

NEW PERSPECTIVES

Arguing both sides offers new ideas

For Claire Brache (11), Speech and Debate helped her to broaden her perspectives as well as moral and political views.

"It was really hard at first to argue for something I completely disagree with. Now I realize that you can't strongly



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identify with one side of an argument without having an understanding of the opposition, to truly understand where you disagree," Brache said.

Pictured: Jessica Funk (10), Josie Furst (10), Lauren Kleinman (10), Claire Brache (11)



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THINGS TO LOVE Alea Blum (9) and CJ Fair (10) work together as witnesses at a Mock Trial practice. Blum enjoyed many aspects of Mock Trial. "Not only is it experience in law, it's being able to work with other people and to collaborate and to bring this case to life and it's really an interesting experience and it's a whole story that you get to make your own," Blum said. **SPEAKING UNDER PRESSURE** Naomi Hays (12) performs as an attorney as her team, Kathryn Huber (11), Alea Blum (9), Sahiti Balaji (9), Miranda McCoy (11) and Kasia Hires (11), watches at mock trial regionals at the Boulder County Courthouse. Students in competitive speaking clubs underwent a lot of pressure to think fast in front of a big audience and formulate a professional argument. "I think I've really learned how to compose myself in a situation where I don't feel confident" Hays said.



COMEBACK

ARGUMENT

Mock Trial grows in members and points

The year was an exciting one for Mock Trial given that their points skyrocketed enormously compared to the previous year, coming in sixth place overall. The team worked extremely hard and came second in terms of points at their regional tournament, coming very close to winning the majority of the ballots. But because going to state was based on the number of competitions won and not the number of points, the team did not earn a spot at state.

Still, their high scores were an impressive feat, especially considering how there were many people new to the club. Several joined because friends encouraged them to. Whether they saw it as a main priority and activity, or just an interesting pastime to spend some extra time on, everyone had fun.

"It's such a great place to learn, but it's also a great place to have friends and to create a space that's good for everyone," Elena Medina (9) said.

New and old members also faced major difficulties that took time and patience to overcome. The cases were written so that they were winnable from either side. Students in Mock Trial faced difficulties such as learning the case and writing their arguments, all while staying in their given characters. While it was difficult for new people to pick up everything, they felt as though they improved immensely across the season.

"It was challenging to learn all of the legal terms, and also the procedure in court, but I think that as time went on, I started to get the hang of it," Alea Blum (9) said. Blum said that it was difficult for her to speak in front of so many people, but it taught her how to stay cool under pressure in stressful situations.

As for experienced members, it was fun for them to teach new people, despite it being time-consuming.

"It was such a big payoff to see that come to fruition and see all of our hard work happen," prosecution team captain Naomi Hays (12) said.

Some members enjoyed cross-examination while others loved acting, or simply listening to the formulated opinions. But to be able to enact their case with real scenarios in real courtrooms was a great experience.

"I love that there was a lot of meat in the case for us to kind of search for. It wasn't on the surface level; we got to kind of dig for it which was really fun to be able to do with new people," Hays said.

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SUCCESS SKILLS

Students learn new skills through Model UN

Model United Nations offered many new skills and opportunities to learn more about social studies and issues in the real world, and members collaborated to solve these issues.

"We're having an emergency council of world leaders meeting to deal with the coronavirus threat. So basically we're trying to work together constructively to find a solution to this problem," Simon Johnson (11) said.

Many new skills were gained through membership in Model UN.

"You'll get to learn a lot about researching positions, you get to learn about diplomacy, and then just being able to dictate your positions and just public speaking too because you go out and you present your point of view," Jessica Funk (10) said.

Pictured: Cooper Hanley (11), Nathan Fair (12), Blake Freebury (11), Simon Johnson (11), advisor Andrew Buhse, and Jessica Funk (10) at the Model UN Kent Denver Conference.



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TOURNAMENT TIME Witness C.J. Fair (10) testifies at the mock trial competition in February. Practices were fun and all, but the competition is what mock trial was truly about. "It was really exciting, going to the competition and dressing up and everything," Fair said.

TEAM EFFORT Attorneys Elena Medina (9) and Ava Reisman (12) prepare in court at the regional mock trial competition. Depending on teammates and learning from each other was essential. "We grew and we accomplished a lot of things, and we found a lot of relationships between people," Medina said.



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COMMITTING TO *COUNTERING*

Speech and Debate takes passion and perseverance

With more than four hours a week of extra research, writing, and collaboration, Speech and Debate might not have sounded like fun to everyone, but its members enjoyed it enough to give up many of their Saturdays.

"It's something that takes a lot of time and effort. Don't give up if you lose the first round or two because I did horribly in the first couple of rounds. And then after a while, I got pretty good at it," Julian Ebert (11) said.

Many students loved how involved Speech and Debate was. They spent upwards of 12 hours together weekly at meets and practices so the team was very well bonded with each other. Members were participating in something they were passionate about, so the time and effort was worth it.

"I think it's actually kind of a de-stressor, to be honest, because it's a way to just have an hour to do something that's fun and learn about topics that I wouldn't otherwise learn in school," Jessica Eyeson (11) said.

Pictured: Spencer Johnson (11), Claire Brache (11), and Jessica Eyeson (11) work on writing their cases at a speech and debate practice.



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