

**Fairfax Collegiate
2026 Summer Program
Public Speaking Course Syllabus
Rising Grades 4-6**



Course Description

Speak in front of an audience every day.

Research, outline, write, and present speeches. Construct persuasive arguments. Work on eye contact, body language, word choice, and voice inflection.

Students become more confident, engaging speakers who enjoy sharing their ideas with others. The course prepares students to practice new skills, try out different kinds of speeches, and build comfort with speaking in front of a group. With supportive feedback and plenty of practice, students grow more assured each time they speak.

Students explore storytelling, persuasive speaking, impromptu speeches, debates, panel discussions, and dramatic performance. They learn how to plan and organize a speech, use strong body language, choose effective words, manage stage fright, and adjust their voice for clarity and impact. Creative activities like short story presentations, inspirational speeches, media analysis, and group presentations keep each class lively and help students apply their skills in fun, meaningful ways.

Families receive a video of their student's final speech. Students leave the course with stronger communication skills, greater confidence, and a toolkit of techniques they can use in school and beyond!

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	Public Speaking: Students learn how to deliver speeches and present ideas with confidence. Types of Speeches: Students learn about the different ways one can prepare a speech, and they practice these methods.
Course Topics	Introduction to Speech: Students learn about the purpose of public speaking and of the different types of speeches one could give. Stage Fright: Students learn various strategies to overcome stage fright while presenting in public. Speech Production: Students learn how to plan and write a speech for a specific purpose.

	<p>Gestures and Eye Contact: Students learn how their body language influences their ability to effectively give a speech.</p> <p>Word Choice: Students learn various words and phrases that should or should not be used while giving a public speech.</p> <p>Impromptu Speech: Students learn how to deliver a speech after having minimal time to prepare.</p> <p>Persuasive Speech: Students learn how to persuade others through speech to convince the audience to take action.</p> <p>Visual Aids: Students learn how to use props and a chalkboard to assist the audience during a speech.</p> <p>Panel Discussions: Students learn how to present a topic in a panel discussion to an audience.</p> <p>Debate: Students learn how to tactfully present their point of view and refute the opposite point of view in a formal debate.</p> <p>Drama: Students learn how the techniques they have learned throughout the session can be practical in theater.</p> <p>Final Speech Presentation: Students present speeches on topics they have researched and show what they have learned about speech presentation throughout the class.</p>
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Course Schedule

Class Meeting 1	<p>Introduction to Speech: Students are introduced to each other and to the purpose of public speech.</p> <p>Stage Fright: Students learn various strategies to overcome stage fright in front of an audience.</p> <p>Short Story Presentation: Students practice telling an entertaining story and a fable, using the techniques they learned that day.</p>
Class Meeting 2	<p>Effective Delivery: Students watch a famous speech and discuss the methods used to enhance the power of the speech.</p> <p>Types of Speech: Students learn about the different methods in which speeches may be prepared and delivered.</p> <p>Preparing a Speech: Students learn how to plan, write, and present a speech on a given topic.</p>
Class Meeting 3	<p>Gestures and Eye Contact: Students learn the impact that various forms of body language have on the power of a speech.</p> <p>Word Choice: Students learn various words and phrases that should or should not be used in public speech.</p> <p>Extemporaneous Speech: Students learn how to plan, write, and deliver a speech using outlines</p>

	on note cards.
Class Meeting 4	<p>Impromptu Speech: Students learn how to deliver an effective speech after having minimal time to prepare.</p> <p>Persuasion: Students learn the techniques of persuasive speech so they may convince an audience of their point of view.</p> <p>Inspirational Speeches: Students view an example of an inspirational speech and discuss the methods used to inspire an audience to take action.</p>
Class Meeting 5	<p>Visual Aids: Students learn how to use props to clarify the meaning of a speech for the audience.</p> <p>Delivery Style: Students learn how variance in their voice can impact the meaning of a speech.</p> <p>Persuasion in the Media: Students learn how persuasion is used in television commercials to convince viewers to buy something.</p> <p>Final Speech Overview: Students learn about the final speech they will deliver on the last day of the session.</p>
Class Meeting 6	<p>Conceptual Review: Students review the strategies and techniques they learned previously through presenting a short speech.</p> <p>Using a Chalkboard: Students learn how to use a chalkboard to enhance their public speech.</p>
Class Meeting 7	Presentation as a Group: Students learn how to present a particular topic as a group to an audience.
Class Meeting 8	Debate: Students learn how to argue their point of view and rebut the opposing point of view in a tactful debate.
Class Meeting 9	<p>Public Speaking in Theater: Students learn how to use the public speaking techniques they have learned in theater.</p> <p>Final Speech Preparation: Students finalize preparations on the speeches they will present the following day.</p>
Class Meeting 10	Final Speech Presentation: Students present the speeches they have prepared over the past week.