

Academic Year 2022-2023

High School – After School Workshops:

- Model Congress
- Debate Workshops
- Advanced Competitive Debate: Practice and preparation
- Philosophy
- Film Making
- Leadership

1/ Model Congress (Tuesdays 3-4PM)

This training is offered to high school students T1-T4 - on Tuesdays

In these workshops the students learn about the electoral process, lobby for issues they are passionate about, draft and deliver bills, amend legislation, debate about international policy and learn how to effectively represent a constituent body of their choosing. The materials from The Constitutional Rights Foundation, ICivics (founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) and the National Model U.S. Congress are used in classes. These resources have been proven to improve students' civic knowledge, presentation and core literacy skills.

New research has also shown that the use of the aforementioned materials has also led to increased participation in the democratic process. The objective in this course is to educate the next generation, nurture and inculcate a passion for civics and history and encourage young people to advocate for themselves.

The instructor of this class is Ms. Amanda Sawyer, Founder, Director, Dedimus Potestatem. Her program was developed in conjunction with The University of Cambridge.

2/ Debate Workshops (Mondays 3-4PM)

The objective of this program is to prepare students for the myriad situations that require formal and informal presentations. It is offered on Mondays

Students will learn to craft and present arguments and inform, persuade and motivate an audience in a variety of ways. The grading rubric was adapted with the permission of Neil Mercer, the Director of research and Head of Faculty at The University of Cambridge.

This course includes:

- The Impromptu Speech
- The Informative Speech



- The Persuasive Speech
- Parliamentary Debate

The instructor of this class is Ms. Amanda Sawyer. Her program is focused on social skills, public speaking and presentation, and it was developed in conjunction with The University of Cambridge. For more information, click here for the Debate Workshop brochure.

3/ Advanced Competitive Debate: Practice & Preparation (Wednesdays)

This class is for more seasoned competitive debaters that wish to focus solely on preparing and practicing for the upcoming debate tournaments.

It will focus on more advanced debate techniques, such as persuasive openings, sustainable counter plans, solvency, calls to action, fulfilling the burden of proof and how to handle impromptu challenging situations in a competitive debate environment.

This class is for debaters that wish to grow as competitive speakers –

4/ Philosophy (Fridays 3-4PM)

The focus of the Philosophy class is to examine and understand the ideas behind the most popular philosophies embraced throughout the world. To do this, students examine ethical situations through the lens of these philosophies and engage in a Socratic style debate. Students are presented with an ethical question and they must identify stakeholders and players within the dilemma, discuss the key moral issues and present opposing viewpoints. The course is taught by Mr. Andy Snyder, Philosophy professor from CUNY associated with Dedimus Potestatem.

5/ Film Making (Thursdays 3-4PM)

Young people all over the world have begun using social media platforms to amplify minority voices, educate people about social justice issues and share science, poetry, art, movement, culture and more.

In this class students will learn to capture brief videos that share important and inspiring messages with the world, analyze movements from other young activists that have impacted their communities and use these platforms to advocate for a better world.

6/ Leadership (TBA)



The Leadership/ Mentorship Program is exclusively developed for UNIS high school students. This course will give the students the opportunity to apply in a practical setting the leadership skills they have learned. It will teach them how to communicate their qualifications and leadership skills in an interview to ensure they stand out and portray themselves as the young mentors needed by the next generation.

This eight-week program will give students the tools they need to serve as role models for the children they care for and pass on valuable knowledge and leadership traits most sought by parents.

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