

# Climb Programs for Elementary Students (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)



## Climb the Mountain Speech and Debate

**SUMMER CAMPS 2026**

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**Register!**

## About the Debate Programs

**Debate is great for** students that like to work more in teams/groups and want to directly respond to what others have to say, preparing on topics relevant and challenging for elementary students.

Elementary students debate at a challenging but supportive level. They research topics, take both sides on the topic, present cases, refute opposing cases, defend their cases and persuasively weigh the arguments in the debate to persuade their judges. Topics have included school cell phone use, ending plastic bags, video game effects on kids, and space exploration. Recognitions for each student's unique skills as well as top teams and speakers finish the program. ***The Last two days, students participate in debates leading to awards and recognitions (no extra fee, it is part of the camp program).***

**NEW DEBATERS:** Students begin by learning key skills for debating including the structure of a good argument, responding to opposing arguments, asking and answering questions, taking notes, making cases, researching, and synthesizing the arguments in a debate into a persuasive argument. Students work in small groups of 6 to 8 students with their instructor. Students engage in debates with expert feedback and engage in redos to improve their speaking and argument skills. All the while, they are building up social connections and friendships with other students who share their goals.

**RETURNING EXPERIENCED DEBATERS:** Experienced students build off the debate knowledge they have gained. Working in small labs of 6 to 8 students, they learn advanced skills and strategies and how to put them into action. They work on and debate different topics. They are challenged by more difficult debates. They are challenged to improve their cases and responses. All along, they are working with their debate friends--a supportive, high achieving group who want the best for each other. Returners climb to accomplish the highest level of debating.

**WE RECOMMEND THAT MOST 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS TAKE THE SPEECH PROGRAM FIRST before doing the debate program UNLESS your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader is more talkative, has good concentration, and gets good grades/reviews in school.**

**Register!**

## About the Speech Programs

**Speech is great for** students that like to work more on their own and wants to gain presentation skills including organizing material with relevant and engaging information along with good delivery.

Students in our Speech program will prepare, practice, and present a PowerPoint AND a Manuscripted speech and they will engage in Impromptu speaking. By the end of the program, students will have improved delivery skills, the ability to communicate ideas more clearly and effectively, and quality speeches to be proud of. ***The last two day of class, students present their speeches leading to awards and recognitions (no extra fee, it is part of the camp program).***

**BEGINNER SPEAKERS:** Students learn effective content and delivery all while gaining self-confidence. We teach students step by step how to prepare speeches. Students incorporate supporting material into their speeches that keeps audience interest and strengthens their speech argument. Students practice speaking with an emphasis on energetically connecting with their audience including poise and eye contact. Throughout, each student works with other friendly participants who are just as interested in ideas and communication.

**RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS:** Students advance their preparation, practice, and presentation skills. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our instructors to take their speeches from good to great. Students put into practice carefully crafted rhetoric that distinguishes their presentations. Students become more polished speakers delivering in a way that impresses those listening.

**Yes—students can do both the speech and debate program as they happen at different times during the day.**

**Register!**

## Location Dates Times Fees for Elementary Students

### **JULY NORTH BELLEVUE CHESS-DEBATE Program**

**July 6-10, 9am to Noon plus afternoon Chess**, Fees see website

**July 13-17, 9am to Noon plus afternoon Chess**, Fees see website

[Go Here for the Chess-Debate Summer Camps](#)

### **JULY ONLINE SPEECH Elementary Program**

**July 20-24, 1230pm to 220pm, \$439**

### **JULY BELLEVUE SPEECH Elementary Program**

**July 20-24, 1230pm to 220pm, \$549**

### **JULY BELLEVUE DEBATE Elementary Program**

**July 20-24, 9am to Noon, \$599**

### **AUGUST ONLINE SPEECH Elementary Program**

**August 10-14, 1230pm to 220pm, \$439**

*Prices include the new Washington Sales Tax on Non-Profit Educational Programs.*

*Prices include culminating debate/speech event showcasing student learning and growth.*

*--BELLEVUE Location is at Bellevue College. 3000 Landerholm Cir SE, Bellevue, WA 98005.*

*--NORTH BELLEVUE Location is at Grand Knights Chess Academy, 13620 NE 20th St Suite K, Bellevue, WA 98005*

*--Online uses Zoom.*

**Register!**

## New & Experienced Students

**NEW DEBATERS:** Students begin by learning key skills for debating. The structure of an argument, responding to opposing arguments, ask and answering questions, taking notes, making cases, researching, and synthesizing the arguments in a debate into a persuasive argument. Students work in small groups--our staff to student ratio is typically 1 to 6 students. Students engage in debates with expert feedback and engage in redos to improve their speaking and argument skills. All the while, they are building up social connections and friendships with other students who share their goals.

**RETURNING EXPERIENCED DEBATERS:** Experienced students build off the debate knowledge they have gained. Working in small labs of 4 to 8 students, they learn advanced skills and strategies and how to put them into action. They work on and debate different topics. They are challenged by more difficult debates. They are challenged to improve their cases and responses. All along, they are working with their debate friends--a supportive, high achieving group who want the best for each other.

**NEW SPEAKERS:** Students will learn new kinds of speeches and prepare, practice, and present 2 different kinds of speeches. We are offering 1) PowerPoint speaking; 2) Extemp-Impromptu speaking; 3) Informative-Persuasive-Humorous (ADS) speaking; 4) Interpretation (Play-Prose-Poetry performances). Throughout you work with other friendly students who are just as interested in ideas and communication as you are.

**RETURNING/EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS:** Students advance their preparing, practice, and presentation skills in new speeches. Experienced speakers get advanced work with our experts to take their speeches from decent to great. Throughout students work with other experienced students who bring their own talents and skills into the mix to advance at a peer level student understanding and engagement in high quality speeches.

**Register!**

## About Fees and the Refund Policy

**Lower income or Rainier Scholars household?** When you register, choose one of the two options for 50% or 95% fee reduction (no forms--just a click). We want our programs to be affordable to all families.

**Fees include:** All instruction in small 6 to 8 person labs for personalized attention, example arguments and speeches, materials with extensive tips, and a feedback system for students and parents that provides guidance for improving. Fees also include a culminating experience of debates/speeches leading to recognitions and awards.

### Refunds (Summer Camp Policy)

If you drop before June 1, you will receive 95% refund.

If you drop 7 or more days before the first day of class, you will receive 85% refund.

If you drop 72 or more hours before the first day class, you will receive 75% refund.

If you drop 24 or more hours before the second day of class starts, you will receive 65% refund.

If you drop 24 hours or more before the third day of class starts, you will receive 45% refund.

After the third class begins, there are no refunds.

We do NOT refund for missing a class, for being late to a class, nor for missing a tournament that is part of the program, nor for dropping the class after day 3 starts.

Students can makeup missed classes by viewing our program's PowerPoints or by attending another class if session available (arrange with Jim Hanson).

You can switch days at no cost IF there is space available to do so. We will refund price differences ONLY if you switch 7 or more days before the first class.

The refund policy is based on the fact that registration processing takes our time and once we hire an instructor--we have to pay them for the entire program even when students drop. Dropping is also disruptive to teams and labs who have to be reconfigured.

**Register!**