Forensic/Speech Course Syllabus
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Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech.
-Mark Twain

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Forensic/speech/Oral Communication is a course designed to give the student the opportunity to develop his/her skills in research, writing and speech presentation. The student is afforded the opportunity to practice these skills in class. The course requires a student to be prepared to spend at least one hour per week in library/internet research in the pursuit of evidence to support the resolution and his/her speeches. Students will complete weekly assignments in preparation for speeches and current event items.

The student may participate in one of the following events:

Policy Debate      Lincoln/Douglas Debate
Public Forum Debate     Extemporaneous Speaking
Duo-Interpretation     Humorous/Dramatic Interpretation
Original Oratory      Current Events

GRADES: Course grades will be determined using the following method:

- Speech presentation     20%
- Research                15%
- Speech Preparation/Outline     15%
- Soapstone               20%
- Participation           30%

Grading Scale
A= 90%       B= 80%        C= 70%   D=69%-65%  F=64%-0

Classroom Procedures
1. The bell does not dismiss the class; I dismiss the class. Students are dismissed when called upon, either individually or by groups.
2. Working in cooperative group students will be placed in teacher chosen groups. The following are the procedures for Support Groups:
   3. Saying “Thank you.” At all times remember to say thank you to one another. Along with “thank you,” “please” should also be used at all times.
4. Gentlemen, no hats or headbands in the classroom. Ladies and Gentlemen no sunglasses are to be worn in the classroom.
5. Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during the class period.
6. No profanities, loud talking (especially when the teacher is giving instruction), and please raise your hand before answering a question.
7. Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class begins.

Parent signature __________________________________________________________

Student signature _________________________________________________________