

Ethics Bowl Club

An Independent Provider Program for Eden Prairie High School students

The Ethics Bowl Club at EPHS is a group of high school students preparing for and participating in the Minnesota Regional Ethics Bowl, held every year in February at the University of Minnesota. There will be an adult volunteer coach and a mentor from the University of Minnesota philosophy department. The format of the Ethics Bowl is a competitive, yet collaborative, debate. It gives high school students a respectful, supportive environment in which to think about contemporary ethical questions while preparing them for the intellectual rigors of a college education.

The purpose of the Ethics Bowl is to cultivate critical thinking skills in students. Critical thinking is not about learning to criticize; nor is it 'difficult' or 'important' thinking. Rather, it is a way of thinking that is rational, logical and clear. It helps us think independently and analytically, formulate sound arguments, spot fallacious thinking, ask penetrating questions about assumptions and conceive of alternative viewpoints or explanations. These skills will serve as a firm intellectual foundation no matter which career path students choose.

By using ethical issues that young people can relate to, Ethics Bowl encourages them to think philosophically, raise questions and share insights unique to them. As a result, they develop confidence in and skill at expressing their own ideas and perspectives, not in a haphazard, opinionated way but in a thoughtful, rational manner. They will learn more about themselves and the world in general. They will come to learn that there are many ways to think about and address complex questions.

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