THE A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OAKS

Mock Trial Letter

8/29/2023

What is Mock Trial?

Dear Mock Trial parents and participants,

We are excited to be starting our third year of Mock Trial at The Oaks. Mock Trial is a competitive activity, where we create a team of students who compete against other schools in a "mock" courtroom. Half of the team will be assigned to the prosecution side, and half of the team will be assigned to the defense. Our prosecution team will compete against other schools' defense teams and vice versa.

For those who might be new to this adventure, Mock Trial is a captivating and educational program that immerses students in the world of law, critical thinking, and persuasive communication. Mock Trial is one of the most powerful examples showing the application of classical and Christian education. In fact, some have called it "the lab for classical and Christian education." Students will write and give speeches, think on their feet, employ critical thinking and Logic, and show their drama skills. This experience hones analytical and public speaking skills, while fostering a deep appreciation for the legal system and its nuances. Each student will be either an attorney, a witness, or a bailiff. We are planning to have both JV and Varsity teams again this year.

Practice Schedule

There is some flexibility with the schedule early on, but as we get closer to our competitions, there will be more practices. Students who play soccer, volleyball, or participate in the Fall Play may still participate in Mock Trial. We ask that students come to both practices during the season and communicate with coaches as needed. As the season goes on, there may also be an occasional evening practice to meet with a judge or attorney, but we will communicate ahead of time on those. Attorneys will have more practices than witnesses. We will also have 2-3 Saturday practice sessions.

Here is the Google Calendar Link (The schedule is currently less accurate after Christmas):
https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=t4igibc1lkh8gc8kakgggfb7co%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FLos_Angeles

First 3 weeks of Mock Trial

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Sept. 21st - 6pm - MT info Meeting		
			Sept. 28th - 3:15-5:15pm - MT Practice		
		Oct 4th - 7:15am - Breakfast and MT Practice	Oct. 5th - 3:15-5:15pm - MT Practice ***Case comes out this week***		Oct. 7th - 4:00-8:00pm MT Dinner and Case Reading

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Isaiah 61:3

Registration

Registration is now available through Jupiter (go to Forms and select Mock Trial Registration). If your student is planning to participate, please register right away. If you have any questions, please let me know. Once your registration is processed the Mock Trial fee of $150 will be added to your Jupiter account and may be paid by cash or check in the school office or via credit card through Jupiter. Payments are due by Friday, December 15th. There are some extended payment options if needed, and some limited scholarships may be available. Contact Mr. Welch for details. If our team advances to state, there will be additional costs due to travel and hotel stays in Olympia, WA. Those costs would not be due until March. We are hoping to take advantage of some fundraising opportunities to help with costs this year.

Trips and Competitions

We plan to have 2 or 3 trips during the mock trial season depending on where our district competition is. The regular season lasts from mid-September to mid-February. If we place well at districts in February, we could also be invited to the state tournament in Olympia, WA on March 22-24th. Last year our varsity team placed first at districts and went on to place 10th out of 24 teams at the state competition. Our JV team placed third at district, barely missing a state invitation.

We are also hoping to have one or two out-of-town scrimmages. We will have more details in the coming months.

Student/Parent Information Meeting

Additionally, we will be hosting an information meeting on September 21sth at 5:30 pm at The Oaks (exact room will be sent later). This meeting will provide you with valuable insights into the Mock Trial program, our goals for the upcoming year, and ways in which you can contribute to the success of the team. We highly encourage all parents and students to attend this important meeting.

On a final note, we are also excited to have Mrs. Lauren Snook and Mr. Ian Garriques mentoring the team again this year. They were such an important part of our team's success last year. They bring expertise in the legal areas that really make the team shine. It is so important to have legal experts who have "been there and done that." Lorraine Bursese will also be a new addition to the coaching team. We are excited for this Mock Trial Season.

Blessings,

Scott Welch - 509.7411.7671
Emily Woodroof