

# Dobbs Ferry High School

## Co-Curricular Clubs (2021-22)

### Grade-Level Class Advisory

Being part of a grade level advisory helps to unite the school and allows students to meet new people while planning school-wide events. Please contact the following grade-level advisors for more information:

- Freshman Class: TBD
- Sophomore Class: (Ms. Henry: ([henryj@dfsd.org](mailto:henryj@dfsd.org)))
- Junior Class: (Ms. Petruolo: ([petruolom@dfsd.org](mailto:petruolom@dfsd.org)))
- Senior Class: (Ms. Molloy: ([molloyd@dfsd.org](mailto:molloyd@dfsd.org)))

### Anime Club

The goal of this club is to explore Anime. The club meets every other Tuesday after school in Room 307 to share, discuss, and analyze shows of this popular genre. If you are interested in joining our club, please simply come to a meeting or contact Ms. Lindner at ([lindnerm@dfsd.org](mailto:lindnerm@dfsd.org)).

### BIPOC Student Union

The BIPOC Student Union is organized to promote racial justice and equity, as well as engage and elevate BIPOC student voices. The BIPOC Student Union provides a safe space to engage, empower, and promote activism. The goal of this club is to ensure that our students of color feel supported and empowered to speak their truth while learning to heal from current and past racial trauma. Please contact Ms. Kusi-Asare ([kusiasares@dfsd.org](mailto:kusiasares@dfsd.org)) or Ms. Marcano ([marcanoj@dfsd.org](mailto:marcanoj@dfsd.org)) if you are interested.

### Creative Writing Club

The Creative Writing Club is a group of student writers who meet weekly to develop their writing skills through exercises and peer editing. Students explore all different aspects of writing and get exposure to multiple genres and styles. Writers of all skill levels and interests are welcomed to join. The club meets in Room 202. Please contact Mr. Fischbeck ([fischbecka@dfsd.org](mailto:fischbecka@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Debate Club**

The Debate Club will foster participation and understanding of political and controversial issues. Students will build confidence in public speaking and be open-minded to current events and differing points of view. Students will also meet to practice public speaking, watch informative videos such as Tedx Talks and debate competitions, and engage in current events discussions as well as research and prepare their own debates and talks. The club meets in Room 109. Please contact Ms. Halberg ([halbergm@dfsd.org](mailto:halbergm@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Destination Imagination**

The goal of Destination Imagination (DI) is to foster creativity and problem solving among participants. Students prepare to compete regionally, state-wide, and globally for creative problem solving challenges. Please contact Ms. Henry ([henryj@dfsd.org](mailto:henryj@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Ecology Club**

The Ecology Club aims to promote conservation, recycling, "going green" and environmental justice.. Past activities include participation at the Saw Mill River clean up, gardening at Springhurst, organizing a school wide aqueduct clean up involving students and staff, and presenting at the Zero Waste Leadership Summit. In addition, we are actively involved in the recycling and composting initiatives at the Dobbs Ferry schools. The club will meet in room 210. Please contact Ms. Howard ([howardk@dfsd.org](mailto:howardk@dfsd.org)) or Ms. Walerski ([walerskij@dfsd.org](mailto:walerskij@dfsd.org)) with any questions.

## **French Club**

This club is new to DFHS this year! Students will have the opportunity to discuss French current events and special topics of interest, study French classic movies and music, help Francophone places in need (ex. Haiti, New Orleans), learn more about French foods (food sampling outdoors), engage in French conversation, possible correspondence with a school in France or Canada, and to explore any other student ideas or areas of interest. Please speak with Ms. Irvine [irvinem@dfsd.org](mailto:irvinem@dfsd.org) if you are interested!

## **FUNDraising Club**

This club focuses on raising money, funds, goods, and awareness, for various charities, events, and current issues that students feel passionate about. The club meets the beginning of the school year and they discuss what charities and issues they would like to focus on each month. Some examples of past events include "no shave" November, ugly holiday sweater fundraiser for the Holiday Hustle, mud run, making bracelets for children at Blythdale Hospital, bake sales,

wearing blue for Diabetes awareness month, and a food drive to list a few. The club meets in Room 216. Please contact Ms. Wing ([wingr@dfsd.org](mailto:wingr@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **GSA**

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance's (GSA) mission is to create a more accepting environment for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, through education, support, social action, and advocacy. The club will meet in Ms. Propersi's office in the guidance suite. Please contact Ms. Propersi ([propersim@dfsd.org](mailto:propersim@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Gender Equality Club**

The overall philosophy of the Gender Equality Club is to promote gender equality through discussion and education. Goals include reading articles, novels, and non-fiction works that promote individual and group awareness of contemporary issues that impact gender identity, discrimination, empowerment, representation, and equity. The club meets in Room 211. Please contact Ms. Addona ([addonam@dfsd.org](mailto:addonam@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Guitar Club**

This club fosters musicianship on guitar and bass as well as forming a small community of musicians within the school. The goals of the club include achieving higher levels of skill on guitar/bass, learning to play with others as opposed to individual practice, and possible recording of original material. In addition, this club should provide a place where like-minded musicians can come together and share ideas. Please contact Mr. Falconetti ([falconetti@dfsd.org](mailto:falconetti@dfsd.org)) if you have any questions.

## **Habitat for Humanity**

The goal of this club is to perform acts of kindness for others (peers, staff members, and community members). As a club, we will brainstorm ways to spread kindness and positivity to the school and community. The club will meet in room 287. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact Mrs. Swart ([swartj@dfsd.org](mailto:swartj@dfsd.org)).

## **Hands-In DFHS (Service)**

This club is designed to provide students at DFHS with an opportunity to "give back" to our local community through various service initiatives. Service learning experiences will be both in-person and virtual! Please contact Ms. Fahy ([fahym@dfsd.org](mailto:fahym@dfsd.org)) if you have any questions.

## **History Bowl**

The History Bowl is a team history quiz competition played over four quarters each month. The goal of the club is to build students' knowledge of history while enhancing communication and collaboration skills. Please contact Ms. Pallone ([pallonej@dfsd.org](mailto:pallonej@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **High School Musical**

Ever see a Broadway musical on stage or on film and wish you could be a part of it? This spring, the High School Vocal Music/Theater program will produce a spring musical, title to be announced. High school students in grades 9-12 may participate in the spring musical as an actor/singer/dancer and/or behind the scenes in theater tech and stage crew. Students wishing to perform on stage will be able to audition in January and if cast, rehearse from February to April for the full-scale spring musical. Please contact Ms. DeFalco ([defalcog@dfsd.org](mailto:defalcog@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Improv Club (formally the Drama Club)**

The Improv Club is open to any student in Grades 9-12 who would like to learn improvisational theater skills and hone their acting skills. Improv is acting without a script and a great way to practice "thinking on your feet," a valuable skill in any field of work. Students will also learn how to speak clearly, project their voice, and feel comfortable getting up in front of others. The group will meet on Wednesdays in Room 209 Please contact Ms. Flaks for more information.

## **International Club**

The International Club promotes understanding and appreciation for the many distinct cultural and ethnic groups in our school community and develops an understanding of the similarities and differences that exist between them in a positive, educationally-based way. The International Club typically meets bi-weekly during student lunch periods. The club meets in Room 109. Please contact Ms. Halberg ([halbergm@dfsd.org](mailto:halbergm@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Math League**

Members of the New York Math League compete with other participating high schools for the highest scores on six contests. Students will take each contest in room 310. The top 5 scores from each contest are submitted. Each contest consists of 6 questions. There is a time limit of 30 minutes for each contest. The last two questions on each contest are generally more difficult than the first four. All high school students are welcome to join. Please contact Ms. Sirakos ([sirakosp@dfsd.org](mailto:sirakosp@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Mindfulness and Meditation Club (“No Place for Hate”)**

Social and emotional wellbeing is important for all members of our school community. Dobbs Ferry Schools are very aware of this and have been working on ways to promote well-being throughout the curriculum and day. Developing an understanding of Mindfulness and learning meditation techniques are key practices to achieving well-being and self-regulation through stressful and difficult times. The Mindfulness and Meditation Club will provide background knowledge on a variety of mindfulness and meditation techniques while providing a safe space for practicing mindfulness and meditation. The club meets in Room 109. Please contact Ms. Halberg ([halbergm@dfsd.org](mailto:halbergm@dfsd.org)) or Ms. Ravo ([ravok@dfsd.org](mailto:ravok@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Model UN**

The Model UN club is open to all students. The purpose of the club is to discuss and debate issues of international importance. A secondary goal of the club is to prepare students to participate in conferences where they will represent DFHS against other schools from the area. The conferences are an excellent opportunity for students to work on important skills such as debate, resolution, cooperation, and bill writing. The club meets in Room 300a. Please contact Ms. Pallone ([pallonej@dfsd.org](mailto:pallonej@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Music Appreciation Club**

The Music Appreciation Club is open to all students who have an interest in sharing and exploring new music. We listen to all genres from classic rock of the 60's and 70's to contemporary hip-hop. This is a place to expand your musical horizons. We meet twice a month in room 113. Please contact Mr. Falconetti ([falconettit@dfsd.org](mailto:falconettit@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **National Honor Society (NHS)**

The National Honor Society is not a co-curricular club in the usual sense. Students in NHS are nominated as second semester juniors based on their cumulative GPA. Nominated juniors must then undergo a rigorous nomination process that will look at the student's character, scholarship, service, and leadership --- the four tenants of the National Honor Society. Accepted students will serve as members of the NHS during their senior year. Please contact Mr. Cottingham ([cottinghamj@dfsd.org](mailto:cottinghamj@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Octet**

Octet is an eight member girls-only acappella singing group, by audition-only. New slots are available once an Octet member graduates. Not only has Octet won Gold Medals at NYSSMA singing competitions, but the group also performs at the high school music concerts, around the community, and at graduation. Octet meets Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:10. Two girls sing

each part (Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, and Alto II). In addition, there are 1-2 "swings"; members of Octet that learn multiple parts in the event that one member cannot attend a rehearsal or performance. A SWING is automatically in the Octet group the following year. Some songs that Octet has sung in the past include "Always Be My Baby," "And So It Goes," "For Good," "Built to Roam," "Somewhere Out There," "One Hand, One Heart," "Titanium," "White Winter Hymnal," and many more! Please contact Ms. DeFalco ([defalcog@dfsd.org](mailto:defalcog@dfsd.org)) for more information.

### **AcaFellas**

Our Male AcaFella consists of singers who perform old and new pop songs without instruments (acappella). Rehearsals are before school from 7:30-8:10 on Thursdays. Refreshments provided! See Ms. DeFalco for more details.

### **Peer Tutoring**

The mission of the Peer Tutoring Club is to support students in Math, Science, English, Social Studies, or World Language by pairing them with a qualified peer tutor at least once a week. Peer tutors can earn community service credit for participating. The club meets in room 310. Please contact Ms. Sirakos ([sirakosp@dfsd.org](mailto:sirakosp@dfsd.org)) for more information.

### **Sign Language Club**

Members will learn basic conversational ASL (American Sign Language), about the deaf culture and various job opportunities for translators for the hearing-impaired. Students will also view clips from movies about the deaf (such as *Johnny Belinda*, *Man of a Thousand Faces*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*), learn to sign songs, and possibly visit a school for deaf/hearing-impaired children. The club will meet in room 310. Please contact Ms. Sirakos ([sirakosp@dfsd.org](mailto:sirakosp@dfsd.org)) for more information.

### **Student Government: Activities Branch**

The charge of the Activities Branch is to promote school spirit, grade unity, and community within our school. This group organizes and runs MAC field day, spirit week, the pep rally, and decorates the gymnasium for MAC Day. The Activities Branch also supports and promotes other clubs and students raise money for a charity of their choice each year. The group meets during lunch and after school throughout the entire year. This might be the largest club in the school with approximately 80 members each year. Please contact Ms. Addona ([addonam@dfsd.org](mailto:addonam@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Student Government: Legislative Branch**

Members of the Legislative Branch are elected by their peers and serve for one year. The group meets on a weekly basis and discusses issues within the high school that impact student life. The club then prioritizes these issues and writes bills that are submitted to the school administration for review. The club is an excellent venue for students to work on important skills such as debate and bill writing. The club meets in Room 110. Please contact Mr. Meagh ([meaghm@dfsd.org](mailto:meaghm@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Television: Past and Present**

Television programming has influenced America and the world since the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In as much as the time period has influenced programming, we have also seen that programs have influenced our society and culture. This club will analyze the periods of television programming while analyzing specific television episodes from throughout history in much the same way that film, novels and literature is examined. The club will be meet in Room 202. Please contact Mr. Fischbeck ([fischbecka@dfsd.org](mailto:fischbecka@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **World Language Honor Society**

The World Language Honor Society is an induction of 11th grade students of Italian, Spanish and French. The induction ceremony takes place in May of junior year. Please contact Ms. Addona ([addonam@dfsd.org](mailto:addonam@dfsd.org)) or Ms. Lois ([loism@dfsd.org](mailto:loism@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Yearbook Club (Periauger)**

The goal of the Yearbook Club is for students of all grades to work together to create a yearbook commemorating the graduating class. Club members can contribute to the development of the yearbook in a variety of manners, depending on their strengths and interests, including but not limited to formatting, organization, photography, writing, and illustration. Above all, the club is a fantastic opportunity for students to preserve their memories and collaborate in the creation of a keepsake to be cherished for years after graduation. The club meets in Room 200. Please contact Ms. Cairo ([cairom@dfsd.org](mailto:cairom@dfsd.org)) or Ms. Newhouse ([newhousea@dfsd.org](mailto:newhousea@dfsd.org)) for more information.

## **Youth-to-Youth**

The Youth-to-Youth Club focuses on raising awareness for mental health & wellness initiatives. We prioritize positivity, support, practicing self-care, and healthy decision making. There are many exciting things planned for the new school year. The club meets in Room 315. Please contact Ms. Foster ([fosterk@dfsd.org](mailto:fosterk@dfsd.org)) if you have any questions.