

**SPEECH COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**MRS. FLEMING**  
**THREE LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introductory Speech is a course for students who want to learn to think clearly and express themselves effectively before an audience, and prepares students for college and their careers. Students are provided opportunities to increase their fluency as a speaker, and develop their self-confidence. The course covers multiple aspects of public speaking and gives the student practical experience through participation. The course introduces the beginning speech student to a study of poise, use of body and voice, public speaking, and oral interpretation of literature.



1. **Be Prompt:** Prompt attendance is vital to succeed in this class.
2. **Be Prepared:** Proper preparation prevents poor performance. Students in Introductory Speech are expected to be highly motivated. They must maintain organized work habits and be willing to work hard to attain the benefits of the course. All students are expected to come to class fully prepared. At the bell students are expected to be in their chairs, materials ready. Preparation includes the proper materials.
3. **Be Proper:** Proper behavior in this class is essential because your behavior affects yourself and everyone around you. **ABSOLUTELY NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS** about other students will be allowed. I will not tolerate negative comments towards others. Proper classroom etiquette such as not talking when others are speaking, etc., will be expected at all times.
4. **Be Productive:** Always stay on task and use your time wisely. The student often will be asked to work alone while the teacher works with other students. In such cases the student is expected to work without direct supervision of the teacher.

**In addition to our classes core guidelines we also have the following expectations:**

1. Respect the space. Respect your teacher. Respect your collaborators. Respect yourself.
2. Cell phone and personal electronic devices will remain off and in your bag until you are told you may use them. If found, they will be taken up.
3. No food, gum, or drink allowed in the black box or on the stage at any time. Exceptions could be granted on a conditional basis but remember: respect the space. You may bring a water bottle if you'd like.
4. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. The teacher will record a grade of "F/o" for plagiarized assignments.

**Plagiarism:** Claiming another person's written material as one's own. Plagiarism can take the form of direct, work-for-work copying or the theft of the substance or idea of the work.

5. When in doubt, refer to the first expectation.

**The following steps will be taken when students choose to break the class rules:**

1. First Incident: WARNING name on the chalkboard/clipboard/etc.
2. Second Incident: Held after class for redirection Parent Contact .
3. Third Incident: Parent phone call , or note home, and 1 teacher detention.
4. Fourth Incident: Referral sent to the assistant principal's' office.

**DISRESPECTFUL, INSUBORDINATE, AND/OR DEFIANT BEHAVIOR Immediately Write up & send to office**

## **COURSE SEQUENCE**

### **A. Public Speaking**

Introductory material includes: poise, body control, speech organization, topic selection, how to introduce a speech, and speaker and audience relationships.

Major assignments: Acceptance speech, Informative speech, Persuasive speech, Demonstration speech.

### **B. Interpretation of Literature**

Introductory material includes: differences between interpretation and acting, how to choose appropriate selections, how to "cut" the selection to performance length, how to introduce an interpretation, and portrayal of author's theme and characterizations through use of voice and body. Major assignments: Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Storytelling

**(Depending on time available, various other speeches may be inserted, or the order of their performance, may be altered.)**

## **EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY**

A. The majority of the grade will consist of evaluations of the oral performances. Periodic written quizzes (announced and unannounced) will be given on class material. In addition, grades will be taken on speech preparation materials: outlines, scripts, etc.

B. The performances serve as the major unit tests in the course. The student demonstrates their knowledge and understanding of the unit's skills and concepts through the performances.

C. After each performance, the student will receive a written critique. The critique will identify areas of needed improvement for future performances. The critique should be used during the planning and rehearsal of the next performance.

D. For a successful performance, the student needs to maintain a regular schedule of rehearsal at home.

**Parents should be able to observe speech preparation and rehearsal on a regular basis.**

## **CLASSROOM MATERIALS**

- A. Students are expected to bring to class everyday;
  - a. Folder or notebook to keep class notes and handouts in.
  - b. spiral notebook
  - c. Pen/pencil
  - d. Highlighter
  - e. 1 package of notecards

Please go over this syllabus with your parents. Sign your name and have a parent sign below. Return this to class, when directed, as the next assignment.

I have read and understand the guidelines in the **Introductory Speech** syllabus.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_