

The Miami Valley School

Upper School Activities Handbook

This book contains the names and details of each co-curricular activity offered at MVS in grades 9 through 12. Should you have any questions, please direct them to the activity advisor. (Each description was written by that activity's advisor)

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM

Advisor: Mark Ash

The Academic Challenge Team is comprised of two 4-student teams with 1 alternative student. The teams enter several academic challenge tournaments each year. Some years afford us the opportunity to play in the Channel 7 WHIO HIGH-Q Bowl. The Bowl consists of 32 teams from the Miami Valley area chosen at random along with the top two teams from the previous year. For the past few years, MVS has played in the Bowl earning either 1st or 2nd place.

AESTHESIA (Upper School Literary Magazine)

*Advisors: Rachel Moulton
Anne Griffith*

Aesthesis provides an opportunity for students to showcase and publish their creative expressions in the form of poetry, short stories, creative narratives, drawings, and photography. Each year students are invited to submit creative writing and art/photos to the Lit Mag staff, who then do the work of selecting content, editing, laying out, and producing an annual publication. This year students have begun participating in weekly writing hours as a way to encourage our writer's community at MVS.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Advisor: Richard Braithewaite

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. The MVS Amnesty International group meets during lunch to write Urgent Action Letters to free Prisoners of Conscience. Any upper school student can come on a regular basis or "drop in" to write letters. Other activities are may also be organized by the group.

CHESS CLUB/CHESS TEAM

Advisor: Jon Graetz

The Chess Club consists of anyone who plays chess at MVS! Just come to Room 2, borrow a set, and find an opponent. If you don't know how to play, there are many talented students willing to teach you. The Chess Team consists of those students who have particular strength in chess and seek to represent the school in tournaments and match play. We participate in tournaments every couple of months. The Dayton Chess Club holds tournaments almost every week, and team members are encouraged to take part occasionally. We compete against area schools during winter term, culminating in the Dayton area Scholastic Championships during Immersion, where the top four area teams compete. Lastly, we compete in the State Championships, in which anyone may compete, which takes place in late April.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/SERVICE LEARNING

Coordinator: Jane Gorsky

An upper school service requirement for graduation. Each student must complete the annual hours of service through work at MVS and through volunteering in community organizations.

Ninth Grade: Each freshman is assigned to aid one teacher in duties as assigned for approximately one class period per week during each week of fall, winter, and spring terms.

Students may be assigned to athletics, drama, art, library, laboratory, office, etc. duties. Some positions require evening or weekend time, but most students can carry out their duties during one of his/her free periods during the school day. Each teacher keeps a time sheet for each student. Generally, each freshman spends a total of 20 hours doing school service during the year.

Tenth, Eleventh & Twelfth Grades

Beginning sophomore year, students are asked to make their own arrangements to do community service outside of MVS on their own time. The tenth grade requirement is 20 hours, eleventh graders do 25 hours, and seniors do 30 hours; the minimum requirement for graduation is 75 hours. We recommend that it be spread out during the upper school career in the hope that students will develop a long standing relationship with the service organization of their choice. It is acceptable to complete service hours during summers. Students should choose a type of service work that best suits their personal interests but the choice must conform to the following standards: 1) The student must step outside the family, school and religious service with which he/she is already routinely involved. 2) The student must serve an under-privileged community.

CONDUCT BOARD

Advisor: Brenna Bretscher

The Student/Faculty Conduct Board is comprised of one elected member from each grade for a term of one year with the exception of the junior elect who serves a two year term. The Freshman representative is elected after the fall midterm. Student members hold seats on the Conduct Board which convenes to explore cases of misconduct or academic integrity violations.

DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Advisor: Cindy Knight

An organization at the middle and upper school levels made up of students with a passion to become key players in cultivating MVS' philosophy of diversity and multiculturalism.

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA)

Advisor: Christie Kemper

A student-run club in the upper school which provides a venue for students to meet and talk about issues related to sexual orientation in hopes of extinguishing discrimination. The GSA's mission is to educate themselves and the broader MVS community about sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

HIGH- Q

Advisor: Mark Ash

An upper school quiz game conducted by WHIO-TV in Dayton. Schools from the area compete against each other, a facet of the Academic Challenge team.

IMMERSION

Advisor: Sam Wagner

Immersion, a four-to-six week experiential learning program of intensive study in a specified subject area, is *required of all students enrolled in grades nine through twelve*. All ninth-grade students are enrolled in the same program. For students in grades ten through twelve, approximately twelve elective programmatic offerings are available each year. Additionally, students may create individualized projects (independent study, internship, enrollment in another institution or program). Immersion offerings provide an exceptional, in-depth learning opportunity with most activities occurring off campus, including overseas. Alumni frequently refer to Immersion as the most influential and informative program of their MVS experience.

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE (JCL)

Advisor: Bryan Lakatos

The National Junior Classical League, or NJCL, is an organization of secondary school students sponsored by the American Classical League. Founded in 1936, the NJCL comprises Latin, Greek, and Classical chapters worldwide, including in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Italy. With over 50,000 members, the NJCL is the largest Classical organization today. Its mission is "to encourage an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of classical antiquity." (quote from the JCL Creed)

MODEL UN

*Advisors: Ruth Jewett-Warner
Debbie Spiegel*

A club in the upper school that simulates the workings of the real United Nations. Students represent various countries and attend conferences sponsored by universities. Students are given issues of concern in world politics and must research their country's position on that issue. At the Model UN conferences, they work with students representing other countries to find solutions to the problem. In addition to being a great opportunity to learn about geopolitics and the UN's mission to foster world peace and welfare, Model UN is a fun way for students to improve their speaking and writing skills in an atmosphere of cooperation and competition.

MUSE MACHINE

Advisor: Gabriela Sparks

At the upper and middle school levels, an organization in which students read plays, practice monologues, discuss performances, and pursue other artistic interests. Students can join the Dayton Muse Machine organization and buy discounted tickets to dramatic and musical performances throughout the region. Members are also able to audition for the January Muse Machine student musical.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Advisor: Ruth Jewett-Warner

An upper school activity/competition designed to encourage students and teachers to integrate research into the normal upper school history curriculum. As a competition, it takes place at the local, state, and national levels; students may win awards and scholarships for outstanding work. There is a theme each year, and students choose any topic from local, national, or world history related to that theme. Students may choose to work alone or in groups of two to five students. The contest categories are paper (individual entry only), individual exhibit, individual performance, group performance, individual documentary, and group documentary. National History Day is a great opportunity for the student who loves history to design and create a research project and meet other like-minded students from Ohio and beyond.

PEER TUTORING

Advisor: Deb Dailey

This program is offered to help students increase their understanding of an academic subject. Upper school students in need of academic assistance are paired with upper school students who want to tutor. There are no fees involved, and the tutoring takes place during the school day during free periods. Community service hours may be earned by the tutor if a careful log of dates and hours is kept. Students in need of tutors may seek assistance from the coordinator, Mrs. Dailey. Upper school teachers may refer students for this program to be tutors or to be tutored by a peer. This program is a wonderful example of the members of our school community helping others.

PHLOEM & XYLEM (P&X)

Advisor: Barb Cleary

The upper school student newspaper, produced entirely by students as an extracurricular activity. Staff writers, photographers, and designers work together to develop skills in journalistic interviewing, writing, and photography, and to produce a publication that reflects school life through news, features, and commentary. The activity provides an opportunity for students to test their interest in journalism, to work together toward a common goal, to develop leadership skills, and to expand writing skills in a unique genre.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Advisor: Bryan Lakatos

Elected students from the upper school of MVS represent their classmates in this student organization.

WALKABOUT

Advisor: Anne Griffith

An opportunity for seniors in their spring term to design their own experiential, real-world learning program. Students design their own curriculum based on adventure, service, creativity, practical skills, and logical inquiry. It is entirely student-centered, with students taking the initiative and risks, making decisions, covering their costs, planning and implementing the program. (This program is part of the MVS Experiential learning component more so, than a club or organization.)

YEARBOOK/SUCCESSIONS

*Advisor: Tana Eikenbery
Rachel Moulton*

Yearbook, titled Successions, provides an opportunity for students to construct and publish a book that commemorates the year through photographs and stories. Students are asked to act as writers, editors, photographers, and organizers. Successions provides an excellent opportunity to refine your writing skills while also getting to know the school on a more personal level. New students are always welcome to join and each student's interest is taken into consideration as their positions are assigned. All grade levels are welcome and yearbook traditionally meets every Tuesday at lunch.