



Player's Club Performance



Harvard Model UN



Operation Smile Car Wash

Eastchester High School: Extracurricular Activities/ Club Handbook

Eastchester High School offers many opportunities to explore interests through after school clubs and activities. Extra-curriculars can be the difference between an ordinary high school experience and an extraordinary one.

Most people say that clubs are a benefit because they “look good on your resume.” But, it only looks good if you invest time and passion into clubs you enjoy. The most important reason colleges look at your extra-curricular activities is because it adds to your academic transcript in a more personal way—it defines and differentiates you. But there are plenty of other reasons to join clubs. Here is what others have to say about how clubs can make your high school experience more than just ordinary:

“If I could offer any advice to the future of Eastchester, it would be to get involved in one or two extracurricular activities that you can really have fun in. Looking back, some of my greatest memories are from extra-curriculars.” (Scott Symons, Class of 2015)

“Through clubs, you are given the chance to expand your social horizons as you collaborate and make friends with people from all different grades. There is nothing more rewarding than spending time with a group of people who share the same interests as you, as you work toward achieving common goals, whether they be projects, publications or productions.” (Rodlyn-mae Banting, Class of 2015)

“Being part of extra-curriculars has given me the opportunity to better define myself by exploring my passions, and has motivated me to take my interests to the outside community.” (Caitlin Cimon, Class of 2016)

ACADEMIC:

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE—Larry Ellis

Promotes excellence in American education through participation in academic competition in a variety of scholastic tournaments during the school year

- Primary tournaments are nationally sponsored by Questions Unlimited and administered for the Westchester area by White Plains High School
- Generates publicity and attention for bright students that is normally reserved for star athletes
- It's cool to be smart!

CHEMISTRY CLUB/SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY—Christian Gorycki

Participates in the Science Olympiad competition and manages the Science Honors Society

- The New York State Science Honor Society was established to recognize students who excel in science as well as service.
- Membership selection is based upon science scholarship and personal character.
- Candidates must be juniors or seniors and currently enrolled in a science Regents or Advanced Placement course.
- They must also have successfully completed two years of science with a scholastic science average of 90%.
- In addition, they must do FIVE documented hours of peer tutoring after school in room H001 or participate in the Science Olympiad.
- Acceptance into the Science Honor Society is contingent upon Science Department approval.

FRENCH CLUB/FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY—Laura Marcoccia

Celebrates the French language and culture and explores La Francophonie!

- Special events are held throughout the year, including the Mardi Gras party and French Film Night

ITALIAN CLUB/ITALIAN HONOR SOCIETY—Lucrezia Lindia

Recognizes an appreciation for the Italian language and culture through a variety of events and recognizes academic excellence with membership into the Honor Society. Special events throughout the year include:

- Columbus Day activities, including the Columbus Day parade, dinner for Miss Columbus and the Padre Pio Fair at the Generoso Pope Center
- Dinners at Spiritoso Restaurant and at the Generoso Pope Center; annual Christmas Party and opera performance
- Annual trip to Italy

NEW YORK STATE MATH HONOR SOCIETY – Donna Barbara

Recognizes students, enhances knowledge and understanding, promotes mathematical leadership and encourages mathematical service. Students must have completed 10th grade mathematics and are currently enrolled in a mathematics class in 11th grade. Overall average of 85% and mathematics average over 90%.

SPANISH CLUB/SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY—Karina Paulino-Barrera

Fosters a greater appreciation of the culture and customs of the Hispanic people. The National Spanish Honor Society encourages excellence in scholarship by recognizing academic performance in the subject. Special events held throughout the year include:

- A joint fundraiser with the Spanish Honor Society in October in order to fund our activities
- Annual Piñata Party and trip to NYC to have dinner and see a show related to Hispanic culture
- In-school activities include movie afternoons, dance lessons, scavenger hunts and poetry contests
- National Spanish Honor Society members participate in peer tutoring and perform local volunteer work. An induction ceremony and a “Farewell Dinner” for graduating members are held in June.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY—Julie Meyers

Students who have earned an overall GPA of 92 or higher after the end of junior year are invited to apply to be a member of NHS in the fall of their senior year. Students are selected by a faculty panel based on scholarship, involvement in school and community, character and service. Members provide free tutoring to students and may participate in other service initiatives throughout the year.

ARTS/PERFORMANCE:

ART CLUB—Patrick Perry

Provides students with all levels of artistic abilities the opportunity to be involved with other students who share their interest. Weekly meetings are held to explore projects (still life or figure drawing, for example). Special events include:

- Weekend field trips to explore Manhattan’s art scene, such as visits to the Metropolitan Museum, MOMA, the Frick Collection, the Asia Society, the Morgan Library, the Highline and art galleries in Chelsea
- The Art Club runs children’s workshops at the Welcome Back Carnival in the fall and the Arts Festival in the spring

JAZZ BAND—Don Olsen

Showcases talent through two concert performances during the school year as well as other community performances. Participation is by audition.

JAZZ CO—Karen Zambelli, Heather Reilly, Melissa Lieto

Provides dance experiences and performance opportunities during upper elementary school, middle and high school. Students gain insight and discipline, learn skills of leadership and teamwork and integrate knowledge of self and issues through the arts.

- Students are selected after a probationary period, based on dedication and level of responsibility
- Members work with professional choreographers during the season to prepare for the annual performance in February
- Students create dances relating to their adolescent experience, and learn the techniques of many styles of dance including but not limited to tap, hip-hop, jazz and theatre dance with guest choreographers
- A few devoted high school dancers become assistants in the middle school and elementary program, thus developing leadership and teaching skills in addition to dance technique and choreography experience

PLAYERS CLUB AND TECH CREW—John Gwardyak, Karen Zambelli

Recognized as one of the best high school theater groups in the tri-state area, Players Club members present several performances throughout the year. Tech Crew is open to all those who are interested in assisting on the building, painting and operation of scenery for all the productions. Performances include:

- The Annual Fall Comedy, chosen by audition and limited to between 8 and 16 cast members; audition is highly competitive
- Spring Musical: performed with a professional pit orchestra. Cast members are chosen by audition—anyone who auditions is guaranteed entrance
- May Cabaret, written and directed by students, and pokes good, clean fun of everyday life at EHS and features skits performed and written by teachers—any Players Club member may participate

VIDEO PRODUCTION—Michael Goldstein

Teaches students with an interest in film & video production the professional techniques to shoot and edit their own films. Weekly meetings provide the opportunity to practice writing screenplays, use a video camera, microphones and computer editors. The Club also:

- Hosts Stand-Up Comedy Night and the annual Eastchester Film Festival
- Provides service to the community by shooting and editing many district events which are aired on local cable television

COMMUNITY SERVICE/SOCIAL AWARENESS:

ACT NOW CLUB—Donna Bernaschina

Supports the local Lions Club, a non-political service organization that aims to meet the needs of communities on a local and global scale. Service activities include:

- Participation in the Breast Cancer Walk-a-thon, Toys for Tots, selling lollipops for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, collecting coins for UNICEF, collecting money/items for disaster-struck countries and volunteering at various locations
- Other service initiatives have included volunteering for a food pantry at St. Mary's church in Mount Vernon, visiting Blythedale Children's Hospital for story time, volunteering at a soup kitchen in Yonkers and participating in Relay for Life in May

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA)—James Gedge

Cultivates the preservation of a safe school environment, free of unwarranted and unwelcome bullying of all students, whether gay or straight, black or white, religious or non-religious, etc. In order to make this vision a reality, we need the support of many people in the form of membership—joining is nothing to feel worried or ashamed about; in fact, it is a magnificent favor you can do for yourself and your school.

- Participates in numerous awareness programs, such as the Prideworks Convention at the Westchester County Center in December, and National Day of Silence, a nationwide protest of bullying every spring
- Discusses LGBT current events and the climate of the school in general

GOING GREEN—Jean Marie Woods-Ray

Spreads awareness and increases enthusiasm among the students in our school district regarding simple daily changes that we all could make to help conserve our resources and improve environmental conditions. Activities and initiatives include:

- Green Week, a week spent educating and encouraging the school to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Participating in an annual clean-up day, as well as Waverly day which focuses on teaching first graders about going green through a story and a project
- Raising money for sustainability projects such as Life Straws, a plastic device that cleans and filters harmful substances in third world countries
- Sponsoring Walk to School Day and participate in Eastchester's Green Festival

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—Lina Astarita

Supports the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity by helping to build a decent, safe and affordable place for families that qualify for low income housing

- Club members visit construction sites and participate in helping to complete a particular house(s) at least once a month or more if needed. Activities include spackling, painting, cleaning and gardening as well as cleaning and straightening the supporting warehouses.
- Annual events include a major fundraiser at the beginning of the year, hosting a holiday dinner for the families and a dinner for out-of-state college students who help in our local sites.
- We adopted the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life", an event that takes place in Bronxville—we raise money and participate in the overnight event.
- We lend a hand to other service organizations when the need arises.

HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB AND MODEL UN—Edye Caine

Weekly presentations educate and raise awareness of the human condition in the United States and around the world. Our main goal is to keep helping to make the world a better place here and abroad by educating others and encouraging them to be the change they want to see in the world!

- Students work collaboratively to organize school-wide activities and projects as well as those that reach out into the community.
- Every year we hold the Welcome Back Carnival to raise money for the club, and allow other clubs to raise money through fun activities and games
- Sponsor annual Swazi day
- Hold annual badminton tournament to raise money for different human rights issues
- Participate in Model UN (see description under Special Interests)

OPERATION SMILE—Kristen Bellinzoni, Kathleen Marcason

Raises awareness and money for surgeries to correct facial deformities in children, such as cleft lips and cleft palates, that can be life threatening.

- Work directly with the national Operation Smile organization by having a representative visit with us for club meetings and exposing students to opportunities to attend leadership conferences
- Annual fundraising activities include the annual Cabaret, a variety performance show involving high school students as well as a fall and spring community car wash and a candy sale
- Hold Hollywood Game Night, which is a club-bonding activity held in late spring

LITERARY:

THE EAGLET – Bryan Johnson

Publishes EHS' student-run newspaper, *The Eaglet*

- Offers students the opportunity to have their voice heard in a published periodical
- Students are able to write about topics that are not only relevant to the school community, but are both timely and of personal interest

SLAM! POETRY—Ruth Kambar

Raises awareness regarding the poetry of life by organizing :

- Pee Wee poetry events, open-mics and fundraisers for charitable donations. Events are attended by Community members and high school/middle school students

FORUM—Adam Benveniste

Publishes annual literary magazine to showcase the writing talents of students interested in sharing their works

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

DEBATE CLUB—Maureen O'Connor

Prepares for county-wide competitions

- We compete in a county-wide trial court competition in November and February

SOCIAL SKILLS GOLF CLUB—John Gibson, Heather Reilly

Pairs students with autistic children to teach them how to play golf and to enhance their social skills

- We participate in Special Olympics at Mohansic Golf Course and play the Lake Isle Women's Gold Club each spring in a three hole tournament
- The club is supported by a car wash and parent donations to pay for golf lessons at Lake Isle; the golf equipment is donated

POLITICAL SCIENCE/MODEL CONGRESS—Betty Crowley

Offers students the opportunity to learn more about current events and how our government responds to them at the local, state, national and international levels through weekly meetings, where relevant topics are discussed

- Participates in Columbia, Yale, and UPenn Model Congress. Held at Ivy League universities, students from all over the country gather to be federal legislators for a weekend. Weekly meetings prepare students to write, introduce and debate legislation

- Gives students the opportunity to create bills, debate, and listen to other students' opinions from around the country

MODEL UN – Edye Caine

Part of the Human Rights Club, students attend off-site conferences with other high school students where they act as delegates to the United Nations, debating topics in international relations and diplomacy

SKI CLUB—Ed Gruber

Fosters positive social gatherings outside of the school setting through a high adventure activity, bringing people together from diverse social circles to share their common interest while learning about each other

- Sponsors five ski trips per year to some of the most challenging mountains in the Northeast, within four hours of Eastchester
- Open to all who want to ski or board, from first-timers to double black diamond enthusiasts

EASTCHESTER STUDENT LEADERSHIP/INVOLVEMENT:

EASTCHESTER GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (EGO)—Phyllis Rothschild

Every student at EHS is a member of the EGO which is run by twenty elected officers and ten appointed rotating officers.

- The goals of the EGO officers are to represent the concerns of the student body, serve as the liaison between the student body, faculty, and the Board of Education, serve as role models, promote school spirit and a sense of pride, implement the student code of conduct, and establish and maintain public relations with the community
- Meets regularly to organize school-wide events and fundraisers including Homecoming, Rock Against Cancer, Pep Rallies, Spirit Week, Friday Night Live, 8th to 9th Grade Parent Orientation, Blood Drives for the American Red Cross, Toy Drive and other activities based on need (school, community, nation)

LE SOUVENIR (YEARBOOK CLUB)—Rachel Sydlowski

Publishes the annual yearbook which reflects the events and lives of people involved with the school during a given year

- Using an advanced desktop publishing system that closely mirrors the industry standard, students strive to create a journalistic publication. We use the latest design and photographic capabilities now available, including coverage showcasing everything from reporting of events to first-person profiles.
- Students learn how to write for an audience, take great pictures, close a sale, celebrate others' achievements, meet deadlines, make friends and be honest and thorough and accurate