

Club 415 FAQ

2019- 2020

Who can join Club 415? We welcome home-schooled students, age 12 - 18 on Oct 1, who want to improve their communication skills through participation in speech and debate events.

What about my younger children? Do you offer childcare or speech activities for them? At this time, we only offer a Senior Speech and Debate Club (which includes 12-18 year olds). We encourage parents with younger children to coordinate childcare outside of club.

What is expected of me as a parent of a club member? We require the involvement of at least one parent at each meeting. Club leaders will train parents to engage our kids at club and prepare parents to judge at tournaments. We have found that students excel with active, empowered parents.

When and where does Club 415 meet? We meet on Thursdays at Glenwood Church of Christ, August 29, 2019 through April. Our schedule is as follows: *12:30-2:00 Speech; 2:15-4:00 Debate*

What types of speech and debate events are available?

Stoa sponsors many types of Interpretive, Platform, and Limited Preparation speech events for the Tournament Season. For a description of each see: <http://www.STOAUSA.org/speech-events>
At this time, Club 415 is coaching Lincoln-Douglas and privately coaching Parliamentary debaters. Stoa also sponsors Team Policy debate, which we have offered in the past, depending on interest and coaching availability. For a description of each debate type see: <http://www.STOAUSA.org/debate-events>

Does my child have to compete in tournaments? Yes. One of our Club requirements is that students compete in at least **two** tournaments during the season. Club members work hard to improve their communication skills, and tournament participation helps tremendously. You will be amazed how much more confident and knowledgeable your child is after competing in a tournament. Most of our students attend their first tournament the weekend before Thanksgiving in Irving, earl Spring in Tyler and in March in Dallas. Past season tournament calendars are available at <https://stoausa.org/tournament-calendar/>

Is Club 415 a class, or part of Venture, Cottage Garden, Classical Conversations, or another area Co-op? No. Club 415 is TACHE's Speech and Debate Team and is open to all Tyler area homeschoolers who are members of TACHE. We are a competitive team and *not* a class or a co-op.

Can I give my high school student a Speech Elective credit for this? Any decision on grading and awarding academic credit remains with the parent.

My child is new to speech and debate. Where do we start? What events should we choose? Students under age 14 should begin in Speech events only. **Summer interview for new students**, as well as **Speech Camp** will give your student a flavor of the different events and help target his or her area of interest. Club 415 has a one day Speech camp on August 15, 2019, which is required for *all* Club members and will introduce students to all speech events. (The price is included in Club membership!) **Debate camp** is separate from Speech camps and ***is a requirement for all Debate students.*** Debate camp is August 13- 14 and will be hosted by Club415.

What if we cannot make the Club 415 -Sponsored Camps? Club 415 camp is preferred, and a requirement for all new students to Club 415. However, Metroplex Speech and Debate camps are also offered by other Stoa clubs and require independent registration fees.

Why does my child have to attend Speech or Debate camp? Don't you teach that at club?

Remember, Club 415 is not a class, but a *competitive* Speech and Debate Team. Although we will equip your students with the knowledge and tools to be successful, club time is best spent helping them practice and refine their speeches and debate arguments for tournaments. Speech or Debate camp immerses students in the nuts and bolts of preparing a speech or formulating a debate argument. You will be amazed at how much your child will learn in camp.

When and where are Speech and Debate Camps?

Club 415 requires all members to attend our Summer Camps, Debate- August 13- 14 2019; Speech- August 15, 2019. This will fulfill our Camp Requirement.

If your student would like to participate in an additional 3-5 day camp, we can recommend Texas area camps, especially for debaters, that specifically address STOA Speech Events and Debate resolutions. Check out stoausa.org for details as the next season draws near.

We recommend you register as soon as possible; camps will fill up!

What if my child wants to do just speech or debate, but not both? Club 415 schedule is set to accommodate students who wish to participate in only Speech or Speech/Debate combo. This choice is ultimately up to the family. We encourage students 12/13 yrs. to participate in Speech only their first year as they get to know the ins and outs of Club and tournaments. We recommend that debaters also compete in at least one speech event and encourage speech only students to compete in multiple speech events after their first year, as there is a great wealth of skills that can be gained from the different speech events. Also, competing in multiple events keeps "down time" to a minimum during actual tournaments.

My 12/13 year old really wants to participate in debate. Can you make an exception to the age limit? Our desire is for your child to have a successful year in Speech and Debate. You know your child better than anyone. If your child is truly hungry to participate in debate, we can meet with you both and talk about an exception, but please be aware that only the most mature and ambitious will do well. Most will be better off waiting another year.

How much does all this cost?

Club 415 membership for the 2019 – 2020 school year is \$150 per student, which includes a Club T-shirt, Club camp, operation expenses, and awards for the end-of-year party. We are able to keep Club costs low due to the great amount of volunteer effort of our parents. This is truly a ministry of TACHE families, where we encourage our students to "speak the truth in love"!

Member families will also need to join **TACHE** (\$40 before July 15th) and **Stoa** (\$55 before Dec).

Tournament costs vary depending on the tournament and what events your child participates in. Generally, tournament registration with student meals will be \$100 or less per child / per tournament. Most tournaments also offer parent/judge meals at a nominal cost. Depending on the location of the tournament, you may have transportation and lodging expenses also.

Tournament attire is also a consideration, as young men wear suits, and ladies wear modest dark skirt/pant suits. See Stoa tournament dress code for specifics.

What is the time commitment at home? Expect to spend 1 hour a day the first few months, for writing and practicing speeches. Debate takes more commitment, most commit to about 1-3 hours/ week outside of club.

How long do I have to decide? We close registration by July 31st, which requires application, interview and a non-refundable payment by July 31st.

What is Stoa? Why do I have to join? Stoa is a national speech and debate league serving the needs of Christian home-schooling families across the nation. Membership is required for families of students competing in Stoa tournaments. The annual fee of \$55 covers the entire family and allows students to compete in any Stoa tournament throughout the nation. For more information, see: <http://www.STOAUSA.org/membership>