

## **Rhetoric OR Rhetoric Honors** (enrollment.is.limited)

Rhetoric is an exciting and interactive course that helps students become confident with their voice by learning the art of public speaking and debate. These communication and persuasion skills are fundamental to becoming an excellent thinker and leader, regardless of academic and professional interests. Students will master the basics of effective delivery, argumentation, research, and persuasion through preparing speeches and debate cases. No prior public speaking or debate experience is necessary; the course is designed to teach students the basics and give ample opportunities within class for students to practice. In addition, the course will provide a great introduction to the co-curricular activity of Speech and Debate for those students who wish to pursue it on a competitive level. Important note: freshman year is the only opportunity for students to take Rhetoric, so if you are at all interested in the course, it is strongly encouraged that you apply!

Please select Rhetoric as one of your elective preferences through the Enrollment System. As there is an application requirement for Rhetoric, we will provide information to those interested via parent email on Monday, March 31. All directions for submitting two typed responses will be provided when we send the email information.

The final submit date for the application responses is **Thursday, April 17, by 5 pm.**

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**Rhetoric vs. Rhetoric Honors:** Both Rhetoric and Rhetoric Honors offer students a dynamic foundation in public speaking. However, Rhetoric Honors is an accelerated course designed for those freshmen who have demonstrated an advanced understanding of argumentation fundamentals. The course will have additional and more complex speech assignments, deeper research expectations, and higher-level analysis of argumentation. The Honors curriculum also moves at a quicker pace and assumes a greater degree of independence in preparing and refining work.

Enrollment in Rhetoric and Rhetoric Honors is selective and based on a holistic review of each student. Specifically, we consider:

- The strength of argumentation and writing in the student's Rhetoric application essays
- Overall academic performance, including middle school grades
- HSPT scores
- Additional indicators of readiness for an accelerated course, such as teacher recommendations

If students qualify for Rhetoric Honors, they will automatically be placed in the Honors section. Students who are not placed in Rhetoric Honors will still thrive in the standard Rhetoric course, which provides a strong and supportive introduction to public speaking and debate.