

NESHANNOCK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT LIFE

Co-Curricular Activity Guide for Students in Grades 7-12

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

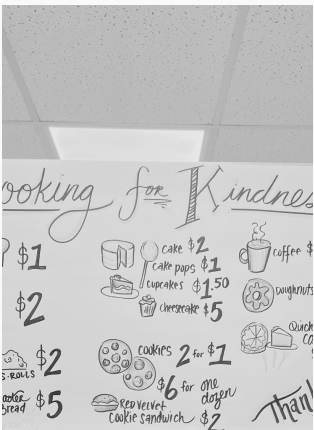
Why They Matter at Neshannock Jr./Sr. High School

Co-curricular activities, also known as extracurricular activities, play a vital role in today's public high schools as they provide students with a holistic and well-rounded education. These activities, which are conducted alongside academic studies, encompass a wide range of options such as sports, clubs, arts, community service, and leadership programs. One of the key reasons why co-curricular activities are important is that they help nurture various skills and abilities in students that are not always developed in the classroom setting. Through participation in sports, students learn teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, which are essential qualities for success in both personal and professional life. Similarly, engaging in clubs and arts activities enables students to explore their creative potential, foster self-expression, and develop critical thinking skills.

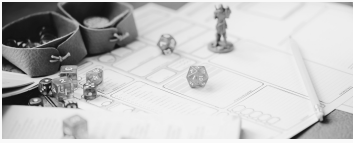
Neshannock's co-curricular activities provide students with opportunities to develop leadership qualities and take on responsibilities, thereby enhancing their confidence and self-esteem. These activities also help students discover their interests, passions, and talents beyond the confines of academics, opening doors to future career paths and personal growth. Additionally, co-curricular activities promote social interaction and a sense of belonging among students by fostering a supportive and inclusive community. This not only enhances the overall school environment at NHS, but also teaches students important social skills and empathy towards others. Moreover, participating in community service initiatives as part of co-curricular activities instills a sense of civic responsibility and encourages students to be actively engaged in our community.

In today's rapidly changing world, where employers and colleges seek individuals with well-rounded skills and experiences, co-curricular activities offer students a competitive edge. It is through these experiences that students can showcase their leadership skills, teamwork abilities, and a passion for learning, making them stand out in college applications and job interviews. Ultimately, co-curricular activities at Neshannock Township School District provide a platform for students to explore their interests, develop essential skills, and grow as individuals, making them an indispensable component of student life.

Mrs. Jenny Flannery, NTSD Director of Educational Services



2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



ADVENTURER'S CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Amy Hilton

Mission: The Adventurer's Club allows students to meet to participate in collaborative storytelling and role-playing games. Members create unique characters, go on imaginary adventures guided by a Dungeon Master, and collectively make decisions that shape the outcome of their quests, all within the framework of the Dungeons and Dragons tabletop role-playing game.

Purpose: The Adventurer's Club exists to provide students with an outlet to be a part of a group to create fun characters and embark on thrilling journeys in the Dungeons and Dragons game.

Meetings: 1-2 per month

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

BIBLE CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Lina Busin

Mission: Bible Club allows willing participants to discuss different biblical topics and enables students to ponder biblical responses to current day questions and concerns.

Purpose: Bible club exists to help all individuals grow in their relationship with God and to inspire others to love like Jesus.

Meetings: 1 per week (more or less as schedules permit)

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

CLUB HOPE

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Taylor Rand-Hiler

Mission: To provide encouragement, services, and HOPE to patients and families affected by a cancer diagnosis. We send donations, cards, and crafts to the two cancer treatment facilities in Neshannock Township.

Purpose: This club works through the Club Hope Foundation. The purpose of this club is to bring HOPE into the lives of those who need it most!

Meetings: 1 per month

Events: Club Hope hosts fundraisers such as hat days, Hearts for HOPE, wear purple for cancer awareness, collect socks for the patients, etc.

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

COMMUNITY ART CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Lauren Sheridan

Mission: This club creates art installations for the school by painting windows, making décor for the musical and various other projects! You can earn community service hours towards your graduation requirement in this club!

Purpose: This club exists to enhance the schools aesthetics throughout the seasons and to promote events through the student community.

Meetings: 1 per month

Events: We participate in the days leading up to an event through painting windows that match the event or stage/lobby décor for the musical. Participation in every project and/or every day of a given project is not required.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12

CULINARY ARTS CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Mary Fleming

Mission: The Neshannock Culinary Club is being created to stimulate, foster and promote student interest in the Culinary Arts. It is my desire to provide students with a fun and creative outlet while developing leadership and cooperation skills. Activities will include Baking and Pastry Arts, International Cooking, as well as a variety of cooking methods and techniques.

Purpose: The Culinary Club encourages students to get involved and interested in cooking. Whether you have aspirations of being a professional chef or just want to learn how to cook, the Culinary Club is for you. Our goal is to have fun exploring a variety of cooking methods, cuisines and cooking techniques while implementing kitchen and food safety protocols.

Meetings: 2 per month (more if preparing for an event)

Events: The Culinary Club will help with Cooking for Kindness and Cater an Event

Travel: Depending on funding, the Culinary Arts Club would like to take a field trip to Pittsburgh to listen to an Executive Chef speak and participate in an upscale dining experience.

Cost: At this time the Culinary Arts Club does not have dues, but members will be expected to help with fundraising to cover the cost of cooking labs. There will be a cost involved depending on the field trip.

Maximum Participants: 25

Prerequisites: It is preferred that you've had a Culinary Arts class but not required.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12



2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FBLA

Faculty Supervisors: Mrs. Jeanne Pursel and Miss Cindy Welker

Mission: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) focuses on business competitions, community service activities, and development of leadership skills.

Purpose: This club promotes success in business through leadership skills development and business competitions throughout the school year.

Meetings: 1 per month (first Wednesday of each month)

Events: NHS FBLA participates in the PA FBLA State Leadership Workshop, the Region 2 Leadership Conference, the PA FBLA State Leadership Conference and, if successful, the FBLA National Leadership Conference.

Travel: FBLA travels to the State Leadership Workshop in the Poconos (limited number of spaces) for two nights, the Regional Leadership Conference (day trip only), and the State Leadership Conference in Hershey (qualifiers only) for three nights.

Cost: Students are required to pay National, State, and Local dues along with the cost to participate in the Regional Leadership Conference. The dues for 2023-2024 are \$40. In addition, students who qualify for the State Conference are expected to pay a portion of the travel expenses.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12



FRENCH CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Jennifer Joy

Mission: In this club we learn about French culture. This includes holidays, art, and the similarities and differences between French and American culture. Students are expected to take on leadership roles within the club and guide the meetings.

Purpose: This club is for enrichment. It reinforces and expands on some concepts covered in class. It also allows students to go beyond what we can do in class due to time restraints.

Meetings: 1 per month

Travel: There is a possibility of a local field trip. Students must attend monthly meetings in order to attend a field trip.

Cost: Dues or fundraiser participation. Students would need to pay for field trips.

Prerequisites: The student must be currently enrolled in a French class at Neshannock Jr./Sr. High School.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12

FORENSICS

Faculty Supervisor: Miss Alexandria Ridderhoff

Mission: The Neshannock Forensics Club connects, supports, and inspires a diverse community committed to empowering students through speech and debate.

Purpose: Forensics Club allows students to develop research, argumentation, speechwriting, oratory and performance skills needed in the lawyers, educators, politicians and performers of the future! Forensics Club also gives students the opportunity to compete against other schools through debate, public speaking and dramatic or humorous interpretation of plays, stories or poetry.

Meetings: 1 per month (bi-weekly when preparing for competitions)

Events: There are three meets held at Northminster Church in Neshannock Township. Meets will take place on the mornings of October 5, November 9, and February 8. Students will return to school in time for afternoon classes.

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

THE GATHERING GROUP

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Brigitte Scala

Mission: The Gathering Group is a club that focuses on team building to develop problem solving and collaboration as well as sportsmanship skills using games and activities that engage executive functioning skills such as planning, organizing, and follow through.

Purpose: This is a club where you can meet new friends, play games, sit and talk with your peers, or work on a craft project.

Goals: Team building to develop problem solving and collaboration. Public speaking skills and communication skills to work on body language, answering and asking questions, maintaining a topic, turn taking, etc. Activities that engage executive functioning skills such as planning, organizing, and follow through.

Meetings: 1 per month

Maximum Participants: 10

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

JAZZ BAND

Faculty Supervisor: Miss Kimberly Heim

Mission: Students will learn how to perform several jazz styles in a traditional jazz band setting.

Purpose: This group is an enriching experience for instrumental students.

Practices: 2 per week (1 hour, after school)

Events: The group performs at the instrumental spring concert.

Minimum Participants: There must be enough interest and variety of instruments to fulfill a traditional jazz band instrumentation.

Prerequisites: Skill on a jazz band instrument or an extremely strong desire to learn.

Eligible Participants: Grades 8-12

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Morgan Siebka-Witmer

Mission: To serve as advocates to the junior high student body and be liaisons between them, the administration, faculty, and staff

Purpose: To give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit and community welfare, the student council is the voice of the student body.

Meetings: 1 per month

Events: Both officers and members are expected to help plan, carry out, and attend Junior High Student Council events, including, but not limited to, the winter semi-formal, and fundraisers.

Prerequisites: In order to participate as a member of Junior High Student Council, students must submit an application. Representatives are then determined by a vote among their peers. Applications are typically emailed to the student body the first week of school. Students must be active members of "student life" at Neshannock Junior High School, demonstrate good character both inside and outside of school, attend all meetings (in person), and participate in student council-sponsored events.

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-8



MODEL UN

Faculty Supervisor: Mr. Matthew DeLorenzo

Mission: Model UN provides a platform for students to play the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real-world problems. Students debate, compromise, and sign global initiatives to best represent their assigned country.

Purpose: This club exists to teach students about world problems and the efforts different countries take to solve global issues.

Meetings: 1 per week/10th period (January to April Only)

Travel: Annual Competition at Westminster College (day trip)

Cost: \$25.00

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Brenda DeVincintis

Mission: To acknowledge good grades, leadership, service, and character and use those pillars to benefit the school and local community

Purpose: This club exists to develop leadership and character skills while instilling a sense of community service to others.

Meetings: 1 per month and then as needed for special events

Events: Annual Veterans Day Recognition program, annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, Socktober Sock Drive, United Way Blanket Drive, Christmas Hygiene collection for Nursing homes, Holiday cards for military and nursing homes - Christmas and Valentines day, and Trunk or treat at various locations. Peer tutoring is a requirement.

Travel: Annual Competition at Westminster College (day trip)

Cost: \$17 (annual dues)

Prerequisites: Grades must be 92.5% by end of term 3 sophomore year and then follow the application process. Students must be committed to peer tutoring and monthly community service projects.

Eligible Participants: Grades 10-12

NEWSPAPER CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Miss Alexandria Ridderhoff

Mission: Reporting national, regional, and local news on the school newspaper's website!

Purpose: This club gives students the opportunity to engage in journalism in an educational setting that helps promote creativity and collaboration.

Meetings: Monthly, as needed

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

PEER LEADERSHIP

Faculty Supervisor: Mr. Gregg Micsky

Mission: To serve the school and community with promoting self wellness, establishing activities to support students, and providing assistance in the removal of barriers to students' academic achievement through mentoring, peer support, and modeling leadership skills.

Purpose: To teach students how to be peer leaders in the school and community. Eight students are selected to attend a three day training presented by Human Services Center, New Castle. The event provides workshops for students from local school districts. In the workshop sessions, students learn how to be peer leaders in the school and community. Students bring the skills back to the school where they organize and participate in school improvement projects.

Meetings: 1 per month and as needed for special events

Events: Eight students are selected to attend a three day training presented by Human Services Center, New Castle. The event provides workshops for students from local school districts. In the workshop sessions, students learn how to be peer leaders in the school and community. Students bring the skills back to the school where they organize and participate in school improvement projects. Peer Leadership also participates in the annual Veterans Day events, peer mentoring, Pennies for Patience, and similar service projects.

Travel: Members will participate in a three day workshop at a local venue during the school day.

Prerequisites: Students must be in tenth grade.

Maximum Participants: 8

Eligible Participants: Grade 10



ROTARY INTERACT CLUB

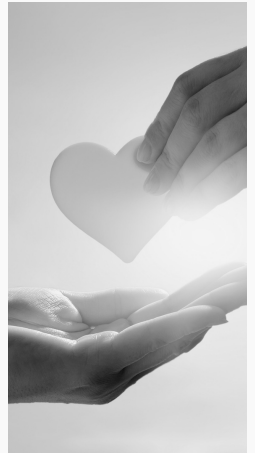
Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Brenda DeVincentis

Mission: Rotary Interact Club is a civic organization that provides services, fundraisers, and support for the local community. This club is a great fit for students looking to get involved with helping others in our community.

Purpose: Students get a chance to volunteer in the community and be a subdivision of a professional international organization called the Rotary Club.

Meetings: 1 per month (at school) and periodically during the year at the New Castle Rotary Club #89 (Mondays at The Confluence)

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12



SKI CLUB

Faculty Supervisors: Mrs. Marcie McConnell and Mrs. Alissa Smith-Summer

Mission: Help students grow their love of snow sports.

Purpose: Give students an opportunity to learn how to ski and/or snowboard. It's a great idea to sign up with a friend or two.

Meetings: 1-2 per year

Travel: 3-4 ski trips per school year that include 3-hour bus rides to and from ski resorts

Cost: \$10 Dues + Approximately \$100 per trip (more if the student is renting ski equipment at the resort) + Money for lunch/dinner at the resort

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12



2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

STEM CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mr. Gregg Micsky

Mission: Promote STEM experiences and STEM learning through hands on activities and contests. Activities will strengthen and promote problem solving and critical thinking in hands-on activities and events.

Purpose: This club is designed to provide opportunity for students to explore STEM experiences through various organized activities. Some opportunities have special requirements based on age and number of students on a team. Activities include a competition to invent a product or concept to solve a common problem, fishing rod building, laser engraving projects and individualized projects not provided during the normal school day.

Meetings: Varies based on events and activities

Events: Activities include a competition to invent a product or concept to solve a common problem, fishing rod building, laser engraving projects and individualized projects not provided during the normal school day.

Travel: Varies based on events and activities

Prerequisites: Some opportunities have special requirements based on age and number of students on a team.

Cost: Dependent upon the activity

Maximum Participants: 5-10

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Faculty Supervisors: Mrs. Taylor Rand-Hiler, Grades 9-10
Miss Cindy Welker, Grades 11-12

Mission: To serve as advocates to the student body and be liaisons between them, the administration, faculty, and staff

Purpose: To give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit and community welfare, the student council is the voice of the student body.

Meetings: 1 per month (the second Tuesday of each month)

Events: Both officers and members are expected to help plan, carry out, and attend Student Government Events:

- Back to School Celebration
- Homecoming Dance
- Powder Puff Game (NHS Juniors vs. NHS Seniors)
- Fundraisers (i.e., Chick-fil-A, Paint Kits, etc.)
- Drive-in-Movie Event
- Intramural Volleyball Tournament
- MORP
- Prom
- Other activities as deemed appropriate by Student Government/Student Council officers and faculty advisors

Prerequisites: In order to participate as a member of Student Government, students must submit an application. Representatives are then determined by a vote among their peers. Applications are typically emailed to the student body the first week of school. Students must be active members of "student life" at NHS, demonstrate good character both inside and outside of school, attend all Student Government meetings (in person), and participate in Student Government-sponsored events.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12

2023-2024 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Faculty Supervisor: Miss Sarah Wells

Mission: If you have an interest in any aspect of technology from video games to manufacturing, transportation to biotechnology, architecture to graphic design, there is something for every student. You will be able to network and compete in one of the country's largest student organizations at the regional, state, and potentially national level. Visit www.tsaweb.org for more about the organization, its structure, and competitions.

Purpose: Networking with other students that hold similar interests builds lifelong friendship as well as serving to help gain new skills and strengthen knowledge that doesn't always develop in a typical classroom setting.

Meetings: 1 per week

Travel: The TSA Regional Conference is typically held on a Saturday (day trip). Qualifying students may go to the 3-day/2-night State Conference.

Cost: \$25.00 Dues; If a student qualifies for travel to the state competition, travel expenses are paid for by the student, with some costs being offset by fundraising.

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

VIDEO GAME CLUB

Faculty Supervisor: Mr. Christopher Ferry

Mission: The Video Game Club is primarily focused on playing video games. Club members will have the opportunity to bring in their consoles in order to engage in multi-player or single player video games.

Purpose: This club exists to give students who are interested in video games a safe and fun environment to come together to play individually, in group settings, and discuss video games.

Meetings: The amount of times the club meets per month will be based on the number of participants. If there are 15 or fewer participants, the club will meet as a whole twice per month. If there are between 16 and 30 participants, the club will be divided into two sections, by grade level bands, with each section meeting once per month.

Maximum Participants: 15-30

Prerequisites: Club members must be in good academic and behavioral standing. The club advisor will contact building principals before adding the students to the active club list.

Additional Information: The video games played in this club will be school appropriate. All games must be rated E for Everyone or T for Teens as long as the content is approved by the Video Game Club Advisor. Games with realistic weapons, excessive violence/crime glorification, or profanity will not be permitted. Students may bring in any console so long as they have permission from their parents/guardians and it can be hooked up to a TV/Monitor.

Eligible Participants: Grades 7-12

YEARBOOK

Faculty Supervisor: Mrs. Shawn Lucas

Mission: This unofficial club takes photos and writes up details of events to be included in the yearbook.

Purpose: To support the yearbook staff in covering school events.

Meetings: As needed per scheduling of events

Travel: Voluntary travel to photograph events at the school, Pearson Park, or golf course after school hours to cover events. Students are responsible for their own transportation and associated expenses.

Additional Information: This is an unofficial club made up of students who would like to help the yearbook staff with event coverage even though they may not have yearbook in their class schedule.

Eligible Participants: Grades 9-12

