Clear Creek Independent School District

**Course Syllabus 2019-2020**

**Debate I**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Debate - Debate I

**Teacher Name:** Mr. Rutledge

**Teacher Conference Time:**  3rd and 6th Periods

**Contact Information:** 281-284-2100 x42285 or mrutledg@ccisd.net (Note: there is no “e” in my last name for my email address)

**Approximate Timelines and Due Dates of Long-Term Projects:**

This course will include study and participation in projects that will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the communication process, with focus being paid to ***substantive*** argumentation and persuasion based on ***fact rather than opinion***. Specific areas that will be targeted include knowledge and skill in the following formats and structures. The order of concepts being taught in class could vary from what is listed below, however.

* Extemporaneous (Current Events) Speaking
* Cross Examination Debate
* Lincoln-Douglas Debate
* Public Forum Debate
* Student Congress / Legislative / Judicial Ideology and Procedures
* Mock Trial and typical courtroom procedure
* Worlds School – (time allowing)

Debates will be held in class. After school debates will be held only as necessary for Debate I. Classroom time will be reserved for lecture, notes, presentations, and to work on debate cases and practice so that homework can be kept to a minimum and so that instructor oversight can be offered to aid in case writing and research as well as answering questions.

*In part, this course will require student participation in traveling to a minimum of two local area UIL and/or TFA tournaments so that students can apply class-learned concepts into a competition (novice) setting.* One of these may be for observation and subsequent discussion but the second must be for competition (in a novice category is allowed). Before students will be allowed to travel to area tournaments they will read the By-laws of the CBHS Speech & Debate club and will adhere to all provisions. A signed copy (both by parent and student) of the last page must be in sponsor’s possession before a student will be allowed to compete. This document can be found at <http://www.wolverinedebate.com> under the “About” tab.

**General Methods of Assessment and Grade Calculation:**

Major Grades:

In a non-core area curriculum high school credit class, Major Grades will comprise 40% - 60% of the nine-week average. These grades will include: Alternative Assessments (performances/debates), Examinations/Tests, Quizzes and other assignments. Nine week and semester assessments will be administered in this class. This assessment will count the same as other class tests/assessments. Major assessments will count 50% of your nine week grade.

Daily Grades:

In a non-core area curriculum high school credit class, Daily Grades will comprise 35% - 55% of the nine week average. Daily Grades include Class Work, Homework, and other assignments. Daily assignments will count for 45% of your nine week grade.

Reading:

A total of 5% of your nine week grade will be based on reading comprehension.

**Average Amount of Homework:**

The average amount of homework will depend largely on the student’s ability and in what does/doesn’t get accomplished in class. In most cases, students should be able to complete any homework in 30 minutes or less.

For all state-approved courses, the State of Texas has developed the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) which define the guidelines under which Clear Creek ISD must develop the objectives for the course. These TEKS are cross referenced to the CCISD curriculum objectives. In addition, CCISD objectives are also cross referenced to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) objectives.

The complete TEKS document, which was approved by the Texas State Board of Education (July, 1997), may be found on the internet at [www.tea.state.tx.us/teks](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks) and is accessible by teachers, parents, and students.

The CCISD curriculum for reading, math, science, and social studies may be found on the internet at [www.ccisd.net](http://www.ccisd.net).

**Other relevant information:**

1. This course will involve the reading, analysis and understanding of both simple and complex political thoughts, current events, theories and academic papers. This course will also include discussion of current events and, by their nature, controversial issues. **Students must be willing to discuss ideas that may be counter to one’s own opinion, and will be able to respect the various beliefs and opinions of others.**

2. This course will require the use of items such as expandable folders, timers, hi-lighters, legal pads, printing costs, travel expenses, squad t-shirt, access to squad-purchased debate briefs and files, memberships, team website access and other materials. **The student is not required to purchase any of this equipment outside of class as it will be provided to them as part of their debate program fees of $60.00.** This fee can be paid as a one-time fee via check or made as installments. All fees will be handled through our Bookkeeper and our Skyward system. The instructor will take no money from students. Please know that a surcharge for credit card usage will be applied. The only materials that students may need to provide include a USB drive (1 GB minimum), multiple colors of pens, pencils, a notebook and paper or a composition book for note-taking. If there are concerns with fees being affordable, please consult with Mr. Rutledge one-on-one so that something can be worked out.

3. You should be in your seat and ready to start class when the bell rings, you should not talk when someone else is talking, you should treat the teacher and others the same way you wish to be treated, you should keep a positive attitude, you should ask questions when you do not understand a concept and you should make good use of your time in class.

4. You should not do homework for another class while in my classroom, sleep during class, stand at the door waiting for the bell to ring, be unprepared to start each day, or lie, cheat or misrepresent yourself.

* **This classroom will typically be COLD. Bring a sweater or other apparel that will lend to your comfort for each class period. Failure to dress within school dress codes will only lend to your discomfort.**
* **Grades are posted and can be viewed by your parents online via the Parent Self-Serve or Skyward on a *daily basis.***
* **Classroom policies will follow CCISD handbook policies (particularly with reference to headphones, cell phones, and dress code).**

**Classroom Rules:**

1. **Respect yourself and respect others at all times.**
2. **Participate fully.**