



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mrs. Harvard

Teacher Contact Information	Email: jbhharvard3@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 42134
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/3410 Schoology Link: Can be accessed through MCS account
Required Texts and Other Instructional Materials	<i>No textbook assigned. Parents and guardians can access course content and other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i>
Course Description	9 week course – 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Students Students will participate in activities preparing them to speak effectively. Students will gain confidence, poise, and self-esteem. This course will include practice in vocal skills, organization, persuasion, and argument. Activities may include informative and persuasive speeches, readings from literature, and an introduction to debate.
Course Objectives	At the conclusion of this class, students will be able to confidently prepare and perform a speech for an intended audience.
Course Outline <i>subject to change</i>	Unit 1 – Introductory Speech Unit 2 – Effective Listening & Nonverbal Communication Unit 3 – The “Bad” Speech Unit 4 – Persuasive Speech Unit 5 – Infomercial Speech / Presentation Unit 6 – Informative Speech Unit 7 – Demonstration Speech Unit 8 – Impromptu Speech Unit 9 – Intro to Debate
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell phones must be powered down and in a backpack from 8:15 am - 3:20 pm. 2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. 3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies 4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. <p>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.</p>
Course Materials	<p>None. Notebooks and pencils will be provided. <u>If lost or broken, students will need to replace them.</u> Chromebooks will only be used when necessary in the lesson, for quizzes, or as a tool in completing an activity. Students will be writing by hand when possible. <i>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and while using their MCS accounts.</i></p>

Technology & Cell Phone / Digital Device Procedures	<p>Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communications Devices including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones or headphones in school buildings or on school grounds during the Instructional Day, is prohibited. Violation of Board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communication Devices may constitute a Class II. Madison City Schools has outlined an Electronic/Wireless Device Policy (Policy 6.20) on page 137 of the MCS Policy Manual.</p> <p>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p>
Progressive Discipline	<p>Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan:</p> <p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference with parent notification</p> <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention</p> <p>Step 5: Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (Madison City Schools Code of Conduct)</p> <p>Exception: Students who are disrespectful or insubordinate to a substitute teacher will receive a call home and automatic detention.</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	<p><i>Late work will be accepted until the end of each unit.</i></p> <p><i>Students will need to fill out and attach the Late Work slip to their work before placing it in the labeled basket.</i></p> <p><i>Once final grades are posted, all zeroes for missing work will be final.</i></p>
Make-up Work / Test Policy	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p>
Homework	<p>Mrs. Harvard will be utilizing class time for all assignments and activities. Students will only have homework if they fail to complete the work within their allotted class time, or after an absence. When working toward speeches, students are encouraged to rehearse outside of school as well as during class.</p>
AI Policy	<p>AI Policy MCS Policy: District policy is that it is the school's responsibility to educate students on AI and train them to utilize it in an ethical way. AI software collects personal data and is usually blocked for that reason when school email addresses are used.</p> <p>Mrs. Harvard's Classroom Policy: AI-assisted or AI-created work <i>could be</i> permissible depending on the assignment. STUDENTS MUST ASK PERMISSION FIRST BEFORE USING AI TO ASSIST WITH AN ASSIGNMENT. The use of AI must significantly enhance the student's learning to be permissible. AI-created work without prior permission will not be accepted. <i>Students should adhere to the MCS AI Policy at all times while on school devices or using a school account.</i></p>
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	<p>Please read the syllabus in its entirety.</p> <p>Please also sign the Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form sent home with your student. By signing the Signature Page, the student and parent acknowledge understanding and agreement of the policies, procedures, and expectations.</p>

This syllabus is subject to change.