

SPEECH/DEBATE & DRAMA EDUCATION AT MILLHOPPER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

First through fifth grade students attend a half hour of Speech/Debate & Drama Education instruction each week. Middle School students attend an hour of instruction each week. Each lesson builds upon the previous lesson, becoming more advanced and in-depth as students matriculate through grade levels. Cross-curricular team planning happens within each grade level to create fun and engaging projects.

SPEECH/DEBATE & DRAMA INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOMS

First – Third Grade present book reports, power points, history projects, Halloween Timeline presentation (Mr. Richard Aslanian's class)

Fourth – Fifth Grade present book reports, power points, history projects, personifications in history, skits and debates in literature, poetry slam, choral readings, Spanish projects, Reader's Theater

Middle School present speeches in various classes, Spanish skits, Shakespeare Festival, Festival of Dionysus, prepare for Science Fair presentations, poetry slam, Internship presentations, Town Hall

SPEECH/DEBATE & DRAMA LESSONS AT A GLANCE

FIRST – THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

All lessons are leveled by grade, students will:

- learn fundamentals of communication
- learn public speaking techniques through various exercises
- learn to collaborate and listen
- learn to give constructive feedback
- learn to receive constructive feedback
- learn to adjust presentation after feedback
- learn opening and closing
- deliver journal prompts, poems and choral readings
- learn persuade vs argue
- learn debate vs argument
- learn basic debate terminology
- learn to engage in group discussions
- follow rules of respect and acceptance of other's ideas
- learn to build upon other's ideas and express their own
learn opinion vs fact
- learn to play "Four Corners" debate
- engage in a teacher led discussion debate
- engage in Reader's Theater presentations
- engage in cultural and etiquette presentations
- learn basics of an audition
- learn basic theater terminology
- learn how to basics of stage blocking
- learn how to read a script
- learn blocking and choreography
- learn stage etiquette
- learn techniques on performing in a stage and putting on a show

SPEECH/DEBATE & DRAMA LESSONS AT A GLANCE

FOURTH – FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

Students review and build upon lessons learned in First – Third grades

In addition to the above, students will:

- learn to organize and write a formal speech, with introduction, transitions, body and closing
- learn to add an attention-grabbing opening
- learn to transition into the body paragraph and build upon Introduction
- learn to write a memorable closing summary
- learn to research both sides of a statement in a debate
- learn to gather evidence
- learn primary and secondary resources
- learn to collaborate in a debate
- learn to adequately prepare for a presentation/debate
- learn how to effectively and formally argue their position
- present a formal debate in the classroom
- present storytelling scenes
- present choral readings
- learn to score a script and sheet music
- learn advanced theater terminology
- research show location, genre and theme
- write reflections
- learn advanced characterization techniques
- learn basics of acting in the moment and staying in character
- learn how to listen to each other on stage as opposed to reciting lines
- learn patience
- learn audition techniques
- have the opportunity to audition for lead parts

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students review and build upon lessons learned in First – Fifth grades

In addition to the above, students will:

- expand their writing
- expand their research
- explore many resources
- identify, listen and view appropriate material and critically analyze content and presentation
- develop leadership skills
- explore the art of Impromptu and extemporaneous speaking
- learn about current events and how to debate both sides of an issue in an organized format (students are expected to do this respectfully without letting arguments get personal and present a formal debate to the school)
- score a script and sheet music in more detail
- review advanced theater terminology
- learn basic theater history
- learn how to run a backstage
- have the opportunity to audition for the main leads in a show

SPEECH/DEBATE & DRAMA EDUCATION AT MILLHOPPER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. All students must attend class
2. If a student is absent, please email: Ms. Sylvia Aslanian at saslanian@millhopper.com, I will email you the missed lesson and classwork.
3. Beginning in fourth grade, all students will receive a notebook (provided by MMS). The notebook must be brought to every class.
4. All lessons and homework assignments are posted in Jupiter Ed. Jupiter Ed is an online Learning Management System and Grade Book. It includes: email, online forum for group discussions, online testing system and an online essay writing system.
5. Most lessons are taught and completed during class. If your student misses a class, please contact Ms. Sylvia Aslanian at saslanian@millhopper.com to get the missed lesson and work.
6. Beginning in fourth grade students receive a grade for Speech/Debate & Drama. It is important for students attend class to receive credit for work done in class and receive a participation grade. If your student is absent, please contact me at: saslanian@millhopper.com to receive the work missed.
7. Beginning in fourth grade, students are responsible for checking Jupiter Ed for their homework assignments (a hand out and rubric will also be given to the student and is available in Jupiter Ed). Homework assignments are due the following week, unless it is a project.
8. Beginning in fourth grade, all assignments, unless otherwise stated are due via the Google Classroom interface. Some assignments will be due in the Drama notebook.
(5 points will be deducted if an assignment is not turned into the Classroom interface) Please note: Five points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.
9. Utilize vetted sites on www.millhoppertech.com or m3sroxx.com (middle school website) for research in all presentations.
10. Preparation and practice is key for success in class. Please practice delivery of speeches, presentations and character lines at home.
11. If a student is absent during a presentation day, please email Ms. Sylvia Aslanian at saslanian@millhopper.com to schedule a make-up day or schedule a make-up assignment.
12. Participation is encouraged in class and is part of the participation grade.

I am happy to meet with my students during study hall to help with an assignment. Please contact me at saslanian@millhopper.com to set this up.

Ms. Sylvia Aslanian