



# HTMS Debate Team

**Members of the HTMS DEBATE TEAM work together to research, prepare, and present speeches/arguments for debate topics decided on by the Birmingham Area Debate League (BADL).**

## **Practices/Meetings**

The debate team meets in the afternoons in the library. Practice will be on Tuesdays (3:15-5). Practice conflict? See Ms. South. Depending on progress and time between scheduled matches, additional practices may

be added. Ms. South provides calendars and will communicate any updates and reminders through email and/or Remind101.

## **Debate Matches**

Samford University schedules all debate matches. The league normally schedules four/five debates; dates are determined after school starts each year. On scheduled debate days, the debate team leaves school at 12:00 P.M. and returns at 6:15/6:45P.M. Students are responsible for all work missed and should talk with teachers prior to the scheduled debate.

## **Cost/Transportation**

Debate dues are \$55. Checks should be made payable to HTMS. Dues cover debate materials, t-shirts, and field trip costs associated with riding the bus. Debate team members will ride the bus to and from Samford with the high school debate team.

## **Debate Topics**

BADL (Birmingham Area Debate League), along with Samford University's Debate Department, decides all debate topics. In addition, they send out a packet containing research articles and justifications that teams may use to write speeches.

## **Team Membership**

HTMS debate team membership is open at the beginning of each school year. Students should listen closely to morning announcements for specific information. BADL allows schools to have four or five teams (depending on overall enrollment in the league), made up of three students. Alternates are allowed. Student responsibilities on the debate team:

- ✓ Attend all meetings and matches.
- ✓ Read research packets.
- ✓ Complete additional research for topic.
- ✓ Prepare negative and affirmative speeches.
- ✓ Practice and know speeches.
- ✓ Be an active member of your team

## **Parent Volunteers \*\*\*\*\***

In this tournament, BADL asks parents to serve as judges and monitors. HTMS parents are a vital part of our program, so we ask that a parent volunteers for two debates each season.

## **Debate Club Sponsor**

Opal South is a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts teacher at HTMS. She has been working in public and private education for fourteen years. She holds an M.Ed. in Secondary School ELA from UAB and an M.F.A. in Children's Literature from Hollins University. She earned her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Alabama. She is excited about embarking on her first year as the HTMS Debate Coach. She also sponsors The Recycling Club.

## HTMS Debate Team

### 2019-2020 Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

The debate team seeks gifted students and public speakers. There are generally four to five Birmingham Area Debate League (BADL) tournaments and weekly practices (on Tuesdays & some Mondays, 3-5pm) throughout the school year. If chosen, students who elect to participate on the team will focus on the public forum debate format, research, speaking, cross-examination techniques, tournament preparation, etc. Students must be willing to attend all meetings and tournaments, although some accommodations can be made for other activities, such as sports, other teams, and band. Please make note that students will have to spend time outside of the Tuesday practices on debate team responsibilities (research, speech practice, argument development, etc.)

Please return this form to Ms. South (Room 146) by **Friday, August 30, 2019.**

#### Prerequisites:

- 3.0 GPA or higher – Calculate your GPA by adding together the corresponding points for your four core subjects (Math, English, Social Studies, Science). Then divide the total by four to find your GPA. (A=4 points, B=3 points, C=2 points)

**YOUR GPA =** \_\_\_\_\_

- Two teacher recommendations – one must be from an English or history teacher

**To which teachers are you giving recommendation forms?** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Other extracurricular activities you are/will be involved in:
2. Do you have any debate/public speaking-related experience? Please explain.
3. Why do you think you would be a valuable asset to the HTMS Debate Team? (Use the back of the sheet if you need more space.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**HTMS Debate Team**  
**Teacher Evaluation 2019-2020**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the following student on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) for the following attributes.  
Please return this form to Ms. South in room 146 (or her mailbox) by **Friday, Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

<b>Academic achievement</b>	
<b>Quality of writing</b>	
<b>Creativity</b>	
<b>Disciplined work habits</b>	
<b>Maturity</b>	
<b>Motivation</b>	
<b>Reaction to setbacks</b>	
<b>Initiative</b>	
<b>Public speaking ability</b>	

Any relevant comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teacher Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**HTMS Debate Team**  
**Teacher Evaluation 2019-2020**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Motivation</b>	
<b>Reaction to setbacks</b>	
<b>Initiative</b>	
<b>Public speaking ability</b>	

Any relevant comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teacher Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**