

Interritus Debate Club, Inc.

2023-2024 Club Policies

Purpose: To train Christian home school students in the skills of presentation, critical thinking, and research in an environment of honorable competition, to cultivate maturity, wisdom, grace, and poise, bringing glory to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fees: (Non-HOME of Fine Arts)

Registration Fee: \$25 per family

Middle School Class Fee: \$135 per student per semester. This includes debate supplies (e.g., printing, notebooks, flow pads, timers).

High School Class Fee: \$150 per student per semester.

Discount: A 20% discount off the Class Fee for all families with more than one student in the household.

Payment: First semester class fees are due upon registration or before classes begin in August and second semester fees are due by January 20, 2025. Registration and payments should be completed online, <https://interritusdebateclub.homeschooldebate.net/>

Private Coaching: Private debate and speech coaching/tutoring is available for an additional fee of \$25 per hour.

HOME of Fine Arts Registration and Fees: Students attending speech and debate classes at HOME of Fine Arts Connection need to register through the HOME website (www.homeofflinearts.com). All fees are calculated by and paid to HOME of Fine Arts Connection.

Family Eligibility: Parents must agree with the Interritus Statement of Faith found on our website [HERE](#). Students must be home educated and meet the qualifying age requirement. Families must be members of [Stoa](#) to compete at the high school level.

Online Eligibility: Online classes are only available to families who are in our local community. Families who are not in our immediate area and do not have a Stoa club in their area, need to email interritusdebate@gmail.com for special permission to join on a year-by-year basis.

Ages: Students must be 11 by October 1, 2024, for the Middle School class and 12 for the High School class.

Class Offerings:

Griffin: Middle School Team Policy Debate, Varsity Team Policy Debate

Macon: Middle School Team Policy Debate, Varsity Team Policy Debate

Morrow: Middle School Team Policy Debate, Varsity Team Policy Debate, Competitive Speech

Online: Lincoln Douglas Varsity Debate, Varsity Team Policy Debate

Class Descriptions:

Middle School (ages 11-13): This class will focus on learning many of the same skills as the High School class, but in a manner that better fits the learning needs of this age group. Students will be taught critical thinking skills, research strategies, and public speaking in a fun environment. They will learn how to organize arguments into a persuasive plan and how to analyze the arguments of others by looking for flaws in logic, reasoning, and/or evidence.

Homework: The goal is to give these students the debate experience without overwhelming them. Therefore, this class **does not require any homework outside of club time**

Varsity Debate:

Team Policy: This class will focus on teaching critical thinking skills, research strategies, and public speaking in a fun environment. Students will learn how to organize arguments into a persuasive plan and how to analyze the arguments of others by looking for flaws in logic, reasoning, and/or evidence.

Lincoln Douglas: Lincoln Douglas is a value-based debate. In this class, students will learn the basics of LD theory and philosophy along with proper argumentation and logic. They will also learn how to write the necessary case(s) and brief(s). This class is intended for students who are 14 years or older.

Homework: The High School classes **do require work outside of club time**. We do recognize that students have other schoolwork. So, most of the workload is shared with other members of the club. In the beginning, students may expect to spend approximately two to four hours a week on club work. This time commitment increases as we get closer to tournament time. Time spent on debate will play a huge role in success (meaning placing) at tournaments.

Optional Online Classes:

Additional classes for individual speech events and Parliamentary Debate will be offered throughout the year. These classes will be included in the Class Fee and will not be an additional expense.

Other Varsity Requirements:

Speech Events: All students in their second year and above of Varsity debate must enter at least one speech event in at least two tournaments during the school year.

Parliamentary Debate: All students in their third year and above of high school debate must participate in Parli in at least two tournaments during the school year.

Necessary Supplies:

Middle School Class:

All necessary supplies are included in the Class Fee.

Varsity Class:

First Meeting & After: Notebook with Notebook Paper, Pens

Within the First Month: Yellow Legal Pad, Digital Kitchen Timer, Post-It Notes

Occasional: Laptop with wireless capabilities to research during club time

At Home: Access to the Internet, along with a Google Account, will be necessary for at-home research and work. We will use a Google Drive account to work together as a club to gather research.

Technical Requirements for Online Classes:

Students must be able to use a computer that can access Zoom. They must keep their camera and their microphone turned on the entire class time. The Chat Box is only to be used as requested by the Teacher, who may turn off the Chat Box at their discretion.

Student Behavior:

Parents are responsible for their students. During club, **students are expected to behave in a manner that makes learning conducive for everyone.** Any excessive talking and/or playing during club time will be handled by the coach with the student. If the matter is not resolved by the student, a meeting with the parent will be necessary. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked not to return to club. Students must stay in designated areas at all times. To ensure the reputations of all, no student should be alone with the door closed with a student of the opposite sex before, during, or after any club functions, including tournaments.

Dress Code:

Club Dress Code: On a normal club day, students should **dress modestly and appropriately** for the occasion. For girls, this means an appropriate t-shirt/sweatshirt/ with modest shorts, jeans, a skirt, or a dress. For boys, this means an appropriate t-shirt and/or sweatshirt with modest shorts or jeans.

Tournament Dress Code: Students must dress in **professional business attire at the tournaments.** For young men, this means a suit or slacks and a sports coat, with a shirt and tie, and dress shoes. For young ladies, this means a skirt or a pantsuit, slacks, skirts, or dresses with jackets, and professional dress shoes. Hemlines are to be at least to the knee. Nylons are not required.

Tournament Participation:

Middle School: There will be two tournaments for middle school students to compete in during the school year. These cost approximately \$25 per student.

Varsity: Students will be expected to compete in **at least 2 tournaments throughout the tournament season,** which is October through April. Tournaments typically cost \$40 per student for a student to compete in Team Policy Debate/Lincoln Douglas and run Thursday morning through Saturday evening.

Tournament Dates: We are still in the planning stages for tournaments for the upcoming school year. We will let you know the dates as soon as they are available.

Parent Participation:

Club Parental Involvement: Parents are not required to stay at weekly club meetings, but it is **helpful to the student and the parent**. The more parents understand about debate, the more they can help their students. At the very least, parents should be willing to discuss the topic with their students. It is helpful for students to learn how others view the topic. Parents may be able to provide valuable insight.

Tournament Parental Involvement: **Debate tournaments are not drop-off events. Parents are responsible for their students before, during, and after the tournament.** They are also expected to judge and to help in a tournament role. Many hands make light work. A list of volunteer possibilities will be shared closer to the date of the tournament. Parents are also required to help judge at least three rounds of debate and/or speech. There will be Judge Orientation at the tournament to give parents the necessary tools to make informed decisions.

National Affiliation: Our club is affiliated with Stoa, a national Christian Homeschool Speech & Debate league. Stoa is a membership driven organization dedicated to training youth in order to communicate a Biblical worldview. Membership in Stoa is required to compete at the high school tournaments. This membership helps support their mission, “Speaking Boldly. Changing the world for Christ.” Membership allows families to vote in issues of resolutions and events and allows qualified students to compete at NITOC. You can learn more about Stoa and join by visiting their website: <http://stoausa.org/>

NITOC:

NITOC, the National Invitational Tournament of Champions, is the national tournament hosted by Stoa every year in May. Qualified students from around the country are invited to participate against students from all across the nation. This is a weeklong event culminating with an awards ceremony Saturday evening.

NITOC Qualification: A student must have at least two green check marks in an event in order to qualify for NITOC. For debate, this means that a debate team must be in the top 38th percentile for that event at a tournament. For speech, this means that a student must place in the top 40th percentile for that event at a tournament. Stoa then sends an email to qualified students at the end of the season inviting them to attend NITOC.

NITOC Travel: NITOC is held at a different location every year to try to meet the needs of families across the country. Past locations have included Dallas, TX; Greenville, SC; and San Diego, CA among other locations. This year it will be hosted by Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK. **Families are responsible for all travel associated with attending NITOC.**

Speechranks: Stoa uses the Speechranks website (<http://www.speechranks.com/>) to track tournament results throughout the year and determine qualifiers for NITOC. Competitors are listed on this website by their first and last name. If you do not want your child's name listed on this website, please let your coach know before you register for the first tournament. This does not apply to our middle school tournaments. Those results are not uploaded to Speechranks.