

# Triangle Debate League

## *Principal Information*



# ABOUT US

## ***Our Mission***

To improve lives by bringing the benefits of competitive Speech and Debate to underserved students in the greater Research Triangle and in so doing to enrich the debate community.

## ***Our Vision***

Our vision is a world in which all students have access to competitive Speech and Debate opportunities. Research shows that Speech and Debate improves academic attainment, communication, and life skills, broadens networks and horizons, and cultivates self-esteem, confidence, and core values.

The Triangle Debate League (TDL) will provide coaching, competitions, and opportunities for service to high school students from historically underserved communities at no cost, by partnering with member high schools, local university coaching chapters, established high school debate teams and leagues, volunteers, and donors.

We see the TDL as a stepping stone, an opportunity to build skills and relationships that will propel students to new personal, academic, and professional achievements. To facilitate this advancement, the TDL also seeks to provide league students and teams opportunities to compete in local and national debate tournaments and to give back to the TDL as alumni coaches and volunteers.

## ***Our History***

The Triangle Debate League was founded in the Fall of 2017 through approved funding by Cary Academy for the 2018-2019 school year. By the Spring of 2018, Duke University had formed the first coaching association chapter in support of our initiative. The TDL was formally incorporated and received 501(c)(3) status in November of 2018. Through Cary Academy's continued financial support and volunteers from Duke University and other local colleges, the program was in full swing by late Fall 2018. During the inaugural 2018-2019 school year, the TDL operated in three DPS schools: Southern, Hillside and Jordan High School; and hosted two tournaments at Cary Academy in the Spring of 2019.

## ***Our Goals***

### TDL Short Term Goals

- To grow TDL in the Triangle area to include Wake and Durham County schools where no debate is offered.
- To conduct at least four tournaments per academic year.

### TDL Long Term Goals

- To partner with other high schools in the area with established debate programs to offer meaningful service opportunities that can be sustained over their debate and speech career.
- To institutionalize the Triangle Debate League in our area and potentially offer summer debate camp experiences at low or no cost to area students.
- To create debate programs in the area that can eventually compete in the local Dogwood and Tarheel Forensic leagues.
- To expand event options to include Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas and Speech events.

## Operation Details

### Coaching

- Coaches will come to your school between 1 and 3 three times a week. University coaches will work with students/lead congressional debate training/conduct lessons once per week after school. If student demand increases or it is close to a competitive tournament date, coaches may come more than once per week. .
- Coaches will check in with the front office before proceeding to the designated debate classroom.Coaches are typically undergraduate or graduate students at neighboring universities. In the 2018-19 year, most of our coaches were Duke or UNC students.We send 1-3 coaches to each school, and these coaches will remain the same for at least the duration of the semester. Most schools receive two coaches, with at least one of the coaches staying consistent for the entire academic year.Coaching will take place during standard after-school extracurricular activity hours, usually for 1.5 hours after school.All coaches have the following credentials to ensure the safety and quality of the program:
  - Cleared the appropriate county public school background check
  - Completed the Triangle Debate League's training on appropriate classroom boundaries, sexual harassment, child abuse, and reporting requirements
  - Participated in the Triangle Debate League's training on Congressional Debate teaching and have access to a Coaching Manual, lesson plans, student handouts, and other resources
- Coaches will collect information from students including their names, emails and emergency contact information. At the beginning of the year, Coaches will ask students to complete an annualTDL parent permission form to participate in tournaments, be photographed and provide emergency contact and medical emergency information. This permission form will be collected once per academic year and enable students to participate in all TDL tournaments.
- Coaches will communicate with students over email to provide copies of lesson materials, information about upcoming tournaments, and answer

coaching inquiries. Coaches will only communicate with students over the phone in cases of emergency.

- The TDL also periodically conducts evaluation surveys to improve the quality of our programming. When possible, the TDL provides snacks for students during coaching sessions. These snacks will be store-bought. Examples include: fruit cups, chips, cookies, and fruit drinks.

### **Partner Schools: Student Mentors**

- The TDL partners with private and public high schools with established debate programs to provide mentors for TDL member school students. Mentor school volunteers typically come once every two weeks.
- While mentor students are not required to undergo the same training as TDL coaches, they are also minors acting under the supervision of the coaches. Mentor students generally have direct debate experience and work with the students on preparing for tournaments.
- Mentor students must also check in at the front office before proceeding to the classroom.

### **Tournaments**

- Based on participation and availability of host locations, TDL will strive to host tournaments twice a semester. . The tournaments will occur after school, from around 4 PM to 9 PM or as a full school day field trip
- The TDL provides transportation to school competitors to the tournament venue and back to their home school.. The TDL uses Cary Academy buses and Cary Academy approved bus drivers or vetted and approved adult volunteer drivers. Tournaments may be held at Cary Academy, a partner school or university or on site with permission from the school. .
- To participate in tournaments, students must submit a parental permission form and complete any emergency medical conditions or dietary restrictions.
- At tournaments, students compete in Congressional Debate rounds and are eligible to win awards.
- Tournaments also include free dinner for all competitors.

\*Students may not be excluded from coaching sessions or tournaments for any reason other than behavioral problems or a failure to provide necessary permission forms (for tournaments only).

### **Classroom Activities**

With advanced notice, the TDL will periodically approach teachers at your school about incorporating a debate activity into their classroom. With the approval of a teacher, the TDL will work to create a debate simulation activity that fulfills a teacher's content goals. The TDL will then invite coaches and TDL staff members to administer the classroom activity during the times approved by the teacher. The purpose of such classroom activities is two-fold. First, the TDL aims to provide debate opportunities and public speaking skills to students who do not choose to join the debate team. Second, we hope that classroom activities may encourage students to join the team who may not otherwise be inclined to do so. We usually hold classroom activities once or twice a semester with teachers who agree to participate.

### **Recruitment Activities**

The TDL will engage in recruitment activities for the debate team by sending coaches or staff members to represent the debate team at school activities fairs or lunchtime recruitment events. At times, the TDL will also ask or school Faculty Sponsors and volunteers to hang posters and flyers around the school advertising the debate team.

The TDL may also ask the sponsor or school contact person to make morning announcements about the debate team, upcoming tournaments, or to congratulate students for their performance at a recent tournament.

### **Additional Opportunities**

On a case by case basis, the TDL will invite select students to compete with the Cary Academy Debate team at tournaments run by other leagues. These tournaments occur on Saturday and are may be located more than one hour away from a student's high school. These opportunities will be offered on a limited basis and are completely optional.

If a student is offered the opportunity to participate in a tournament, TDL will work with Cary Academy or another partner schools to provide transportation to and from the tournament location. These invited students will be required to provide their own transportation to the Cary Academy/partner school and home after the tournament. These times will likely be very early in the morning and after 10PM at night.

There will be no expenses for the student. The TDL will cover tournament registration and transportation costs as well as lunch and dinner.

The TDL makes no guarantees about the tournament quality or protocols for other leagues. \*Please note that these policies are generally descriptive and subject to minor changes.\*

## Benefits of Speech & Debate

Develop the life-long skills necessary for success in later life. These skills include:

- Written and oral communication skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Effective strategies for research, organization, and presentation
- Public speaking skills
- Self confidence
- Civic engagement and a clear set of values

Expand academic opportunities and achievement:

- Debaters are 3 times more likely to graduate from high school than non-debaters
- While only 50 percent of high school students in urban Debate schools graduate, ninety percent of urban high school Debaters graduate
- Increases literacy scores by up to 25%
- Increases GPA by up to 10%
- Debaters score statistically higher on standardized tests than non-debaters
- Helps students receive admittance and scholarships to university

## TDL Board and Officers

### **President**

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