

Fairfax Collegiate  
2026 Summer Program  
Model UN Course Syllabus  
Rising Grades 7-9



Course Description

*Negotiate world peace.*

Learn about the United Nations and the Security Council. Research, think, write, debate, and negotiate. Act as an ambassador to the UN, and draft resolutions to solve global problems.

Students in Model UN discuss current events, research issues, and represent different perspectives in a structured, team-based setting. With clear guidance and steady practice, students build confidence as they learn how Model UN debates work and how to participate effectively.

Students explore the structure and purpose of the United Nations, examine the role of NGOs, learn Model UN vocabulary, and analyze international challenges such as sustainable development. They practice research skills, write position papers, prepare working papers, and take part in frequent debates where they speak for their assigned countries. Through collaborative role-playing, consensus-building exercises, and structured discussions, students sharpen their public speaking, negotiation, and critical-thinking skills.

Families receive a video of speeches from the final project students work on. Students leave the course with stronger communication skills, a deeper understanding of global issues, and the confidence to join Model UN clubs and conferences in the future.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	<p><b>United Nations:</b> Students learn about the structure and function of the United Nations and related organizations.</p> <p><b>Model UN Preparation:</b> Students learn how to participate in Model UN tournaments during the school year.</p>
Course Topics	<p><b>Structure of the UN:</b> Students learn about how the UN is organized and what its role is in international politics.</p> <p><b>Current Events:</b> Students discuss current world events and learn how to stay updated on these</p>

	<p>events.</p> <p><b>Public Speaking:</b> Students practice public speaking, which will assist them during the debates throughout the session.</p> <p><b>Non-Governmental Organizations:</b> Students learn the role that NGO's play and research some. They present their findings to the class.</p> <p><b>Research:</b> Students learn the importance of good research and some sources to go to for quality information.</p> <p><b>Position Papers:</b> Students learn about the role of a position paper in a Model UN committee and how to properly write one.</p> <p><b>Debates:</b> Students participate in many debates throughout the session to practice their ability to argue a point of view.</p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Students learn the terminology they will need to know to successfully argue for their country's perspective in committee.</p> <p><b>Consensus:</b> Students learn how to build consensus around their solution to a problem.</p> <p><b>Working Papers:</b> Students learn the role of working papers and how to write them properly.</p> <p><b>Model UN Debate Structure:</b> Students learn the structure of a Model UN debate and how to become involved in the Model UN club in a high school.</p>
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## Course Schedule

<b>Class Meeting 1</b>	<p><b>Introduction to the United Nations:</b> Students receive and overview about the goals and functions of the UN.</p> <p><b>Current Event Discussion:</b> Students share their knowledge on international events, and they learn various sources that can be checked to learn about the news.</p> <p><b>Public Speaking for a Debate:</b> Students discuss the qualities of speaking well publicly and practice these in an informal debate.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 2</b>	<p><b>Bodies of the United Nations:</b> Students discuss the main bodies of the UN and the topics they debate about.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development:</b> Students begin to learn about sustainable development, which the course will focus on.</p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Students begin to learn the terminology that will be necessary for success in upcoming debates.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 1:</b> Students use the public speaking skills they have acquired to hold a debate.</p>
<b>Class</b>	<p><b>Non-Governmental Organizations:</b> Students learn about the role and types of NGO's, research</p>

<b>Meeting 3</b>	<p>specific ones, and present their findings to the class.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development Issues:</b> Students brainstorm issues related to sustainable development that they could debate.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 2:</b> Students debate a pertinent topic to practice the skills they have learned.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 4</b>	<p><b>Background Guides:</b> Students learn the role of background guides in a MUN conference.</p> <p><b>Research:</b> Students learn about the type of research that is necessary for Model UN conferences.</p> <p><b>Position Papers:</b> Students learn the purpose and structure of a position paper used in Model UN debates.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 3:</b> Students hold another debate to practice the skills they have learned.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 5</b>	<p><b>Role Playing:</b> Students take on various roles and attempt to solve a problem in a way that everyone agrees with.</p> <p><b>Review:</b> Students review the information they have learned throughout the week and begin to discuss topics to debate in the next week.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 6</b>	<p><b>Research Exercise:</b> Students practice effective research skills and present their findings to the class.</p> <p><b>Introduction to Model UN:</b> Students learn how high school Model UN clubs are set up, and they discuss the events in Model UN conferences.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 4:</b> Students debate a topic they have researched that day from the point of view of their particular country.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 7</b>	<p><b>Consensus Building:</b> Students learn how to work together to come up with a proposed solution that everyone can agree with.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> Students learn the importance of asking questions during Model UN conferences.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 5:</b> Students use the skills they have learned, particularly the use of questions, to participate in a debate.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 8</b>	<p><b>Working Papers:</b> Students learn the rules for writing a working paper and about its importance in a Model UN debate.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 6:</b> Students debate a topic and practice writing working papers based on the points argued during the debate.</p>
<b>Class Meeting 9</b>	<p><b>Rules and Procedures:</b> Students go over the rules and procedures of a Model UN debate, which they will simulate the following day.</p> <p><b>Debate Exercise 7:</b> Students participate in a final debate exercise before the Model UN simulation the following day.</p>
<b>Class</b>	<p><b>Model UN Simulation:</b> Students hold a formal Model UN debate on topics they have researched.</p>

Meeting 10	
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