

## **Welcome to Speech Class with**

*Mrs. Kraus*

I am hyper aware that many of you come to this class quite intimidated with the prospect of speaking in front of a group of people, especially if those people are your peers: No worries; you fall in to the majority rather than the minority! This semester is anchored into building self-confidence—we'll take baby steps.

**Becoming a Public Speaker**—Whether in the classroom, workplace, or community, the ability to speak confidently and convincingly before an audience is empowering. In this class we will discover the basic building blocks of any good speech and acquire the skills to deliver presentations.

**Gain a Vital Life Skill**—The ability to speak confidently and convincingly in public is a valuable asset to anyone who wants to take an active role in the world. According to Dan O'Hair, Hannah Rubenstein, and Rob Stewart, co-authors of *A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking*, after surveying “dozens of . . . managers and executives reveal that ability in oral and written communication is the most important skill they look for in a college graduate. . . oral communication skills ranked first in such critical areas as teamwork, interpersonal competence, and analytical skills.

**Skills Employers Seek**—

1. Communication skills (verbal and written)
2. Strong work ethic
3. Teamwork skills (works well with others)
4. Initiative
5. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others).

**Public Speaking Leads to Career Success**—According to a report titled *What Students Must Know to Succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, “Clear communication is critical to success. In the marketplace of ideas, the person who communicates clearly is also the person who is seen as thinking clearly. Oral and written communication are not only job-securing, but job-holding skills.”

**A Powerful Opportunity**—Taking speech class at the high school level scaffolds into the speech class experience at the college level, which then scaffolds up to any career. (NOTE: All Cal State students are required to take Speech Class. This course requirement may be fulfilled at the community college level.)

**Listening is a Crucial Part of Speech**—Modern research on speaker credibility reveals that people place their greatest trust in speakers who

1. Have a solid grasp on the subject
2. Display sound reasoning skills
3. Are honest and unmanipulative
4. Are genuinely interested in the welfare of their listeners.

- **All of these points rest in one basic fact: You must come prepared to speak.**

Each student will be pre-assigned a day they must present their speech. Any student who comes unprepared, or is absent on the day of their speech will be **docked 20 points for that**

**particular assignment.** You will know ahead of time the day you are to present, so plan accordingly!

**The Art of Debate**—Students will also explore this area of speech. If you are absent the day your group debates, you will be docked 20 points for that particular assignment. Do not let your group down!

**Manners**—All members of the listening audience will honor the speaker by paying attention. Mutual respect is key *and expected*.

**Different Speeches/Different Expectations**—with each assignment come different expectations. All of what is required of you will be presented at the onset of that assignment. I expect students to adhere to all guidelines.

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**Some Details—**

Grading is on the cumulative/point value and not the percentage value for homework, class work, etc.

Experiencing any academic difficulties, confusion, questions, concerns, worries, and so on? It is at this point in your educational experience that a student needs to learn how to speak to their teacher/s. You must practice using your voice rather than depending on a parent to speak for you. AFTERALL, THIS IS SPEECH CLASS ☺

Grades are entered weekly, every Thursday by midnight. This is the deadline set up by our Administration. Please respect this time line rather than expecting me to enter your grade as soon as I receive your work: This will rarely occur!

If you miss turning in any assignment for any reason, a ZERO is entered in Grade Logic until the work has been submitted. See Student Handbook for deadlines concerning absences, etc.

When at home and you end up having questions about a particular assignment, do not hesitate to email me at: [lkraus@saintbonaventure.com](mailto:lkraus@saintbonaventure.com)

When excused during class to use the bathroom, all students are REQUIRED to leave their cell phone in the cup on the file cabinet. (I will point it out.)

Eating is for outside of the classroom while H2O is for outside and inside the classroom.

If I see/meet your parent outside a scheduled meeting, I WILL NOT DISCUSS HOW YOU ARE DOING IN CLASS, GRADES, ETC. They can email me, or set up a conference for such information as I am there to enjoy the event and so are you!

*Enjoy this fun & challenging class!*