

SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



Spotswood High School offers a comprehensive array of extracurricular as well as co-curricular activities to compliment the curriculum. Extracurricular activities are those activities that supplement the regular school curriculum, do not carry credit towards graduation, and are joined voluntarily by students. Co-curricular activities are those activities that are directly related to the classroom and are an integral part of instruction.

A multitude of research has shown a positive correlation between performance in school and students who get involved outside of the classroom. In addition, it is a great way to develop interests and career goals, create new networks of friends, and serves as a constructive way to help relieve tension and stress.

Before joining a club or activity, students would benefit from talking to advisors and current members and even taking part in a meeting or two. Students can find the names of advisors for specific clubs and activities from their school counselor. Students should choose a club that aligns with their interests, stay committed to it and make sure not to take on more than they can handle.

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Academic Subject Clubs

International Club – is an extra-curricular club dedicated to learning about diversity and spreading knowledge and tolerance of other cultures. Some of our activities have included: mini-language lessons, international film showings, food tastings, presentations by students, learning international songs and dances, making crafts and decorations representing other countries, and learning about different customs and traditions. International club also hosts the annual International Night celebration at S.H.S. which includes: food, dancing, music, performances, crafts and games representing a large variety of cultures.

Advisor:

Math League – Open to all high school student interested in academic competition in mathematics with other students in New Jersey high schools throughout the state of New Jersey. A series of six tests, prepared by New Jersey Mathematics League, is administered at the high school during the course of the school year. These tests are graded and the best results submitted to the national headquarters where they are processed, evaluated, and compared with those of other New Jersey high schools. In the past, Spotswood High School has continued to rank well among other school districts of similar size. All papers are scored and then returned to the students in their math classes with explanations of the correct responses.

Advisor: Michelle Robbins Email: mrobbins@spsd.us

Co-Curricular Activities

Concert Band – The concert band is one of the premier performing ensembles at SHS. This group, open to students in 9th – 12th grade, plays at all school concerts and also has performed in Williamsburg, Boston, Atlanta, Orlando, and Toronto in the past. All members of the Concert Band are required to read music, have had previous training on a band instrument, and are academically able to miss class for a band lessons weekly. Any student not currently enrolled, but having interest, must be recommended by the Director.

Advisor: Sarah Carino-Koza Email: scarino@spsd.us

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) – This co-curricular club coincides with the Marketing classes at the high school. Its purpose is to apply the Marketing knowledge learned in the class to real life situations. One teacher-advisor, as well as a panel of six officers, oversee the club. Competition is one of the most important and exciting aspects of the organization, including regional, state, and international level competition. Students also give back to their school and community with events such as Alex's Lemonade Stand and a Walk to Remember. DECA provides insight into the world of business, offering students the opportunity to establish leadership, communication, and marketing skills necessary to be successful in the business world.

Advisor: Kelly Meagher Email: kmeagher@spsd.us

Honors Wind Ensemble – The Wind Ensemble is SHS's honors auditioned performance ensemble. Including 10th–12th grade students and ranging from 40–45 members, the Wind Ensemble frequently plays in local and state adjudicated festivals in addition to all the performances held at SHS. This group also plays nation-wide on the Spring Band Trip. This course requires an audition and all students accepted must have spent at least one year in Concert Band. Students in Wind Ensemble accept the demand of college-level repertoire and are encouraged to audition for CJMEA and All-state performance ensembles.

Advisor: Sarah Carino-Koza Email: scarino@spsd.us

Pep Band – known as the “beat” of the Chargers football team, the SHS Pep Band plays at all home and away football games during the regular and post-season. The Pep Band also marches in the Spotswood Memorial Day Parade, and also performs at other events throughout the fall, based on availability (North Brunswick Columbus Day Parade, NJ Devils Game, etc). Rehearsals are Monday nights; Pep Band is open to any student who is in Concert Band or Wind Ensemble.

Advisor: Sarah Carino-Koza Email: scarino@spsd.us

Extra Curricular Activities

Athletics - The Spotswood high school athletic program provides a wide range of opportunities for students to engage in activities that promote the building of strong minds and bodies. To accomplish this, the following are offered:

<u>Fall</u>	Football Boys and Girls Soccer Cheerleading Boys and Girls Cross Country Girls Tennis
<u>Winter</u>	Cheerleading Boys and Girls Winter Track Boys and Girls Basketball Wrestling
<u>Spring</u>	Baseball Softball Boys and Girls Spring Track Boys Tennis Golf

Drama Club - Each year we present a spring musical production in March (auditions will be held). You don't have to be an actor to get involved because we need volunteers who would be interested in lighting, stage crew, and set construction personnel.

Advisor: Annie Raczko Williams Email: araczko@spsd.us

Environmental Club - The goals of the Spotswood High School Environmental club are to promote sustainability and responsibility for the environment, to educate the student body and community, and to encourage active participation in global, national, state, and local environmental issues. Some past activities include: recycling items through TerraCycle programs, planting trees at SHS for Earth Day, recycling used books, selling flowers and bulbs, and maintaining the outdoor classroom for SHS. Through our fundraising activities we are able to donate to other environmental organizations to expand our impact helping the environment.

Advisor: Julie Jay Email: jjay@spsd.us

Rima Michaels Email: rmichaels@spsd.us

Film Club - A must for films for film lovers of all kinds. Film club is an enriching experience for all who attend. Many will view movies that they have not seen and/or heard of before. This club is an opportunity for students to explore the cinematic world. Films range from foreign to classic and from drama to comedy. Film club meets after school on alternate Wednesdays, so come watch new movies and meet some new people to enjoy them with!

Advisor: Leonard Hollender Email: lhollender@spsd.us

Jazz Band - Comprised of students in both Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, Jazz Band is an auditioned group that begins in late-November/early-December and rehearses Monday and Wednesday evenings. Performances include the Jazz Band Concert, competing on the Spring Band Trip, and other performances based on availability. This ensemble is known for playing everything from old 40's swing to contemporary fusion and Top 20 hits — it's a great time!

Advisor: Sarah Carino-Koza Email: scarino@spsd.us

Lead For Diversity - Works to increase awareness and improve the inter-group relations in the school and the community. Students discuss ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic issues and identify strategies to improve these relationships. Delegates attend a peer leadership program where students acquire peer leadership, conflict resolution and human relations skills necessary for success in a diverse world.

Advisor: Lisa VanDoren Email: lvandoren@spsd.us

National Honor Society NHS - The nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school level students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Invitations are extended to eligible members, applications are then completed, and an interview component follows. From there, students chosen by a selection committee are inducted. Members also offer a free tutoring service twice per week after school in the Media Center.

Advisor: Michelle Robbins Email: mrobbins@spsd.us
Suzanne Fredricks Email: sfredricks@spsd.us

Spotswood High School Community Service Club - The SHS Community Service Club has been a vital part of the Spotswood community for many years. It is our goal to increase our involvement in service related activities to include the communities of Helmetta and Milltown. The club has helped the needy and provided for individuals who have benefited from the time and generosity of our students and school community. Some of our most exciting events include the Community Kitchen suppers, Special Needs Christmas Party, and Charity Volleyball Game. This club has taught future generations the value of a helping hand and the responsibility to help care for others.

Advisor: Megan Mucci Email: mmucci@spsd.us
Julie Bradley Email: jbradley@spsd.us

School Literary Magazine (Euphony) – Creative writers in the SHS community have an opportunity to share and publish their work in the school's annually circulated literary magazine. Poetry, short stories, and other original selections are chosen and edited. The Graphic Arts department takes part in the process by printing the magazine, which includes student artwork to complement the writing. Open to all grade levels, students are encouraged to submit any of their writing to advisors by March, giving the magazine editors time to revise and make corrections. All appropriate work is accepted, printed, and distributed in homerooms at the end of the year. Participants find that the literary magazine provides a vehicle of expression, and a tangible souvenir of their creative endeavors in high school.

Advisor: Dominic Sposato Email: dsposato@spsd.us

The School Newspaper (Scribbler) – The Scribbler provides the SHS community with news about our school, community, and country, along with items of interest including music and film reviews, editorials, photos, artwork and comics. Ideas are generated by the staff and editorial team and then followed up with interviews, research, photography and art. Articles are then discussed, reviewed and edited before being added to *The Scribbler* online. Students are encouraged to enroll in the Journalism elective, where they can sharpen reporting skills and learn in the methods of contemporary journalism. The Spotswood High School newspaper is a live publication, with new information and images being updated regularly. Check us out at: shsscribbler.weebly.com!

Advisor: Andrew Cammarano Email: acammarano@spsd.us
Annie Raczko Williams Email: araczko@spsd.us

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) – This is a peer leadership organization dedicated to raising awareness of the grim realities that can come from the use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs. It has broadened its parameters to not only include illegal substance abuse, but also other “dangers” facing teens. We believe through proper education paired with family and peer support that these destructive decisions can be prevented and/or dealt with properly. We use student-initiated activities that empower our student community in a positive way, preparing them to successfully and safely avoid destructive decisions. Our overall goal is to bring the school, the community and families together in an effort to eliminate the dangers facing teens in society today.

**Advisor: Lauren Knapp Email: lknapp@spsd.us
Andrew Zaborney Email: azaborney@spsd.us**

Student Government - organizes the voice of the students through peer representation, sponsors various events throughout the course of the school year, and works with school administrators to make these events and activities available to the students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. Each grade level has four representatives who are popularly elected by the student body each Spring.

Advisor: Michael Curto Email: mcurto@spsd.us

The Television and Radio Club - allows members an opportunity to perform, produce, edit and deliver programming for SPSN and WSHS radio. The members use state of the art television and radio facilities located at Spotswood High School. The club also explores media’s relationship in society, production aspects and studio management levels. The TV/Radio Club is open to all students who are and are not enrolled in the Television and Radio classes at SHS. The club meets one day per week after school.

Advisor: Andrew Zaborney Email: azaborney@spsd.us

Yearbook Club (Pegasus) - Our objective is to create a yearbook that brings high school memories together. It is our mission to emphasize the unity that our school can generate. Through pictures and words, we forever emboss our place in time. Our yearbook represents every class; therefore we need members from every grade to help create the yearbook. Creative skills are important, as well as organization and knowledge of our specific software. Typing skills are a plus. A training session is held in September for any new members. The editorial staff is selected in June for the following year. Our meetings are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15 - 4:15 pm. A student can be a member of yearbook as well as other clubs or activities. You are able to work at home on your own time if you cannot attend meetings. The design and creation of the yearbook takes time. Generally, we work from the first week of school until the books are distributed in June. As a member, you should be familiar with digital photography. You will be required to take pictures at various school functions, which will be used to create different layouts. Our yearbook is created online through the Internet therefore computer literacy is essential.

Advisor: Paige Besthoff Email: pbesthoff@spsd.us

Music Club - Music club is for students interested in playing live music in a casual setting where the students can interact and collaborate with one another. We hold two concerts during the year where the students perform in the evening for family and friends in a relaxed, coffeehouse-style atmosphere. Any money raised is used to buy equipment such as amps, microphones, and stands.

Advisor: Christopher Talish Email: ctalish@spsd.us

TEAMS - TEAMS is an extracurricular club designed to prepare students for the TEAMS competition held at NJIT in March. The annual TEAMS competition for middle and high school students is designed to help them discover their potential for engineering. During this one-day competition, students work together in teams of eight to apply math and science knowledge in practical, creative ways to solve real-world engineering challenges. The competition explores areas such as energy efficiency, geothermal heat pumps and wastewater treatment.

Advisor: Christopher Talish Email: ctalish@spsd.us
Nick Zygnerski Email: nzygnerski@spsd.us

HackSpace - Spotswood HackSpace will provide a place for students with disparate technology-based interests to come together and work with others (or as an individual) on projects that may not be covered in a traditional, classroom-based technology or computer science curriculum. We provide students with a safe, comfortable atmosphere to pursue projects in the following areas: Arduino and Raspberry PI, robotics, app development, networking, electronic circuits, 3D printing, human/computer interaction, and game development/computer animation. Although it may be beneficial, no prior technology experience is required to participate in Spotswood HackSpace.

Advisor: Gary Hull Email: ghull@spsd.us
Martin Dempsey Email: mdempsey@spsd.us

Heroes and Cool Kids - Heroes and Cool Kids is a mentoring program, where former professional athletes and accomplished individuals train high school students leaders to mentor the 5th and 1st grade students within our school district. The heroes (mentors) are selected through an extensive and competitive application process and are chosen for their academic standing, extracurricular participation and most importantly, their character. High School students are eligible to apply by the end of their freshman year. These mentors will then share their lives experiences and facilitate the programs values, geared to helping students make better, healthier choices that will lead to a successful future. The elementary school students (the cool kids) look forward to the visits with their mentors and in many cases idolize them as role models.

Advisor: Jill Hetzler Email: jheltzler@spsd.us