

Statement of Mission

As parents training our
children in competitive
speech and debate,
being grounded in
Holy Scripture,
we aim to launch them into
the world with confidence to
contend for the faith in
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 127: 3-5; Jude 3

Guidelines and Standards

- CONTEND is a cooperative program. All member families must do their part to help CONTEND succeed. Member families must sign up for a volunteer job.
- CONTEND is not a drop off program. A responsible adult must be present. In an emergency or unusual situation, like illness, you can have another parent present for your child. Otherwise, all parents are expected to stay on campus at all times.
- All families must have read and agreed to abide by the Statements of Mission, Faith, and the Guidelines and Standards.
- Parent jobs must be covered at all times. If a substitute is needed to cover a parent job, you must contact the campus coordinator.
- Attendance is necessary to conduct our club. If your family will not attend a practice, please notify the campus coordinator by noon on Monday and make sure that someone is covering your job in your absence.
- Registration fees must be paid by October 1. Failure to pay, or make special payment arrangements, by due date will result in membership suspension. We do not offer refunds.
- Parents and students must show up, be on time, and remain in the classroom for the entire class period.
- Parents need to monitor their children when not in class.
- More than two rule: A parent or designated adult should not be alone in a room with only one non-family student. In the same manner, a student should not enter a room where there is only one adult who is not their parent.
- CONTEND families must affiliate with NCFCA and purchase required curriculum and materials.
- Students must participate in at least one local in-person tournament. Parents must volunteer at all local in-person tournaments.
- CONTEND members must abide by NCFCA rules for all tournaments.
- CONTEND does not have a formal dress code, however all private areas and midriffs must be covered.
- Students are expected to keep all electronics (computers and phones) put away during class unless otherwise requested by a teacher.
- Aggressive and unruly behavior will not be tolerated. If you have a child that has issues with physical or verbal aggression, a parent will be asked to remediate the behavior.
- Criticism and gossip are prohibited. We gather in community to build one another up.
- When conflicts arise, we look to Matthew 18 for guidance on resolution.
- The church facility must be treated with respect and returned to its original condition after each practice.
- All families must be out of the building by 8:00. You are welcome to continue conversations in the parking lot, but the building will be locked up at that time.
- Cheating, stealing, bullying, drug use, profanity, obscenity, sexual immorality, personal appearance or conduct contrary to one's biological sex, dishonor to the Word of God, disrespect to the leadership of the group, or continued disobedience to the established standards of this group will not be tolerated.
- Please stay home if your child is sick and has any of these symptoms:
 - o fever of 100 degrees or higher within the last 24 hours
 - o signs of possible severe illness
 - o vomiting within the last 24 hours

If a member family does not follow these guidelines, they may not be able to remain in CONTEND.

Statement of Faith

For the sake of unity within our club families, all CONTEND members must agree with the following historic statements of faith as well as the CONTEND Statement of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and this expanded form was adopted at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D.

CONTEND Statement of Faith

1. There is one God eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16, Matthew 28:16, John 10:30, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
2. Man is sinful and therefore separated from God, who is holy and perfect. (Isaiah 53:5-9, Romans 3:23, 1 Peter 1:15-16)
3. Jesus Christ paid the eternal penalties for our sin through His death on the cross. (Luke 24:46, 1 Peter 1:15:16)
4. Only through Jesus Christ and the grace of His provision of salvation, may we be saved from eternal punishment, enter into God's family and receive eternal life. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, Romans 8:11, 1 John 1:9)
5. We affirm what the Bible teaches regarding salvation as highlighted by the Protestant Reformation: that we are justified by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone, taught by the authority of Scripture alone, all to the glory of God alone.
6. Jesus Christ resurrected bodily and ascended into heaven and will return one day to fulfill His kingdom. (Matthew 28:6, Revelation 19:11)
7. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testament (66 books) as being verbally and completely inerrant in the original writings and of supreme and final authority in faith and in life. We teach the Bible affirms of itself, that it is the inerrant Word of God.
8. We believe that God wonderfully and immutable creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
9. We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one man and one woman, for life, uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:3). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
10. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).
11. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139)
12. Regarding creation: We teach apologetics from a young earth perspective in agreement with the words of Scripture and taught by the Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 15: What is the work of creation? The work of creation is that Wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of His power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for Himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.

Conflict Resolution

Conflict is a natural part of life in any healthy community. At Contend, we believe that learning to work through challenges together ultimately strengthens our relationships and our community as a whole. We follow the Biblical model from Matthew 18 as our guide for handling conflict. When a Christian has an issue with another believer, they are first called to address it directly and privately. This approach promotes understanding, minimizes miscommunication, and helps prevent gossip. In many cases, a private conversation opens the door for reconciliation and mutual growth.

Student-to-Student Conflict

Students are encouraged to go directly to the person they're having a conflict with and express their concerns with grace and kindness. Both students should listen to one another and seek to resolve the issue respectfully. If the situation isn't resolved, parents may step in to help guide the conversation and support a peaceful resolution.

Parent-to-Student Conflict

If a parent has a concern involving another student, they should first speak directly with that student's parent. This conversation should be approached with respect, patience, and a desire to understand. If appropriate and with permission, the concerned parent may speak directly with the student. Otherwise, the student's parent can communicate the issue to their child. The student should then be encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue, if needed. Note: This does not apply to situations involving normal classroom management or discipline from parent-teachers.

Student-to-Parent Conflict

If a student feels comfortable, they are welcome to respectfully bring their concern directly to the parent involved. The parent should be open to listening and resolving the issue through calm, constructive dialogue. If needed, the student's own parent may join the conversation to offer additional support.

Parent-to-Parent Conflict

Parents are encouraged to speak directly with one another when a conflict arises. Approaching the conversation with grace, humility, and a willingness to listen will foster peace and understanding. If a conflict remains unresolved after these steps, either party may bring the matter to a Contend Board Member, who will help mediate and guide the resolution process with care and impartiality.