meals, recruit judges, bring in food to feed the judges, copy ballots beforehand, check in students at the tournament, etc. More details about the tournament will be discussed in club meetings later in the semester.
- Since we will have weekly club meetings, we take care of most announcements at club. However, often tournament information comes out at the last moment, and I'll need to get it out ASAP. **Please check your email daily (or at least every other day)!** I also send out a weekly reminder about each club meeting usually each Wednesday. If email is a real burden for you rather than just a personal preference, please indicate that on the "Comments" section on the registration form.
- All parents will have to help with the supervision of the little ones. We rotate through this responsibility. However, the goal is for parents to be in the club with their students as much as possible
- The course syllabi will be emailed to you as soon as possible, probably early to mid August.
- It is possible some books will be available to be picked up at the GLHEA Open House. If books aren't ready, we'll make sure we have them to you in time for the homework to be done by the first day of club!

Speech - ages 12 (by 1/1/14) & up

First Time Club Speakers

Ages 12 & 13- Will have small assignments to prepare before club each week as well as have a speaking "assignment" almost every week. Notice this is an "assignment," not a full speech. However, full speeches will be done later in the semester.

Ages 14 & up – On average will read about 1 chapter every other week and will have a speaking "assignment" each week. Don't be worried. It won't be a full speech each week, but the goal is to get them up and talking in front of people as much as possible. (For example, one sample assignment is to interview another club member and introduce them later during the club.) As the semester goes on and full speeches are required, there won't be a different speaking assignment each week. Students will be given a few weeks to prepare. We hope to use club time to have the students practice their assigned speeches and polish them with coaching.

Intermediate Speakers (Those who have been in QV for at least one year) – Will finish the textbook, will have different speech assignments and will continue to develop competition speeches.

Student Coaches (Students who have been completed 2 years of QV & by invitation only) - Will be STRONGLY encouraged to participate in the weekly speaking assignments, but won't be required especially if they are working on special speeches that I've assigned them. The student coaches will be presenting the various kinds of competition speeches for the first time speakers. I also will ask them to help coach the newer speakers and each other in speeches during club time.

Speech Textbooks

Ages 14 & up or Intermediate Speakers - We'll be using the textbook *Sound Speech* by BJU Press. This is a required textbook for these speakers. One book per family is needed, and it is the text we've used for the last three years. I will be glad to order the book for you, or you can purchase it on your own. You are also welcome to try and find this book used or through other channels. If you want me to purchase it for you, please include payment.

Ages 12 & 13 – We'll be using a required curriculum written just for this age group and just for Quo Vadis! This will be available for pick up at the GLHEA Open House. (There is a small fee for the binder and its contents.)

Debate - ages 12 (by 1/1/14) & up

The new resolutions will be announced at Nationals in June. Please check the Quo Vadis webpage after that!

Policy or Team Debate

Novice debate and advanced debate: Mr. Alan Bunning will work with both the advanced debaters and the novice group.

Novice Debaters (those who have never had any debate) will have 1-2 chapters to read a week. Once the novice debaters have covered all of the material, they will begin debating during club time. We also will write a complete debate case in class together. Often we will pair a novice with an experienced debater. Please don't be hesitant to debate because you don't know who your partner would be. People can pair up differently for different club debates and tournaments. Debaters should plan on spending 30 minutes a day to prepare for the weekly club meetings. Please also know that we there is a **mandatory** evidence sharing ring for all policy debaters.

Pre-debate Group – If your child is 12 or 13 and the idea of debate is overwhelming, then your child might benefit from joining this group. Mrs. Jenni Minich will lead this fun group. This group will stress learning logic and research skills and take part in light-hearted debates on subjects students of this age will enjoy. This is a prep course for taking debate in the future and will do some joint activities with the older debaters to acquaint them with the world of competitive debate.

Policy Debate Textbooks

See below.

The Pre-debate group will use *The Fallacy Detective* by Hans Bluedorn. You are welcome to purchase this on your own (Please get the 2nd edition), or include payment for it with your registration and I will order it for you.

Lincoln Douglas (LD) debate

Mrs. Sue Dykstal will be leading this group.

Her personal recommendation is that LD debate should be for debaters who have had at least 2 years of policy debate or for older students (16 or older). Younger students may be successful if they:

1) understand basic argument structure, 2) are well-versed in history/social studies and government, 3) have practiced identifying logic and lack thereof and 4) can think abstractly.

If you would like to know the difference between LD & policy debate, please call Kelly Bragg!

Mrs. Dykstal is recommending the textbook:

The Art of Value Debate by Matt Pitchford. One can purchase it

at <http://www.instituteforculturalcommunicators.org/store/category.aspx?id=7> or indicate you want to order it on the registration form. It is not required but would be very helpful if someone has no LD experience.

Mrs. Dykstal also recommends the following for LDers:

An Introduction to Value Debate by Seth Halvorson and Cherian Koshy

at http://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/LDIntroduction_to_LD_Debate_%28NFL%29.pdf is a document online that may be legally printed for educational use. This is my favorite explanation with clear illustrations of value debate for beginners. Students should read this in preparation for our first meeting.

Some optional books for debaters are *The Bluebook* for Team-Policy and *The Redbook* for Lincoln-Douglas from monumentpublishing.com. Many debaters find these books very helpful. They have evidence and debate cases to start a novice debater on the right track. However, last year it cost around \$80 for Team-Policy and \$40 for Lincoln-Douglas. Since these books won't be available until after July, we don't know this year's cost. Some people have opted to share a book to save on cost. Also available for Team-Policy and Lincoln-Douglas is the source book. That is a free resource for evidence and debate cases that is free to print as long as you are affiliated with NCFCA.

Younger Sibling Program (ages 4-11)

Ages 9-11

- 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM Speech with the big kids. They will meet with the older kids in the speech section of club but will have their own small group to work on their own projects. No textbook required, just copying fees. *NOTE: If you have a 10 or 11 year old who was in QV last year, please go ahead and register them as a regular speech club member and we'll have them do the work with the 12 & 13 year olds who are in QV for the first time.*
- 12:30-1:00 PM Club Meeting & lunch
- 1:00-2:00 PM Swim Lessons (Approx cost \$50-\$60 per student) – Payment due the first day of club. If you need to pay in installments (1/3 at Sept. 6, 1/3 on Oct.4, & the balance on Nov. 1), you can.
- 2:00 -3:00 PM Bright Lights for girls with Sarah Faulkner. Mature 8-year-old girls may sign up for Bright Lights as well. You can register for Bright Lights with the rest of the Quo Vadis registration but we won't have costs until July. Watch for details about Bright Lights in the July/August issue of *Home Sweet School*.
- The boys in this age group will have gym class.

Ages 4-8

- 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM Gym & Swim program (Approx cost \$50-\$60 per student) - Payment due the first day of club. If you need to pay in installments (1/3 at Sept. 6, 1/3 on Oct.4, & the balance on Nov.1), you can.
- 12:30-1:00 PM Club Meeting & lunch
- 1:00- 2:00 PM Beginning Speech with Mrs. Martha Waddel.
- 2:00- 3:00 PM Play/Game time in the nursery.
Note: If you have a mature 8-year-old girl, she can participate in Bright Lights.

Childcare (ages 0-3)

Parents will take turns taking care of this group. If you have other options for your little ones, it would be helpful!