

Dear Parents/Guardians of Frisbie Debate Team members,

Your student has decided to venture into the realm of debating at Frisbie Middle School. Our school is privileged to be a member of The Middle School Debate League, founded in 2001. The League, established through Claremont McKenna College, was established to facilitate debate in middle schools across California. The league hosts debate tournaments for burgeoning debaters. The tournaments provide a forum for all students, regardless of grades and classification, who are normally underserved in the current school system. Through my experience with debate over the past eight years, I have witnessed marginal students “become alive” through debate. Debate has the potential to touch every aspect of a student’s life as it provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop and master the life skills of oral communication and critical thinking.

Members of the debate team are expected to be self-motivated, ambitious, and self-sufficient. Successful debaters eat, drink, and sleep debate. Many of Frisbie’s debaters desire careers in law and politics. This is the first step. I would appreciate any support and encouragement you can give our debaters.

### How can I help my debater?

- **Practice:** The only way to improve as a debater is to practice. There are two five-minute speeches in a debate, concluded with one three-minute speech. Having your debater practice in front of a small audience will be helpful for their development.
- **Research:** There is also a lot of research required for debating; the use of Internet sites such as: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), [about.com](http://about.com), and [google.com](http://google.com) can be quite helpful. A trip to the local library, reading the newspaper, or watching the news and “60 Minutes” will assist as well.
- **Dinnertime Conversation:** Holding conversations with your debater about current events will help your debater develop a firm understanding of the topic. Challenging, even interrupting, your debater with arguments from the opposite side will keep your debater on their toes.

If you have any suggestions or questions about the debate team or would like to speak with me, I can be contacted at 909-820-7887 or at [mrgfrisbie@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgfrisbie@yahoo.com). Thank for your time and assistance.

### Tournament Schedule 2003-2004

November 8, 2003	Black Tie Invitational	Desert Springs Middle School, Desert Hot Springs
December 13, 2003	Frisbie Invitational	Frisbie Middle School
January 24, 2004	Almeria Invitational	Almeria Middle School, Fontana
February 21, 2004	Coyote Classic	Canyon Hills Junior High School, Chino Hills
March 27, 2004	League Championship	Claremont McKenna College, Claremont
April event TBA	Northview	Northview Intermediate, Duarte

\* Transportation to and from each event will be provided by the school bus. The bus will leave and return to the Frisbie bus loading zone unless otherwise noted.