



Training homeschoolers to rise up in God's power, find their voice, and speak with confidence.

CLUB OVERVIEW

Our Why

At Arise Academy Speech + Debate, we hope to inspire Christian homeschool students to learn effective communication techniques among the safety of their peers and homeschool community. We believe that public speaking helps young students to break through barriers of self-doubt so they can build the confidence to face relational obstacles from their home to a wider society and become powerful vessels to change the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Foundation

1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

NCFCA Association Status

The Arise Academy Club proudly competes with NCFCA (National Christian Forensics and Communications Association). We operate as an independent self-run community, and will partner with NCFCA in local and national tournament opportunities. We also supplement our teaching resources with NCFCA published curriculum as well as other resources.

Club Leadership Structure

- **Arise Academy Director:** Nohea Daliva
- **NCFCA Regional Director:** Maile Higashi
- **Arise S+D Club Leader:** Jennifer Bryant

Club Location & Host Agreement

Arise Academy Speech + Debate operates under the jurisdiction of Arise Academy and Kalihi Union Church (2214 N King St, Honolulu, HI 96819), providing a safe Christian environment for student learning and growth. Arise Academy Speech + Debate operates as an extracurricular club, independent from Arise Academy Co-Op. Parents may or may not choose to utilize our club experience for academic credit. Course description is available on our website. See Credit Hour equivalents below.

Credit Hours

- **Speech Only:** 1 hour 25 min weekly = 39 hours, 40 min school year (3 credit hours)
- **Speech + Debate:** 3 hours weekly = 84 hour school year (5 credit hours)

Times are calculated based on a full year class over 28 weeks (August - May) including instructional time, practice time, and written assignment time at home.

PEOPLE & ROLES

Student Eligibility

Age Requirements

Students between 5 and 11 years old will participate in the Junior Speech program. Students between 12 and 18 years old are eligible for competition and will participate in the Senior Speech and / or Debate programs. Senior students must turn 12 by January 1st of the competition year in order to compete in that season of tournaments.

Family Requirements

Participating families must be practicing Christians and adhere and affirm the following statement of faith: [Nicene Creed](#). We ask that families and students regularly attend a local Christian church and adhere to Christian ethical values.

Parent Volunteer Requirements

Arise Academy Speech + Debate Club operates with essential parent volunteer support. One parent must be present throughout club time when their student is committed. Parents will rotate through various coaching and some will carry supervision roles throughout the year.

Volunteer Expectations:

- Speech coaching during club time breakout sessions (i.e., sign up for speech practice room to facilitate feedback process)
 - Tournament judging and chaperoning. One adult 21 or older must be present for all 3 days of tournament. Adults may alternate as family schedule allows.
 - Assist Club Leader with administrative support as needed (See [Club Volunteer Roles](#))
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CLUB TIMELINES

Proposed Schedule

Weekly Meeting Schedule - Mondays

*Subject to change

Time	CHAPEL	Welcome 1	Welcome 2	Room TBD
1:30 PM	Welcome + Devotion			
1:45 PM	Juniors Dismissed, Announcements	Juniors Lesson		
2:00 PM	Speech Lesson			Apologetics
2:15 PM	Speech Game and / or Impromptu Rooms	Juniors Split 5-7 Speech Practice	Juniors Split 8-11 Speech Practice	Apologetics
2:30 PM				Apologetics
2:45 PM	SNACK BREAK	SNACK BREAK	SNACK BREAK	Apologetics
3:00 PM	Team Policy Debate	Junior Activities		
3:15 PM	Team Policy Debate			
3:30 PM	Team Policy Debate	All Juniors Gather Audience Practice		
3:45 PM	Team Policy Debate			
4:00 PM	Team Policy Debate			
4:15 PM	Team Policy Debate			
4:30 PM	END OF DAY	END OF DAY	END OF DAY	

Tournament Season Schedule

Tournament season runs January through April, with three qualifying tournaments leading to Regional competition. Students who qualify to the National Championship (June) will be announced on the last day of Regional Championship (end of April)

Internal Deadlines

- Registration: July
 - Club fees due: August
 - Speech / Debate preparation deadlines: September - December
 - Tournament registration: As announced (Jan - Apr)
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CURRICULUM & TEACHING PLANS

NCFCA Curriculum

Our club utilizes both the NCFCA Speech and Debate curriculum and the experience of past participants and community mentors. NCFCA's Comprehensive Guides to speech and debate support our mission statement and uniquely equip coaches and parents to teach students from a biblical worldview. We are proud to compete with NCFCA and will therefore train students toward the goal of competition each year.

The Club Leader and Parent Coaches may also supplement with other materials or have the freedom to create their own games and activities based on the needs of students. We work together as a community to meet the developing communication needs of our students and support families through their student's learning process.

Speech Events

Platform Speeches: Students write, memorize, and present a speech on a self-selected topic (every student must compete with one Platform per year)

Interpretation Speeches: Students select literature and bring it to life with blocking and characterization.

Limited Preparation Speeches: Students prepare meaningful speeches on assigned topics within limited time.

See specific rules and current categories at [NCFCA.org/compete/speech](https://www.ncfca.org/compete/speech)

Debate Events

Policy Debate: 2-on-2 debate centered around government policy.

Value Debate: 1-on-1 debate centered around values that drive decision making. *(not currently offered at our club)*

Moot Court: Simulated argument before an appellate court. *(not currently offered at our club)*

See specific rules at [NCFCA.org/compete/debate](https://www.ncfca.org/compete/debate)

Weekly Focus Areas

Meetings focus on speech and debate instruction, coaching, research, and practice. In breakout sessions, club leaders, head coaches, alumni, or experienced students provide instruction and coaching.

CLUB SYSTEMS & TOOLS

Communication Methods

- Weekly email updates to parents and students
- Google Drive file sharing
- [Band App](#) for quick updates (Click to join us!)
- Phone and text communication as needed

Shared Resources

- Google Drive folder with organized materials
- Weekly email templates
- Attendance tracking system
- Tournament preparation notes and checklists

Technology Requirements

- Students must keep cell phones put away during club time unless instructed otherwise
 - Laptop computer recommended for Extemporaneous and Debate speaking research
 - Access to Google Drive and email accounts
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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Club Fees

- **Mandatory Club Fee:** \$80 per family (Deadline: July 31st)
- **NCFCA Affiliation Fee:** \$160 per family (Deadline: December 31st but encouraged to purchase ASAP)
 - Paid directly to NCFCA. Access to resources are not available until families pay affiliation fee
 - Junior-only families are only required to pay a non-affiliation fee of \$30 if their Junior will participate in Junior Tournament (optional)
- **Curriculum:** Every family must purchase the [NCFCA Speech Curriculum](#) (available through your affiliate dashboard in the NCFCA Shop) to have students complete assignments through the end of the school year and as a resource for speech definitions and techniques.
 - *If curriculum has been purchased in a previous year, there is no need to purchase again. One set of curriculum may be used for multiple students in one family. Parents may also print multiple copies of the Student Workbook for individual assignments to be completed.*

Additional Costs

- **Apologetics:** Evidence box and 3x5 or 4x6 cards, [digital journal](#) for research
- **Debate:** Folder storage box & notetaking supplies
- **Extemporaneous:** Laptop computer for research
- **Tournament Attire:** Professional suit and dress shoes (cost varies)
- **NCFCA Instructional Workshops:** As needed and available

LINKS >>> [Payments + Curriculum](#)

TOURNAMENT INVOLVEMENT

Tournament opportunities are available during the second semester, both online and in-person. Tournaments are the culminating goal for every student and what we train for in the first semester of each year. Our club requires competition because we believe (and have experienced) that healthy competition sharpens a student's efforts and motivation to improve themselves and provides an important opportunity for peer encouragement, development, and support.

Competition Requirements

- Students must compete in at least one in-person qualifying tournament
- Competition in more than one tournament is optional depending on student/family goals
 - Every student must write and compete with one Platform Speech per year to fulfill research and evidence-based memorization practice
- Parent or adult chaperone of 21 years of age is required at all tournaments
 - Tournament participation runs from January through April (possibly June if student qualifies for Nationals)

Tournament Expectations

- Students remain on tournament site from morning (appx 7:00 am) until evening (appx 9:30 pm) for three consecutive days.
- Parent chaperone must be present the entire time.
- Parents are expected to fulfill judging assignments throughout the tournament as needed.
- Families are expected to help recruit community judges for each tournament, including (but not limited to) participation in Judge Recruitment Ask-A-Thons.
- Professional dress code required for students ([detailed in NCFCA League Handbook](#))

Registration Process

Each parent and student involved in tournament must create a unique login through the NCFCA dashboard. Each family will be expected to:

- Check registration and check-in deadlines which are strictly enforced by NCFCA. Separate deadlines will include:
 - Event Registration
 - Tournament Payments
 - Meals
 - Script Submission
 - Check in before tournament begins

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students who commit to the NCFCA Arise Academy Club for the school year will be held to the following standards:

Attendance

- Punctual and consistent attendance required

Academic Responsibilities

- Develop speeches and debate cases/briefs as assigned
- Conduct research and memorization requirements
- Maintain work schedule for competitive preparation

Participation Standards

- Active participation in club discussions and practice
- Provide constructive feedback in spirit of encouragement and support
- Observe and learn from other students' presentations
- Contribute to safe, encouraging learning environment

Competition Commitment

- Compete in at least one qualifying tournament during Spring season
- Meet all tournament preparation deadlines
- Maintain professional behavior and appearance
- Represent Christ and club with integrity

Technology Policy

- Turn in cell phones during club time unless instructed to use for judge recruitment or other club communication efforts
- Focus on communication skills without electronic distractions
- Use technology appropriately for research and preparation

Dress Code

- Adhere to NCFA dress code emphasizing modesty and professionalism
- Follow Arise Academy campus guidelines
- Maintain professional appearance that respects yourself and others

Christian Character

- Come prepared to learn with a humble heart
- Treat everyone with utmost respect and love
- Use communication skills to glorify God
- Practice Colossians 4:6: "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt"

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

Our chief goal is to build a safe community of communicators who love like Jesus. We believe NCFCA provides a framework where every young Christian can articulate their beliefs in a winsome way that glorifies God.

What Works Well

- Consistent encouragement and support
- Parent involvement and coaching
- Alumni mentorship when available
- Safe practice environment among peers
- Integration of biblical worldview in all instruction

Motivation and Discipline

Students thrive when they experience the creativity, bravery, and inspiration that comes from using their God-given voice in a trusted group of peers. Family involvement is key to student success as each develops communication skills.

GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

We understand that life happens, and every family faces unique challenges and circumstances throughout the school year. Our heart is to work alongside families to help students succeed in their speech and debate journey. However, to maintain the integrity of our program and ensure the best learning environment for all students, there are times when difficult decisions must be made.

When Dismissal May Be Considered

Lack of Participation in Discussion and Practice When a student consistently chooses not to engage in club discussions, practice sessions, or feedback opportunities, it impacts not only their own growth but also the learning environment for their peers. We recognize that some students need time to feel comfortable participating, and we are committed to providing encouragement and support.

Poor Attendance Regular attendance is essential for skill development and community building. While we understand that illness, family emergencies, and other circumstances arise, a pattern of frequent absences makes it difficult for students to progress and fully benefit from the program.

Failure to Commit to Tournament Participation Competing in at least one qualifying tournament is a core requirement of our program. We recognize that tournament participation

represents a significant commitment of time and resources for families, but this experience is essential for students to apply what they've learned and grow in confidence.

Our Commitment to Communication

Before any dismissal action is considered, we are committed to:

- **Open dialogue** with both parents and students about challenges being faced
- **Understanding** the root causes of difficulties and exploring solutions together
- **Providing additional support** and resources when possible
- **Working collaboratively** to address attendance, participation, or commitment concerns
- **Offering grace periods** for families experiencing temporary difficulties

The Dismissal Process

If concerns cannot be resolved through communication and support:

1. **Initial Discussion:** The Club Leader will reach out for a conversation about specific concerns
2. **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** Together, we'll explore ways to address the challenges
3. **Action Plan:** If appropriate, we'll develop a plan with clear expectations and timeline
4. **Final Decision:** Only after exhausting supportive measures, a student may be asked to step away from club meetings for the remainder of the year

Looking Forward

A dismissal from the current year does not reflect poorly on a student's character or future potential. We warmly invite families to consider rejoining the following year when circumstances may be different or when the student feels ready to fully engage with the program requirements.

Always Communicate

Please remember: No family should struggle in silence. If you're facing challenges that might impact your student's participation, attendance, or tournament commitment, please reach out to the Club Leader immediately. We want to work with you, not against you. Many challenges can be addressed when we communicate openly and early.

Our goal is never to dismiss, but to help every student succeed. Communication is the key to making that happen.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the Arise Club offer the same practice time as Honolulu Club? Each club allows for practice time based on the availability of space in the facility where that club is planted. Each club operates independently of each other and Club Leaders will make as much time as possible for each area of practice.

How many coaches will there be? While Club Leaders provide leadership and resources, parents will also train as on-site coaches and home coaches by being involved in club activities and learning strategies alongside their students. Experienced adults, students, and alumni also provide coaching support throughout the year.

Will you grade student work? In keeping with Arise Academy policy, final grading decisions remain with each family. Club leaders will provide suggested participation guidelines to help justify the educational experience.

Parents may use this grading guideline for final grading purposes according to Club Leader expectations:

- Attendance - 20%
- Participation - 20%
- Curriculum - 20%
- Tournament Competition - 40%

Can students participate with friends at Honolulu Club? Students may maintain friendships and practice with other clubs outside regular hours. Participation in multiple clubs requires payment of separate club fees for each. All clubs compete together at Qualifier and Regional tournaments.

Partnerships between clubs are limited to interpretive speeches and are highly discouraged for debate partnerships due to case load logistics and practice opportunities.

Where can I see examples of student speeches?

- Visit our family website: <https://practicalfamily.org/speech-and-debate>
 - View the [Honolulu Showcase of Excellence 2024](#) for student speech examples
 - Visit the [NCFCA Youtube Channel](#) for past Showcase of Excellence winning speeches
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contacts

Club Leader: Jennifer Bryant

- Email: ariseacademyspeechdebate@gmail.com
- Phone: 808.295.7359
- Available via email, text, Band App, and phone calls

Regional Director: Maile Higashi

- Email: mailehigashi@ncfca.org
- Phone: 206.412.8541

Arise Academy Director: Nohea Daliva

- Email: resources.ariseacademy@gmail.com
- Phone: 808.366.4207

Communication Schedule

Weekly communication sent to parent and student email addresses, with additional updates as needed for events and deadlines.

Emergency Contacts

All club members must provide current emergency contact information. Special needs or accommodations should be communicated to club leadership at registration.

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT CONTRACT

Please return this signed form to the Club Leader by the first club meeting. Printed or electronic.

Family Name: _____

Student Name(s): _____

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and understand the Arise Academy Speech & Debate Parent Handbook. By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following commitments:

Financial Commitment:

- ☐ I understand the required club fee of \$80 for the 2025-2026 school year
- ☐ I understand the optional NCFA Affiliation Fee of \$160
- ☐ I understand additional optional costs for supplies and tournament attire
- ☐ I commit to paying fees according to the established schedule

Volunteer Commitment:

- ☐ I commit to being present during club time when my student attends
- ☐ I understand I will be assigned approximately 10 volunteer slots throughout the year
- ☐ I will participate in coaching, supervision, recruiting judges, and tournament support as needed
- ☐ I commit to serving as a tournament chaperone when my student competes, or finding another adult over 21 within my family or community to tag team with

Student Support Commitment:

- ☐ I will encourage my student to meet assignment deadlines
- ☐ I will support my student's tournament participation requirements
- ☐ I will help ensure my student maintains club expectations
- ☐ I will communicate with club leadership about scheduling conflicts or concerns

Communication Commitment:

- ☐ I will read weekly club communications
- ☐ I will respond promptly to requests for information or scheduling
- ☐ I will notify leadership of any changes in contact information
- ☐ I will participate in the volunteer sign-up process

Faith-Based Affiliation:

- ☐ I understand that Arise Academy Speech & Debate is a Christian organization
- ☐ I affirm my adherence to the Nicene Creed as a statement of Christian faith
- ☐ I support the integration of biblical worldview in all speech and debate instruction
- ☐ I commit to upholding Christian values and character in our club community

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and understand the expectations for Arise Academy Speech & Debate students. By signing below, I commit to:

Attendance and Participation:

- ☐ I will attend club regularly and punctually
- ☐ I will participate actively in discussions and practice sessions
- ☐ I will provide constructive feedback with love and encouragement
- ☐ I will ask for help when I miss lessons or need clarification

Academic Responsibilities:

- ☐ I will complete assignments by established deadlines
- ☐ I will prepare speeches and debate materials as required
- ☐ I will conduct necessary research and memorization
- ☐ I will work diligently to prepare for competitions

Competition Commitment:

- ☐ I will compete in at least one qualifying tournament including one platform speech
- ☐ I will represent Christ and our club with integrity
- ☐ I will maintain professional behavior and appearance
- ☐ I will follow all tournament rules and expectations

Character and Conduct:

- ☐ I will treat all club members with respect and love
- ☐ I will keep my cell phone put away during club time
- ☐ I will dress appropriately according to club and NCFA standards
- ☐ I will approach learning with humility and eagerness to grow

Christian Witness:

- ☐ I will use my communication skills to glorify God
- ☐ I will let my speech be gracious and seasoned with salt
- ☐ I will encourage others and build up our club community
- ☐ I will represent my faith positively in all interactions

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

CLUB LEADER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge receipt of this signed commitment form and welcome this family to the Arise Academy Speech & Debate community.

Club Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____