Welcome to
8TH Grade
Speech & Debate
Smithton Middle School
{2018-2019 Class Syllabus}

Mrs. Lauren Dotson • Room: Trailer E • ldotson@cpsk12.org • 573.214.3260 ext. 75708

This daily, semester course introduces students to many elements of public speaking. Students will research, organize, and present various types of speeches. They will also explore the basics of Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Policy debates. All speeches and debates will occur within the confines of the class.

In this class you will...
• Learn the requirements needed for communication to occur.
• Begin to develop effective speech writing.
• Understand and apply proper research skills.
• Write and rehearse various forms of public speaking.
• Comprehend effective persuasion techniques.
• Apply argumentation skills into a debate format.

Materials needed:
• Notebook Paper
• A Pocket Folder
• Pencil / Pen
• Highlighter

Grading:
Most of the student grading will come from their participation in the lessons. Each day students will practice public speaking concepts and by doing so will earn 15 points each day. 5 points of this goes towards participation of in the daily journal writing. The other 10 points will come from either classroom rehearsals, preparing speech/debate presentations, class discussions, speech analysis, and other public speaking activities.

There will also be other projects which will require outside of class preparation. Several will be done by the student individually. One of the prepared speeches, the demonstration speech, may also require additional materials brought in by the student. Some of the projects may require students to meet with partner, like the commercial project and the Public Forum debate presentations.

A Little Something About the Teacher:
I have taught Speech and Theater for 12 years, 11 of which were for CPS. I am a native of Columbia. In 2000 I graduated from Hickman High School. Go Kewpies! I attended Missouri State University in Springfield, MO where I graduated with a B.S. in Speech and Theatre Education. I also have a Masters in Curriculum Instruction. I hope to spread my joy of Speech and Theatre to each student who walks through my door.

NO Gum, Food, Candy, And Non-Water Drinks