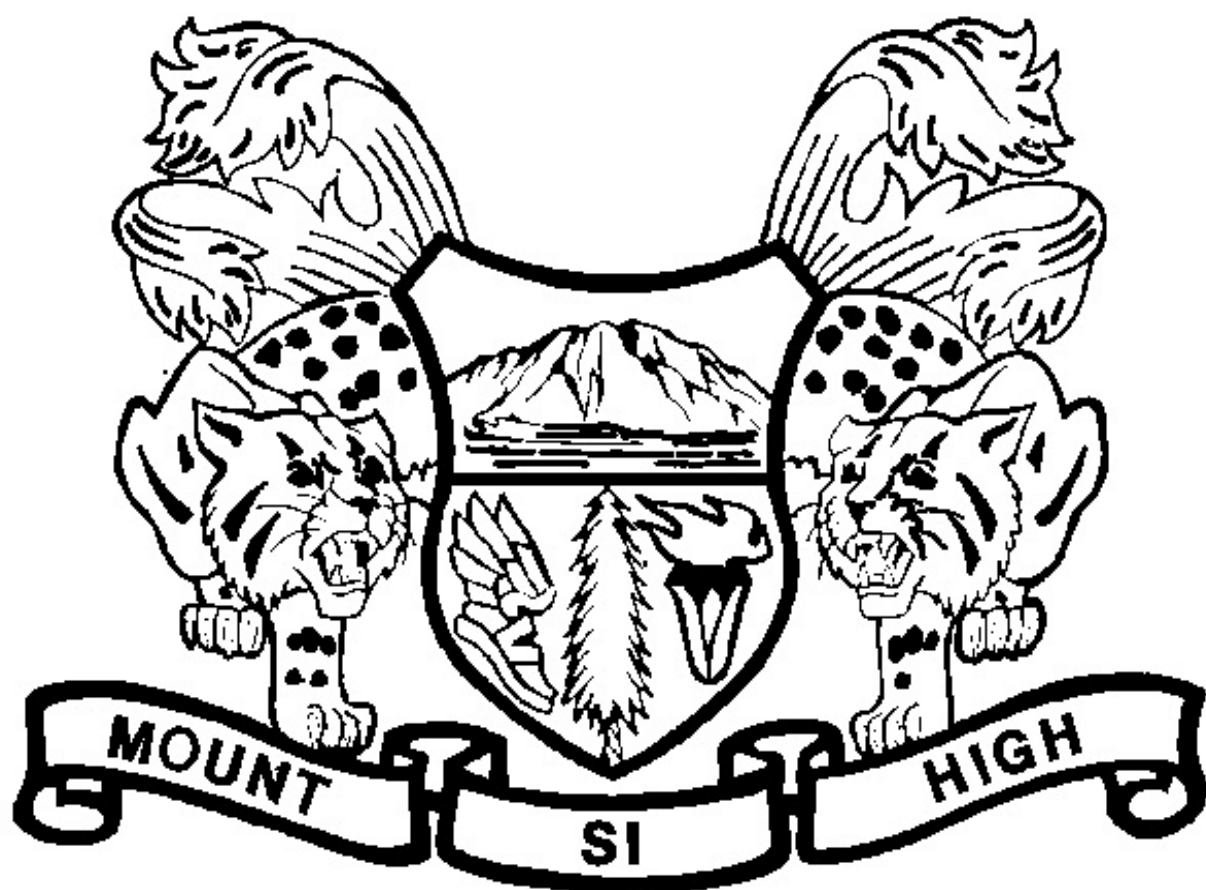


Mt. Si Speech and Debate



Program Guide 2015 - 2016

Introduction

This statement is intended to inform debaters (parents, relatives, other interested parties and prospective debaters) of the Mount Si High School debating program. In all policy and program matters, members of the debate team shall be exemplary representatives of Mount Si High School. These policies are as follows:

I. PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The Mount Si High School debating program is a student activity. As a student activity, its first and foremost responsibility to the student is to support and not to compromise the student's academic career. Secondly, the program should aid in developing the student participant into a responsible, mature and independent adult. Specifically, the program is a means of improving the student's mental and physical well being. Debating is an activity where the student (1) will be provided leadership training; (2) will develop the ability to make decisions; (3) will enhance the ability to respond to life's situations, e.g., conflict, anger and frustration, win/loss, and react in an appropriate manner; (4) will contribute to social development, e.g., awareness of one's self, development of self-confidence, development of interpersonal relationships; and (5) generally will maximize the opportunity for student growth, change and maturity.

The primary purpose of all Mount Si debaters is to be members of the team, which has as its goal to support Mount Si High School. That support is directed into two major areas, as follows: (1) to participate in the forensic activity known as speech and debate by performing either as an individual or as part of a 2 person team for competitive purposes; and (2) to serve as public relations ambassadors of Mount Si High School to uphold, reflect and project the goals and ideals of Mount Si High School to appear at Mount Si High School activities, functions and programs, at charitable and public causes to promote Mount Si High School.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Mount Si High School's debating program has three levels of competition: Novice, Junior and Open.

III. INVOLVEMENT AT FUNCTIONS/EVENTS

In addition to practices and competitions, the coach and advisor may choose to have the debate team attend a number of public relations and/or fundraising events each year.

The debaters shall appear only at events/activities that will reflect positively on them as individuals and as representatives of Mount Si High School.

IV. DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO POLICY

As stated earlier, debaters are expected, first, to provide a positive image. This expectation is foremost when it comes to tobacco, drug, and/or alcohol use. Debaters are reminded that, as highly visible members of the Mount Si High School community, their actions and behavior are under constant observation.

Mount Si High School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the debating program. Thus, conduct which involves the unlawful possession, use, dispensation, distribution or manufacture of controlled substances and/or alcoholic beverages by a debater while traveling for Mount Si High School or at any official debating functions/ activities may result in termination from the Mount Si High School debate program. Similarly, the unlawful possession, use, dispensation, distribution or

manufacture of controlled substances and/or alcoholic beverages by a debater at any other time may result in appropriate discipline, up to and including termination from the debate program; any sanction for such a violation outside of debating functions/activities shall be with consideration to the potential embarrassment or bad reflection on the debate program, Mount Si High School and/or the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

Members of the squad shall adhere to the following rules: Debaters shall not possess or use tobacco products, alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances. Debaters who violate these rules will receive immediate dismissal from the team.

Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy: See the Mt. Si athletic policy on the Mt. Si HS website. By signing this contract you are agreeing to abide by this policy at all times.

V. ACADEMIC POLICY

Academic Standard:

Students must pass all classes and maintain a 2.0 semester GPA in order to participate.

Procedure:

The main office will conduct grade checks. In addition, the administration has the ability to check grades at any point throughout the season. Any debater failing to meet the academic requirements listed above during the grade check is placed on probationary status, and is subject to a weekly grade check process until the grade(s) is meeting standards. Grade checks will continue for 2 weeks past when the grade has started meeting standards.

Debaters who have a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 but meet the previous semester grade requirements will be considered on immediate probationary status and subject to weekly grade checks while participating. They will remain on probation during each season until the cumulative GPA is above 2.0 and will not be allowed to perform in games, assemblies or competitions.

VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

All debaters are required to attend a full day of classes in order to participate in competition that day. The coach will clear reasonable excuses, such as doctor/dentist appointment, field trips, etc.

If the debater is tardy or has an unexcused absence, they will follow the policy decided by the coach.

VII. RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. General

- 1.** Debaters shall:
 - a.** Maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and maintain passing grades in all classes
 - b.** Be enrolled as a full-time student at Mount Si High School. (Debate coach can make Exceptions.)
- 2.** Debaters may not consume alcoholic beverages or any controlled substances (See section IV. Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Use and/or Abuse.)
- 3.** Debaters must follow the guidelines for academic standards (Refer to section V Academic Policy in this document.)

- 4.** Debaters must follow the guidelines for attendance (Refer to section VI Attendance Policy in this document.)
- 5.** Each debater will sign the Debate Contract before the first tournament.
- 6.** Debaters are expected to work as a team and be a part of the collaboration that is required. Individual members are encouraged to be close friends. Team members' friendships or non-friendships shall not have a negative effect on the team.
- 7.** Care must be taken to ensure your clothing/suits / business casual is in a clean and presentable condition.
- 8.** These rules and regulations are subject to addition and change when found necessary and beneficial. The coach makes final acceptance of all rules.

B. Practices

- 1.** Debaters shall:
 - a.** Attend at least 2 of the 3 regular weekly practices
 - b.** Be on time to practice
 - c.** Notify coach as soon as possible if he/she finds it impossible to attend practice or knows he/she is going to be tardy.

C. Games

- 1.** Debaters shall:
 - a.** Compete at a minimum of 3 tournaments
 - b.** Arrive at the tournament site at designated time
 - c.** Arrive at the tournament site ready and prepared
 - d.** Team members may not be transported by students
 - e.** The team or a portion thereof will travel with an adult chaperone (parent judge) as a group and return as a group. Exceptions can be made prior to game day if the situation is absolutely necessary and discussed with the coach.
 - f.** Final authority of all decisions made while traveling shall rest with the coach.
 - g.** When only a specific number of debaters are attending a tournament, camp or competition, final authority on who goes rests with the coach. Consideration as to the selection shall be as follows: (1) determination of who wants to go; (2) attendance records at practices, games, special events with due consideration to tardiness; (3) input from the team (vote as to whom the team thinks would be best to go). Other methods of selection, which could be used, are (1) drawing (2) seniority (3) class or (4) grade point average.

D. Miscellaneous

- 1.** Team members can attend Bellevue College (Running Start). However, these students are expected to schedule their BC classes so that they do not interfere with practices.
- 2.** If a debater quits or is removed from the team for any reason, that debater is still responsible for their balance in full. Debaters who do not complete the entire debate season (approx. October through March) will not receive ASB funds towards their balance.
- 3.** Debaters and parents should not badmouth, gossip, etc. about coaches, debaters or other debate programs. Any individual found making unkind remarks about the program can potentially be suspended or removed from the team.

VIII. PARTICIPATION FEE INFORMATION

Debating can be very expensive. The participation fee for this activity is \$200 for the school year. Students must pay for the first 2 sports in which they participate. There will be no charge for the third sport. In addition, we also have a family cap of \$600. If you have more than one student-athlete participating in Wildcat Sports, you will pay the first 3 sports to reach the family cap; there will be no charge for any additional sports.

The fee will be due as soon as your student-athlete makes the roster but no later than the first tournament. Your student will not be able to participate in tournaments until the participation fee is paid to the finance window.

The Wildcat Speech and Debate Boosters will be organizing and scheduling all fundraisers. Parents with financial concerns are encouraged to become involved in the Fundraising Committee.

IX. COMMUNICATION

The debate season is comprised of weekly practices, tournaments, community events, fundraisers, etc. The coaches will do most communication of the scheduling of these events and any changes via email. It is imperative that both you and your debater provide an email address that you check daily for any updates and changes as games and events can change at last minute.

Mount Si Debate also has a Facebook page which is used to provide event reminders, shout-outs, last minute volunteering opportunities, etc. Although debaters are not required to have a Facebook page, it can be useful because some non-mandatory opportunities, reminders, etc. will not be sent out via email.

Text messages will occasionally be used to send out reminders from the coaches or captains.

If you do not have texting capabilities OR Facebook, debaters and parents must be diligent about checking their email at least once a day.

X. LEADERSHIP

1. Presidents: - The coaches and/or team will select 2 presidents. They will be responsible for:

President/Team Captain -

- a. Attending all debate practice meetings
- b. Being the example team members (never late, always prepared, willing to take risks, fostering positive attitudes and relationships, etc.)
- c. Leading the team coaching breakdowns or clinics.

President - Team Liaison

- a. Attending all leadership meetings
- b. Providing feedback from the team (Acting as the liaison between players and coach)
- c. Being the example team members (never late, always prepared, willing to take risks, fostering positive attitudes and relationships, etc.)
- d. Performing various tasks including meeting with administrators, representing MSHS Debate at ASB Budget Meetings, game planning, etc.

XI. PARENT LEADERSHIP

Debate is unlike other activities in that we require parent partnership. When registering teams for

competitions we will also need to register parent judges. Judging requirements vary but on average the need is: for every 3 teams we register to compete we need one judge for each of the competition days. The only judge requirement is that you have graduated high school, so this means we can call on parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends and neighbors. However we will ask that for every competition your child signs up, that student will have to provide a judge for one of the two competition days. So please check the schedule in advance and book which tournaments you can cover and add these to your calendar.

If the student is unable to find a judge and if the team is unable to meet the judging requirement then that team may forfeit competing at that tournament.

The Mount Si Debate Program needs parent support to thrive. The first parent spirit club meeting will be Monday, September 17th from 7-8 p.m. During this time, the Wildcat Speech and Debate Boosters will also be present. The program is in need of individuals willing to take on the following roles and responsibilities outlined below. Even if you do not want to be an officer, please support the boosters in whatever way you can. We will have smaller committees for different projects.

MOUNT SI HIGH SCHOOL DEBATER CONTRACT

- 1.** I will remember, at all times, that I represent Mount Si High School students, faculty and staff, and that my behavior will be such that it will bring respect to the squad, our leadership, athletics, the school, my family and myself. This also includes online behavior and images including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- 2.** I will follow the rules and regulations set up by the school and the individual team of which I am a member.
- 3.** I will maintain good citizenship and academics according to the Mount Si High School athletic and academic policies.
- 4.** I will behave in a respectful manner towards all administrators, faculty, staff, supervisors, coaches, chaperones, parents, and community members and realize that my individual behavior can be viewed as a reflection of the entire team.
- 5.** Any involvement with drinking, drugs, or tobacco will be dismissal from the team. See Section IV in the Debating Constitution for clarification.
- 6.** I will share equally in all duties of leadership, which includes attending activities, wearing uniform/debate wear on tournament days, and being a positive influence on and off campus.
- 7.** My attendance will be 100%, unless I am at home ill and a parent verifies it. There is a zero tolerance policy! I will be on time to practice, games, and required activities, and I will come prepared. Failure to comply with attendance policy will result in consequences. Failure to communicate with the Coach will result in increased penalties.
- 8.** I will be open and honest with my Coach in all matters. If something is bothering me, I will go directly to my Coach and not “cause waves” within the organization.
- 9.** I will not discuss, outside of debate, any issues of concern discussed in meetings that are not for the general public.
- 10.** I will meet new individuals on campus and broaden my friendships so I can truly represent my peers.
- 11.** I will listen when others are talking and will practice good communication skills during practice, meetings, (and hopefully beyond...) so that we may accomplish as much as possible with few distractions.
- 12.** I will not argue for argument sake. If I have a *real problem* with something, or someone, I will speak up!
- 13.** I will make sure I take responsibility to be aware of meeting times, practices, activities, etc. Part of this responsibility includes checking my email and/or the Mount Si Debate Facebook for updates, changes, additions and cancellations daily. If I am unsure of what time to arrive, what to wear, etc., I will contact another debater, not the coach, for clarification.

14.

Acknowledgement and Acceptance of
the Mount Si Speech and Debate
Program Guide 2015-2016

Debater:

I have attended a meeting where the rules were explained and have read through the Program Guide. I've spoken with the coach/my parents about any concerns I may have related to the terms of this agreement. I agree to abide by all terms/conditions previously described for the duration of the 2015-2016 debate season.

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian:

I have attended a meeting where the rules were explained and have read through the Program Guide. I have discussed any concerns/questions with my child and the coach. I agree to support all of the terms/conditions set forth by these terms and guidelines.

Signature

Date

If you have any questions regarding the Mount Si Debate Program, please contact **Chelsea** to discuss the circumstances directly.

Chelsea King
kingce@svsd410.org
(206) 375-6861

***THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED AND TURNED IN WITH ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK.