POPSMART ACADEMY
Imagine. Create. Ignite.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Public Speaking & Debate

Students develop clear communication, confident speaking, and thoughtful reasoning for classroom presentations, discussions, and everyday life.

Build a Strong Foundation

Students learn to shape clear ideas and communicate with purpose.

Purposeful Communication	Understand what makes a speech effective and develop habits of honesty, accurate source use, and respect for listeners.
Organizing Ideas	Arrange explanations, arguments, and personal experiences so listeners can follow the main message.
Understanding the Audience	Adapt a message to the interests of the audience, the occasion, and the time available.

Persuade and Debate

Students learn to support a position and consider different perspectives.

Building a Case	Develop a clear position supported by reasons, evidence, and examples, then respond thoughtfully to opposing arguments.
Persuasive Speaking	Combine credibility, emotion, and logical reasoning to communicate a convincing message.
Critical Thinking	Recognize flawed reasoning, ask focused questions, and practice respectful disagreement in classroom debates.

HOW STUDENTS LEARN

Classes combine instruction and speech examples with preparation, speaking practice, and feedback. Topics are adapted to student interests and class scope.

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Students strengthen their ability to engage listeners, express ideas, and deliver a message with confidence through practice and constructive feedback.

Make Your Message Memorable

Students turn ideas into speeches and stories that hold attention.

Strong Openings and Endings	Capture interest at the start and finish with a clear message that listeners can remember.
Expressive Language	Use repetition, contrast, rhythm, and creative comparisons to make ideas clearer and more engaging.
Storytelling	Shape experiences into focused stories with vivid details, a clear structure, and a meaningful lesson.

Deliver with Confidence

Students develop a speaking presence that supports their message.

Using the Voice	Practice pace, pauses, projection, tone, and clear pronunciation to speak expressively and be understood.
Body Language	Use posture, gestures, facial expression, and purposeful movement to reinforce spoken ideas.
Audience Connection	Build connection through eye contact and respond to listeners by clarifying ideas or adjusting delivery.

PROGRESS AND PRACTICE

Feedback focuses on content, delivery, and audience engagement. At home, families can encourage a short practice speech and celebrate progress.

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How to Support Your Student at Home

Invite them to practice a short speech with you.

A supportive audience helps students get comfortable speaking aloud and discover where their message needs more clarity.

Ask which part of their speech they are proudest of.

Reflecting on a strong opening, vivid story, or memorable closing helps students recognize their progress and take ownership of their work.

Talk about speakers you watch together.

Discuss what made a presentation, speech, or talk engaging. Notice how the speaker uses stories, voice, pauses, and gestures to connect with listeners.

Celebrate practice and progress.

Recognize the courage to speak, try a new technique, or recover from a stumble. Offer specific encouragement and one manageable suggestion at a time.

Discuss and analyze articles and opinion pieces together.

Ask what the author is arguing, what evidence supports their position, and whether it is convincing. These conversations help students build stronger arguments and consider different perspectives in their own speeches.