

MAHOPAC HIGH SCHOOL

CLUB AND ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



2017-2018

Mahopac High School offers a diverse variety of clubs, activities, and athletic teams. We encourage all students to participate in areas of particular interest.

How do I join a club?

Clubs at Mahopac High School are primarily overseen by advisors who are teachers in the high school. Officers are generally elected by club members. Club meetings, events, and other information will be announced on daily morning announcements. To join a club, be sure to attend a club meeting or see the club advisor for more information.

How do I join an athletic team?

Information regarding try-outs for athletic teams will be given on daily, morning announcements. Be sure to listen carefully for information. You may also ask a physical education teacher for more information.

See Mrs. Diasparra for physical permission forms.

How do I join Intramurals?

Announcements will be made regarding Intramural sign-ups. You may also ask a physical education teacher for more information.

How do I join a music club?

Most music classes are included in a student's schedule. If you are interested in joining a music group, see your guidance counselor.

Illusion, the high school Rock Ensemble, holds try-outs during the middle of the school year. Listen for announcements, or see Mr. Przymylski for more information.

How do I join the National Honor Society?

Members of the National Honor Society are chosen in the fall and in the spring through a selection process based on four criteria: scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Candidates are chosen from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. Information will be distributed by the National Honor Society Advisor, Mr. Zanarini.

How do I join student government?

Mahopac High School student government is overseen by the M.O.S.T. council. M.O.S.T. officers are elected at the end of each school year. Each class also elects its own class officers at the beginning of each school year, except for the senior class, which elects officers at the end of their junior year.

MUSIC GROUPS

MARCHING BAND – “The Cavaliers”

Performs at home football games and band competitions in the Northeast.

Rehearses after school and during the summer.

Advisor: Mr. Wands

JAZZ BAND II

Performs locally in the community and several concerts during the year.

Advisor: Mr. Wands

ILLUSION – High School Rock Ensemble

Performs three concerts in March.

Rehearses after school.

Advisor: Mr. Przymylski

CHORUS

Performs a winter and spring concert and a community performance.

Rehearses during the day and after school.

Ms. J. Vara

ORCHESTRA

Performs a winter and spring concert and participates in music festivals.

Rehearses during eighth period every day.

Mr. Williams

STEEL DRUM

Students learn to play and perform on authentic Caribbean steel drums. This group also meets as a class.

Advisor: Mr. Flynn

PACapella

Advisor: Ms. Vara

SMALL ENSEMBLES

Advisor: Mr. Williams

JAZZ BAND CLUB

The MHS Jazz Band Club is a performance-based band that is modeled after a traditional jazz big band. The club explores many styles of music, including swing, rock, funk, blues, shuffles, ballads, Latin, etc.

Advisor: Mr. Williams

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CLUB

The Chamber Orchestra Club is an advanced music ensemble consisting of mainly strings, but also wind instruments and keyboard are brought into the group. Students must successfully audition to get a chair in Chamber Orchestra.

Advisor: Mr. MacGregor

COLOR GUARD

Advisor:

DRAMA

The drama company is open to any high school student who expresses an interest in the dramatic arts. The club provides opportunities for students in acting, production, backstage, set design and construction, costume design, lighting and sound. Membership is based on active participation. The main function of the club is to produce two shows a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The club also co-sponsors a musical production with the Music Department.

The club meets every day during productions and as needed throughout the remainder of the year. Meetings are held in the chorus room or the auditorium.

Advisors: Mr. Purr and Ms. Velez-Niekamp

STAGECRAFT

Advisor: Mr. Purr

COSTUME DIRECTOR

Advisor: Ms. Vara

DANCE DIRECTOR

Advisor: Ms. Velez-Niekamp

CHIEFTAIN

The primary goal of "Chieftain" is to publish every four weeks (or monthly) a school newspaper that reflects sound journalistic practices. It is the principal forum for students to present their perspective on school life, while simultaneously evincing sound scholarship. A not incidental by-product is the development of leadership qualities in all students leading to possible selection on the editorial board. Staff meetings are on a weekly basis, but meetings of the editorial board with staff members for two weeks prior to publication are ongoing. During the final days before publication, the editors can be expected to spend additional hours in layout and editing. All writers are taught basic computer usage, if the skill is not already known. Members of the editorial board are expected to be proficient in desktop publishing. Note that as on every newspaper, student involvement can range from staff writing, to graphics, to photography, etc. In short, students interested in journalism will be exposed to the demands, responsibilities, and excitement of a regular newspaper setting.

Advisors: Ms. Lingardo and Ms. Hagedorn

DRUMBEAT

"Drumbeat" is our school's literary magazine. All students, alumni, and faculty are invited to submit poems, short stories, essays, and one act plays for inclusion. "Drumbeat" editors meet twice a month for readings and critical assessment of works submitted. The art department is asked to illustrate specific poems. etc. Near our bi-yearly deadline dates for printing we meet almost daily, for typing and layout decisions. Students have an opportunity to enhance their literary appreciation and organizational skills. They also develop a sense of responsibility. Our finished product is evidence of their accomplishments. "Drumbeat" also sponsors "Open Mike" nights with poetry and music.

Advisor: Ms. Coniglio and Ms. McKeon

YEARBOOK

The purpose of this club is to publish the school yearbook. Meetings are held once a week with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Under the leadership of the editor and co-editors, the staff learns many important concepts about publishing. Writing, design, layout and photography are examples of these concepts. In addition, students learn the advantages of cooperation within a group and the importance of meeting deadlines.

Advisor: Ms. Donnelly & Mr. Douma

MOCK TRIAL

The Mock Trial Club assembles and trains a group of students in the skills necessary to be witnesses and attorneys, who then prosecute a case (created by the New York State Bar Association) against other teams from neighboring high schools. When competing, each school's team tries to earn as many points as possible during the match for everything from opening statements to direct and cross examination to closing statements. Whichever team gains the most points wins the match. The championship teams from each county then go on to compete in a regional tournament where a runoff occurs until the last two teams, having eliminated all challengers, play the final match and the winners are the state champions. If the trial law is something of interest to you, you might enjoy being a part of this club.

Advisor: Ms. Lividini

MATH TEAM

The Math Team is an activity open to any student grades 9-12. It competes once a month against other local high schools. Team scores and individual scores are maintained. At the end of the year the top 20 to 30 individuals in Putnam-Westchester compete in a state math competition. Members of the Mahopac Math Team can expect to meet once a week beginning about two weeks prior to the first Math Team competition. The Math Team at Mahopac is designed for those students who excel in mathematics. The members of the team will be challenged with problems beyond what they would normally encounter in a classroom but will use the skills and critical thinking taught in their math classes.

Advisor: Mr. Turenchalk

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is a group of Mahopac's finest junior and senior scholars. Members are chosen through a selection process based on four criteria, and are inducted at the end of their sophomore or junior year. The criteria that members are judged on are: scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Honor society members provide a student tutor program for fellow students who feel they need help in a certain subject. The honor society runs a "Staff Recognition Day" to thank and honor those who provide for the student body. Throughout the duration of the school year, the honor society also participates in various other activities and fundraisers. The money raised throughout the year is donated to a charity chosen by the group. Meetings are run by members and are called when a topic needs to be discussed or updated.

Advisor: Mr. Zanarini

DANCE COMPANY

The Mahopac Dance Company functions all year as a professionally oriented ensemble whose purpose is to develop and enhance the technical skills of the dancers, while providing performing and choreographic opportunities. Two formal exhibitions are presented each year. The Mahopac Dance Company allows participating students to experience the theatrical aspects of the art form. The Company meets after school.

Advisor: Ms. Lowy

INTERACT

Interact is a community service organization affiliated with the Senior Rotary of Mahopac. The purpose of Interact is to provide opportunities for students who would like to be active members of their school and town community. The goal of Interact is not only to provide those students with opportunities to volunteer, but also for them to make a visible difference in the community. Throughout the year, Interact is involved with several events, including the fall and spring blood drives, the Safe Halloween Parade and a dance or concert for charity. Interact meets every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Advisor: Mr. Revenson

BIOLOGY CLUB

The Biology Club is an activity based group that focuses on the diverse natural sciences in the local areas. The club takes nature hikes, canoeing trips, and collects and studies local organisms. We have built rockets, studied electricity, and have created pond ecosystems. Every year the Biology Club goes on an extended outing. Positions for the club include president, vice-president, and treasurer. The club meets once every other week.

Advisor: Mr. Rizzo

ANIMAL CLUB

Advisor: Ms. Genovese

S.A.D.D.

Students Against Destructive Decisions was originally created in order to promote drunk driving awareness. The club meets weekly. SADD's mission is to empower young people to successfully confront the risks and pressures that challenge them in their daily lives.

Advisor: Ms. Hecht

FASHION CLUB

Fashion Club sponsors a Fashion Show twice per year, normally in the fall and spring. Students will create and construct fashion outfits for this event.

Advisor: Ms. Uszak

CREATE THE CHANGE

Create The Change is an international program that brings the values of tolerance and diversity to the school community by training students to facilitate workshops with their peers.

Advisor: Ms. Daley

S.T.A.G.E. CLUB - Student Teacher Association for Gender Equality

Advisors: - Student Teacher Association for Gender Equality Mrs. Nierman & Mrs. Callagy

BULLYING AWARENESS

Advisor: Ms. Mallen

M.O.S.T.

The student council's long-term goals include improving school pride, fostering leadership skills, and helping to improve certain situations in the community. A main objective of the MOST council is to make the student body aware of all activities occurring in the school. An additional function of MOST is to give financial support to clubs that are not totally funded by the budget. The president of MOST is the liaison between the Board of Education and the high school.

The MOST council meets after school the first and third Wednesday of every month. The class councils meet after school the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Committees meet after school on other days.

Activities: organize class elections in September, Homecoming Week, set up calendar for co-curricular activities, Adopt a Road, holiday decorations, Winter Ball, Pride in our School, Lunch Committee, participation in High School Parents' Association, with other clubs in various activities, organize MOST election in May.

Advisor:

FRESHMAN CLASS ADVISOR: Ms. Lividini & Ms. Cummins

SOPHMORE CLASS ADVISOR: Ms. Bertoline
Ms. Aureliani

JUNIOR CLASS

The junior class elects by popular ballot class officers to represent their class in the MOST organization and to serve as representatives, responsible for class activities. Fundraising activities will be conducted to finance the numerous events each year including: the prom, homecoming dance, etc.

Advisors: Mr. Dusenbury & Mr. Fetzer

SENIOR CLASS

The senior class elects by popular ballot class officers to represent their class in the MOST organization and to serve as representatives, responsible for class activities. Fundraising activities will be conducted to finance the numerous events each year including: the prom, homecoming dance, etc.

Advisors: Ms. Donnelly & Mr. Douma

AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE

AFS is an active, exciting club, which offers students the opportunities to meet new people and know other cultures. Club meetings occur after school on an occasional basis. A typical AFS year includes two major trips, where we spend a weekend at the homes of our hosts. Then in return, we invite them here. Some places we have visited are: Washington

D.C., Boston, Niagara Falls, England, France, and Greece. Our fund-raisers include: selling fruit in the fall, Lip Sync, car washes, and a Fashion Show.

Advisors: Mr. Mahoney

ITALIAN CLUB

The Italian Club is a cultural and recreational club. Money is raised through bake sales, a student services auction, and car washes. The money raised is then distributed or used for scholarships, charitable organizations, a toy drive, visitations to a children's hospital (Blythedale), a Columbus Day Parade, and other cultural events. Officers are elected by popular vote. The Italian Club meets once a week.

Advisors: Mrs. Viebrock & Mrs. McKeon

GERMAN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Advisor: Mr. Gillespie & Ms. Bauerlein

SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

These three separate clubs seek to further the awareness of the importance of these languages. Fundraisers, contests, exchanges, visits to elementary schools, and cultural events are part of the planned program.

Advisors: Ms. Bertoline & Ms. Aureliani

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. These goals are accomplished through classroom activities, research, and training workshops. Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of team events, which students prepare for during the year.

Advisor: Mr. Quackenbush and Mr. Rizzo

VIDEO CLUB

The Video Club films and edits film footage of numerous events at Mahopac High School. The Club films concerts, plays, athletic contests and other noteworthy events. The films are frequently available for viewing through our school website or on Channel 22 TV.

Advisor: Mr. Przymylski

ANIME CLUB

The Anime Club meets on a regular basis to explore video games and hold video game tournaments.

Advisor: Mr. Faitakes

STUDENT ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Athletic Council is a club which promotes athletics and supports community activities. It sponsors events which bring Mahopac parents and friends into the high school and give back to the community.

Advisor: Mr. Fetzer & Mr. Douma

RAINBOW ALLIANCE

GSA is a club formed to promote tolerance and understanding between gay and straight students.

Advisor: Ms. Daley

ATHLETIC TEAMS

FALL

Football – Varsity & Junior Varsity & Freshman
Girls' Soccer – Varsity & Junior Varsity,
Boys' Soccer – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Field Hockey – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Volleyball – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Girls' Tennis – Varsity
Cheerleading – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Girls Swimming – Varsity

WINTER

Boys' Basketball – Varsity & Junior Varsity & Freshman
Girls' Basketball – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Wrestling – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Gymnastics – Varsity
Bowling – Boys' & Girls' Varsity
Skiing – Boys' & Girls' Varsity
Cheerleading – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Ice Hockey – Varsity
Track – Boys' & Girls' Varsity

SPRING

Baseball – Varsity & Junior Varsity & Freshman
Boys' Lacrosse – Varsity & Junior Varsity & Freshman
Girls' Lacrosse – Varsity & Junior Varsity
Boys' Tennis – Varsity
Golf – Varsity
Track – Boys' & Girls' Varsity
Softball – Varsity & Junior Varsity