

Lakeland District Debate

January 2006

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Background and Program Information

Operation of Lakeland District Debate

Lakeland District Debate is directed by Mr. Stefan Bauschard (SBauschard@lakelandschools.org). The District fields debaters as part of a joint Lakeland-Panas program. Stefan Bauschard also coordinates and teaches a Middle School Debate program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Assistant Debate Coaches

Mr. Pete Kruppenbacher (89)

Mr. Greg Varley

Contacting Mr. Stefan Bauschard

Since he works in three schools and often travels two or more days a week, the best way to reach him is by email at SBauschard@lakelandschools.org. You may also call him on his cell phone until 8pm weekdays at 781-775-0433.

History of Lakeland District Debate

Formed in 1964 by William Vogel, Lakeland High School quickly moved into the upper echelon of programs both in New York and the nation. In the early 1970s, Walter Panas, under the direction of Ted Belch, quickly became one of the nation's premier teams. Greg Varley became the Director of Debate at Lakeland High School in 1982, and became the director of the Unified Lakeland District debate program in 1986. Peter Kruppenbacher, Tom Peters, and Kevin Hamrick directed the program from 1999-2005. Stefan Bauschard took over the program in the Fall of 2005.

Competitive Program Highlights

- 2500+ Individual team and District awards
- 30 Trips to the NFL Championships
- 23 Trips to the Tournament of Champions
- 24 Trips to the NCFL National Championships
- 12 New York State Debate Championships
(more than any other school or District in the state of New York)
- 3 National Championships
- 3 Emory University Gold Key Coaches
- Participation in over 100 different tournaments
- A member of the NFL Coaches Hall of Fame
- Over 700 students qualified to the NY State Debate Championships
- 18 NFL District Championships

Noted Alums 1964-Present

- Peter Keegan, Harvard, PhD
- Joan Tronto, Princeton, PhD
- Lou Rodrigues, Yale, Lawyer
- Bob Samuelson, Mt. Sanai, MD
- Craig Carney, Yale, PhD
- Larry Lindson, Harvard, Presidential Economics Advisor
- Lind Schwartz, Brandeis, economist
- Rich Steinberg, MIT, economist
- Virginia Raymond, Bryn Mahr, Stanford Law
- David Chambils, Princeton
- Norman Koch, Rabbi
- Jedd Fuhrman, MIT, PHD, researcher @ Woodshole
- Holly Raider, Emory, Columbia, PHD
- Laura Grossfield, Brown, Yale Law
- Brian Cohen, Syracuse, MIT, Pubic Policy Consultant
- Todd Robishaud, University of Chicago, Michigan Law
- Carrol Berrigan, University of Chicago, Public Policy Consultant
- Bob Baca, Cornell, PHD, environmental specialist
- Rich Handler, Washington U Medical School
- Sameer Asher, Harvard Law
- David Myers, Virginia, UVA Law
- Phil Reudi, Michigan, University of Chicago, noted as one of the nation's finest fund managers
- Jeremy Bailenson, Northwestern, post-doctoral work in cognitive sciences
- Allan Grossfield, Cornell, Johns Hopkins
- Liz Santucci, Southeast Asian Director of Habitats for Humanities
- Josh Lubarsky, West Point
- Patrick Finnigan, Northwestern, University of Chicago Law
- Vic Tabak, Emory, college national debate champion
- Neil Abramhson, Cornell
- Michael Cole, Cornell
- Marianne O'Toole, Pace Law, U.S. Attorney
- Tom Magnani, Berkeley Law
- Jeff Berman, U Penn Law
- Christian Brunelli, Harvard
- Gregg Beeber, Air Force, pilot
- Gary Johns, Harvey Mudd, research physicist
- Jim Wilson, PHD Harvard, Yale Law
- Rhada Ingyar, PHD MIT, economics
- John, PHD, Georgetown National Security Studies Professor

Education and Pedagogy

- Students who participate in debate should be able to demonstrate the following:
- Research skills using school-supported databases and resources on the internet
- Confidence in public speaking situations
- An ability to organize thoughts and ideas
- An ability to engage in point-by-point refutation
- Basic knowledge of the debate topic as well as philosophical and political issues related to it
- A strong fluency in current events

How is Debate Similar to Athletics?

Debate is Competitive

Students are motivated not only by the desire to learn, but also the desire to win. Debaters who stick with it for all four years are usually extremely competitive.

We work as a team

The students share all of the research they do with the entire team and assist each other at tournaments. All students will bring different strengths, and we work hard to produce a net result. Although debaters debate with individual partners, we work together as a whole district team.

We practice

Success in debate requires not only the development of arguments, but practice presenting and executing the arguments in competition. Practice is often in after-school work sessions.

Pre-season

Like athletes who train, debaters start meeting for works sessions the second week of August. A schedule will be sent out in June. Debaters are strongly encouraged to attend as much as possible.

How is Debate Different From Athletics?

Debaters do not all attend the same tournaments

Everyone on the football team attends the same games, but not everyone on the debate team attends the same tournaments. Students have different opportunities depending on experience, abilities, effort, and schedules

Debate is year-round

Participation in sports usually lasts for a “season” – a portion of the school year. Debate takes place year-round, though we do have “busier” points – October/November and January/February are the busiest months. Tournaments are schedule at least three, and often four, weekends during those months.

Everyone “starts”

Although different tournaments are appropriate for different students, everyone participates as often as possible.

Middle School Debate

The Middle School debate club meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:15am until 9am. The program is structured to provide basic debate instruction for middle school students and to prepare them for high school debate.

Understanding Debate

The Basic Structure

The District Debate Team operates as one large “Squad.” We work together to prepare for competition. Within that squad, individuals debate with “partners.” Two person partnerships will have their own strengths.

The Squad debates one topic for the entire season. This year’s topic is “Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its authority to either detain without charge or search without probable cause.” All students will debate both sides of the topic. Affirmatives will prepare a defense of a specific instance in which authority to detain without charge or search without probable cause should be reduced. Negatives will prepare general arguments against reducing such authority and also specific arguments against each affirmative case.

After the research is “completed,” debaters enter tournaments where they hope to be as prepared as possible. Preparation is a never-ending activity. Debaters and coaches, particularly upperclassmen, will work throughout tournaments to scout and prepare to debate new and unanticipated arguments.

Awards

Debaters are awarded in competition in two different ways. First, individual two person partners are given a win or loss each time they debate. The win or loss is determined by a judge who decides whether what the affirmative has presented is net desirable or net undesirable. Second, debaters are given speaker points in each debate. At the end of the tournament the top 10 or 20 speakers (often out of hundreds of debaters) are rewarded.

Partners

Each debater debates with a partner. Individual students cannot debate by themselves.

How are partners chosen?

Generally, students pick their own partners. Students are encouraged to pick partners with similar interests and abilities. Students from the same school are encouraged to partner with one another, particularly in their freshman and sophomore years. This will facilitate students working together outside of school.

Can students switch partners?

Students can switch partners with the permission of the Director of Debate. Partner changes should be made at least a week prior to a tournament if driving, and before plane tickets are purchased before any flying trip.

If students have difficulties in their partner relationship they should try to work them between themselves. Learning to work with someone is an important life skill. If necessary, students should discuss partner problems with the Director.

If a student's partner becomes ill before a tournament, or cannot otherwise attend, the healthy student should feel free to recruit a partner amongst students *not already attending the tournament*.

All students should treat their partners with respect.

Tournaments

When do tournaments occur?

All tournaments occur on the weekends. The tournaments vary in length from one day (few tournaments) to 4 days (few tournaments). Most tournaments are two to three days in length.

Who hosts tournaments?

Various high schools and colleges/universities host debate tournaments. The Lakeland District Debate Team travels to tournaments in the region and all over the United States – the “National Circuit.”

How are tournaments structured?

Almost all tournaments (the exception being a few novice tournaments) have a set number of debates (5-7). The top 4-32 teams are then advanced to elimination rounds where they debate in a run-off identical to the NCAA basketball tournament. One team is then declared the champion.

How long do tournament days last?

Most tournaments are partially endurance contests. Students will debate until late at night (approximately 10pm) on the first day, and then return early in the am (approximately 7:30) to debate until the competition ends.

How should students dress for tournaments?

Students dress more formally at some tournaments than others. Generally, for males, a shirt, tie, and pair of slacks are appropriate. Students are NOT encouraged to wear sport coats – they end up taking them off when they are debating, losing them, or getting them awfully dirty. Female debaters should dress in a similar matter.

Who decides what tournaments to attend?

The tournament schedule is created by the Director of Debate. Sometimes debaters are chosen to participate in tournaments and other times participation is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The Director will recommend different tournaments to different debaters.

Students should attend as many tournaments as possible, particularly in their freshman and sophomore years. Students learn a lot from experience.

Who judges at tournaments?

Debates are judge by college students, college coaches, and other high school coaches. Juniors and seniors are sometimes asked to judge novice debate at tournaments they are not competing in.

Withdrawing from Tournaments

Students should recognize that if they withdraw from tournaments very close to the tournaments they are disadvantaging their partners who will likely not have another opportunity to debate. Also, since entry fees are usually assessed before the start of the tournament, if students withdraw they force the district to pay entry fees even when they are not competing

Travel & Tournament Information

Travel information is distributed to parents via a parent listserv and a student listserv. Printed copies are also available at school. Parents should email the director about signing up for travel information.

Tournament Schedule in a Typical Year

September

Greenhill School TX

Wake Forest University NC

October

Georgetown Day D.C.

Monticello NY

Bronx NY

St. Mark's TX

November

University of Michigan

Lakeland District Tournament

The Glenbrooks IL

December

University of Kentucky

Henrick Hudson NY

Regis NY

January

Montgomery Bell Academy TN

Ridge NJ

Lexington High School MA

Emory University GA

Tournament Schedule in a Typical Year

February

Newark NJ

Harvard University MA

March

Bishop Guertin NH

NFL Qualifier NY

NCFL Qualifier NH

April

Northwestern University IL

Woodward Academy GA

May

Tournament of Champions KY

NCFL Nationals

June

NFL Nationals

The “Circuits”

Lakeland District Debate offers a variety of opportunities for students at differing competitive and interest levels. The previous schedule reflects all of the tournaments that we may go to in a given year, but students with different interests and abilities will attend different tournaments. “National Circuit” tournaments are for the most competitive and dedicated members of the team and the “Regional Circuit” tournaments are for individuals who are interested in debating but do not necessarily want to make the commitment that it takes to succeed at the national level. The “Novice Circuit” is for students in their first year of debate.

“National Circuit” Tournament Schedule in a Typical Year

September

Greenhill School TX

Wake Forest University NC

October

Georgetown Day D.C.

Bronx NY

St. Mark’s TX

November

University of Michigan

The Glenbrooks IL

December

University of Kentucky

January

Montgomery Bell Academy TN

Lexington High School MA

Emory University GA

February

Harvard University MA

April

State Tournament

Northwestern University IL

Woodward Academy GA

“National Circuit” Tournament Schedule in a Typical Year

May

Tournament of Champions KY

NCFL Nationals

June

CFL Nationals

Novice Tournament Schedule in a Typical Year

October

Monticello NY

Bronx NY

November

Lakeland NY

December

Henrick Hudson NY

Regis High NY

January

Ridge NY

Lexington MA

February

Newark

Harvard

March

Bishop Guertin NH

April

State Tournament

Woodward Academy GA

Regionally Competitive Debate Schedule in a Typical Year

October

Monticello

Bronx

November

Lakeland

December

Henrick Hudson

RegisT

January

Ridge NJ

Lexington MA

February

Newark NJ

Harvard MA

March

Bishop Guertin (frosh-soph)

April

State Tournament

May

NCFL Tournament

Expenses

The district covers the majority of expenses associated with preparation and tournament travel. If parents/guardians are able, we will occasionally ask parents to pay for a portion of the cost of tournament attendance, such as the cost of a plane ticket or hotel room.

Sample Tournament Information Sheet

Lakeland School District

Debate Tournament Attendance Form January 13-15/16

Destination Lexington High School
 251 Waltham Street
 City and State Lexington, MA

School/University
 Sponsoring Org (if different)
 Individual in charge of tourn Nicole Serrano
 Phone # of tourn contact 781-861-2320

Dates

Travel Dates to Tournament January
 13
 Competition Dates January
 14-15/16
 Travel From Tournament January
 15/16

Method of Transportation

To Tournament Driving
 Supervised by Stefan Bauschard & Pete Kruppenbacher
 From Tournament Driving
 Supervised by Stefan Bauschard & Pete Kruppenbacher

Person(s) Responsible for organization of trip Stefan Bauschard

Adult supervision for trip Stefan Bauschard & Pete Kruppenbacher

Lodging Arrangements

En route to same as tournament
 Students staying with Lexington families
 Tournament Stefan & Pete staying at
 Battlegreen Inn
800-343-0235

Stefan's Cell

7817750433

General Departure & Return Information

We will leave LHS approximately 11am on Friday. Stefan will pick Mack up from Panas at 10:30 am

Mr. K's van will return Sunday evening at approximately 10 pm to LHS. Students who are finished debating by 5-6 pm on Sunday will return with Mr. K.

Stefan's van will return later Sunday evening or Monday (depending on how far the students make it)

All of the novice debates will be completed on Sunday evening, so at least all of the novices will be able to return with Mr. K.

Costs

The school district is paying for all of the costs of this trip except food. It is recommended that the students bring \$20/day for food, though it likely that they will be able to eat for less.

Tournament Schedule

The tournament takes place all day Saturday & Sunday with late elimination rounds on Monday

Housing Information

Students will stay with Lexington High School families. Stefan will email a list of who is staying where with contact information Friday evening. It is most likely that our students will be divided between 2-3 families and since most of our debaters have cell phones they should be able to phone home on their own or borrow a friend's cell.

Adult Hotel is the Battlegreen Inn (see above)

Lexington High School
241 Avenue
Lexington, MA

Students Attending – Absent from school on 1/13 from 11am on

After School Debate

Structure of After School Debate

After school debate occurs every day that the Director is not out with the debaters. If a tournament is schedule, debate is not held after school, *even if all of the students are attending the tournament*. The entire squad will only attend the same tournaments a few times (Bronx, Lexington, Newark, Harvard).

A schedule has been created for novice debaters to facilitate organization and their entry into the program. Every Tuesday from 2:15-3:45 all novice/first year debaters will meet at Lakeland High School to learn the basics of debate. Team members who attend school at Panas should take the activities bus to Lakeland. Every Wednesday after school Panas debaters will meet at Panas High School. Beginning debaters are also encouraged to attend other days during the week when debate is offered.

Although the Direct is always available until approximately 5:30, students are not required to stay that late. Students should attend as much as they are able, but often times they will have competing obligations and may have to leave early on a given day. If the Director determines that student attendance is becoming too infrequent he will consult with the students and then his or her parents if necessary. Students who wish to be nationally competitive should expect to spend between 10-15 hours a week on debate plus tournaments.

Credit

After-school debate provides students with an opportunity to earn credit for all of the work they do in debate.

Grading

Since instruction is informal (we do not have tests, daily homework assignments, etc) grading is also informal. Based primarily on effort, students can expect to see one of the following types of grades:

- 100. A 100 is reserved for students who make an “over the top” commitment to debate. Students who participate on the national circuit, attend debate after school nearly every day for at least two hours, and regularly complete large research projects can expect to receive a 100.
- 98. A 98 is the standard grade for students who participate in after school debate three days a week, attend at least one tournament a month, file and read the evidence they are provided, and regularly complete research projects.
- 95 A 95 grade is for students who attend after school debate two days a week, participate in at least two tournaments a quarter, and make efforts to be prepared. In order to receive a 95, students should plan on participating in at least 8 tournaments throughout the year.

Students who are not able to complete a level of work outlined above are welcome to participate in tournaments when those opportunities arise, but should only participate in debate as a co-curricular activity rather than one for which they receive academic credit. Students who are not able to complete the work outlined above should not expect to be very competitive at most tournaments.

Instruction

After-school debate gives debaters an opportunity to receive instruction from the Director. Sometimes the instruction is direct and sometimes the instruction is informal. Instruction will vary depending on the point of the season, what preparation needs to be complete, and what tournament(s) we will be immediately attending.

Team-building

When the debaters work together they have an opportunity to learn to work together and to learn from one another. Informal discussions that occurring during joint work time often produce the best strategies and ideas.

Supplies

The district covers the majority of the office supply costs. We do ask that debaters purchase their own highlighters (they will need many of these), kitchen timers (the best ones are sold at Radio Shack) to time their speeches, and some “accordion” files.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Option

In 2006, the Lakeland District Debate program began offering the Lincoln-Douglas (L-D) debate option. L-D debate is a one on one debate format that is less research and information intensive than policy debate. It is recommended for students who can only attend competitions irregularly and will thus have difficulties finding a similarly-experienced partner. Most of the tournaments we attend do have Lincoln-Douglas divisions, so many opportunities are available.