

Dobbs Ferry High School

Co-Curricular Clubs (2023-24)

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: (Ms. Burt: burtta@dfsd.org)
- Sophomore Class: (Ms. Ciccone: cicconem@dfsd.org)
- Junior Class: (Mr. Cox: coxj@dfsd.org)
- Senior Class: (Ms. Henry: henryj@dfsd.org)

AcaFellas

Our AcaFella group consists of bass-clef singers who perform old and new pop songs without instruments (“a cappella”). Rehearsals are before school from 7:30-8:10 a.m. on Thursdays. See Ms. DeFalco for more details (defalcog@dfsd.org). Students perform at the Winter and Spring Music Concerts, as well as at community/ school events and compete at NYSSMA Major Organization Contest in the spring. No auditions required!

Book Club

The Book Club is open to students in grades 9-12 and allows students to read and explore both contemporary and older texts based on interest. In doing so, students have an opportunity to discuss some of the themes presented in small learning communities. Please contact Mr. Falconetti (falconettit@dfsd.org) for more information.

Chess Club

The Chess Club provides students with an opportunity to engage with peers who share a love for the game of chess. Players of all levels are welcome. The club has the potential to schedule competitive matches within our school and with players from other schools. The club meets in Room 117. Please contact Ms. Buschi (buschis@dfsd.org) for more information.

Competitive Debate Club

The Competitive Debate Club will foster participation and understanding of engaging in formal debates with one another and ultimately with teams from other schools. Students will build confidence in public speaking and will research and understand both “sides of a topic, including 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 205. Please contact Ms. Burttt (burttta@dfsd.org) for more information.

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) 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) 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 311. Please contact Ms. Walerski (walerskij@dfsd.org) or Ms. Evans (evansk@dfsd.org) with any questions.

French Club

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. The club meets in Room 215. Please speak with Ms. Irvine 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) for more information.

GSA (Gender and Sexualities Alliance)

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 meets in Room 117. Please contact Ms. Buschi (buschis@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) for more information.

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 conducted both at school as well as in the Dobbs Ferry community! The club meets in Room 306. Please contact Ms. Fahy (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. The club meets in Room 210. Please contact Mr. Davis (davisr@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) 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 after school on Mondays. The club meets in Room 109A. Please contact Ms. Consiglio (consiglios@dfsd.org) for more information.

Kindness Club

The goal of this club is to perform acts of kindness for others (peers, staff members, and community members). As a club, students 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 Ms. Cheung (cheunga@dfsd.org).

Mindfulness and Meditation Club

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 119. Please contact Ms. Ravo (ravok@dfsd.org) for more information.

Model UN

Model United Nations (“MUN”) allows students to role play as delegates in a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and other specialized UN committees. This activity takes place at MUN conferences, which are usually organized by high school or college MUN clubs. MUN involves substantial research, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, as well as

critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities. Our MUN club will meet on Mondays in Room 287. Please contact Ms. Cunningham (cunninghame@dfsd.org)

Music Appreciation Club

The Music Appreciation Club is open to all students who have an interest in sharing and exploring new music. Students 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. This club meets twice a month in Room 113. Please contact Mr. Falconetti (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 eligible as second semester juniors based on their cumulative GPA. Eligible juniors must then undergo a rigorous application 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) for more information.

Octet

Octet is an eight member treble-clef acappella singing group, by audition-only. Auditions will be Thursday, September 21st at 3:30 in the Chorus Room. 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, games, around the community, and at graduation. Octet meets Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:10. Two students sing each part (Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, and Alto II). In addition, there are 1-2 swing members of Octet that learn multiple parts. 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," "Titanium," "White Winter Hymnal," and many more! Please contact Ms. DeFalco (defalcog@dfsd.org) for more information.

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 311. Please contact Ms. Morales (moralesk@dfsd.org) for more information.

STEM Club

The goal of this club is to enrich the science curriculum students are already learning at DFHS. Students will work to explore project based learning activities in science, technology and engineering to reinforce science literacy and lab skills. The secondary goal of the club is to increase the representation of women amongst the sciences and begin to shift deep-seated cultural views about who does STEM. Activities may include: egg drop competition, bath bomb making, Skype A Scientist, movie days and more! Meetings are in room 285. Please contact Ms. Molloy (molloyd@dfsd.org) or stop by for more info.

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) 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 (meagham@dfsd.org) for more information.

Television: Past and Present

Television programming has influenced America and the world since the second half of the 20th 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) for more information.

Theater Arts Club

Theatre Arts Club is dedicated to the continuing study of the theatrical arts. We emphasize creativity, collaboration, and perseverance. Areas covered include: roles in the theatre,

movement, acting, the reading of plays, theatre design and tech, and viewing theatre performances. Students will be rehearsing and preparing for the Theatre Arts Showcase in the spring of 2024. Please contact Ms. DeFalco (defalcog@dfsd.org) for more information.

Theater Stage Crew

This theater stage crew is a chance to be part of the performance without performing on stage. Learn the skills to translate the script into the sets and props that add to the show. No experience is needed to be part of the club; you will learn as we make! Contact Mr. Carrier (carrier@dfsd.org) for more information.

Thespian Honor Society

The International Thespian Society (ITS) is the only theatre honor society for middle and high school students in the United States. ITS recognizes, rewards, and encourages student achievement and celebrates the work of students in all aspects of theatre – performance and production. Each student is honored on a national level and gains access to opportunities and resources beyond those of their school. The minimum eligibility requirement for Thespian induction is one hundred hours of quality work in theatre arts and related disciplines. 10-12th grade students can apply in January 2024 and the induction ceremony will take place in June. The Dobbs Ferry Thespian Honors Society elects a board of student officers, meets regularly, hosts fundraising events, volunteers for local theatre organizations, and organizes social events. Please contact Ms. DeFalco (defalcog@dfsd.org) for more information.

Tri-M Honor Society

Tri-M is a national music honor society with a chapter now active at DFHS. Applications are accepted from current 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Students who are active members of the DFHS Music Department, and are looking to further their growth as musicians, and also as contributors to a growing program, should consider applying. Requirements include overall academic achievement, musical performance beyond the classroom, and community service to support music. For more information, please contact Mr. Huneke (hunekep@dfsd.org).

World Language Honor Society

The World Language Honor Society is an induction of 11th grade students of Italian, Spanish and French based on specific eligibility requirements as outlined in the DFHS Student Handbook. The induction ceremony takes place in May of junior year. Please contact Ms. Irvine (irvinem@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 capturing all students and 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 Mr. Carrier (carrier@dfsd.org) or Ms. Newhouse (newhousea@dfsd.org) for more information.

Youth-to-Youth

The Youth2Youth Club focuses on raising awareness for mental health and wellness initiatives. We create and plan monthly awareness activities for various topics. Including, designing and hanging up flyers to promote self-care, distributing stickers to encourage others to be vape-free, helping the coalition with Holiday Hustle, and sharing statistics about mental health. Join the discussion on making positive choices and receive volunteer hours in the process. We meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays in Room 315. Please contact Ms. Blanch (blanchs@dfsd.org) if you have any questions.

