Dear Debate Parent or Guardian,

Your child is about to participate in one of the best activities they can do in high school.  Policy debate helps students develop key 21st century skills like critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, and determination.  100% of Minnesota Urban Debate League students graduated from high school on time, and 99% of graduating seniors go to college.

In addition to increasing college acceptance rates, debate can also help students pay for their education.  Augsburg College offers a four year, full tuition scholarship to Pell-Grant eligible students who debated in high school and attend our summer camp, scored a 21 or higher on the ACT, and maintained a 3.25 or higher high school GPA.  There are also numerous debate scholarships across the country that your student would be eligible for. If your student is struggling academically, there is also considerable research that shows after two years in debate, debaters are more likely to increase their GPA and test scores, than non-debaters.

Gaining these benefits does require a significant time investment.  Students will practice about 4 hours a week, on XXXXXX and XXXXX from XX:XX to XX:XX in room XXXX.  Students will also attend at least three weekend tournaments on the schedule below

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Date(s)** | **Times** |
| Washington Technology Magnet School | Saturday, 10/3 | 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| University of Minnesota - choose 1 day or both | Friday, 10/9 | 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM |
| Saturday, 10/10 | 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| Roseville Area High School - 2 day tournament | Friday, 10/30 | 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM |
| Saturday, 10/31 | 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| Highland Park Senior High School - 2 day tournament | Friday, 11/13 | 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM |
| Saturday, 11/14 | 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM |
| University of Minnesota | Saturday, 11/21 | 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM |
| North High School - 2 day tournament | Friday, 12/11 | 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM |
| Saturday, 12/12 | 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM |

Transportation from the school to these tournaments and back will be provided, as well as meals for students during tournaments.

In addition to school year programming, we also have a summer debate camp held at Augsburg College. One week, two week, and three week options are available - students can commute or stay in residence halls. Scholarships are also available. To find out more, go to: http://www.augsburg.edu/urbandebateleague/mdaw/

I’d like to be able to keep in touch with you, and I would appreciate it if you could complete the contact information sheet attached to this letter.  If you would like to have your contact information shared with other parents of XXXXXX high school debaters, please check that box.  Sharing contact information will help parents make carpooling arrangements between your homes and the school for practices and tournaments, as well as help develop a parent support network for our team.

You can contact me at XXX-XXX-XXXX or via email at XXXX.XXXXX@XXXXX.XXXX if you have any questions about the debate program. I’m really looking forward to working with your child this season!

Sincerely,

XXXXXXX

Head Debate Coach

XXXXXX High School

Contact Information Sheet

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

Student phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Information

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| --- | --- |
| Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Primary phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Secondary phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ▢ I am interested in volunteering  ▢ You may share my contact information with other team parents | Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Primary phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Secondary phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ▢ I am interested in volunteering  ▢ You may share my contact information with other team parents |