

"SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT"

Port Chester High School

One Tamarack Road Port Chester, New York 10573 914.934.7950

> Mitchell A. Combs, Ph.D. Principal

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GUIDE TO EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND HONOR SOCIETIES

2018-2019



Interest-Based Clubs

Port Chester High School recognizes the educational value inherent in student participation in the cocurricular and extracurricular life of the school. A strong activities program is available to students and is designed to meet the school-related interests and needs of students.

African-American Club

Advisor: Mattie Gooden

E-mail: Mgooden@portchesterschools.org

Description: The African-American Club promotes an understanding of African-American culture and history as well as the accomplishments of African-Americans to our nation. Educational and social programs are held during the year to celebrate African-American culture and history, including a commemorative school assembly and Poetry Slam each February.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from October through March in Room 133.

Anime Club

Advisors: Kevin Clark

E-mail: Kclark@portchesterschools.org

Description: Anime is a style of Japanese animation that is for children and adults. Similar to a book club, The Anime Club watches an anime and then partake in an activity or discussion related to the themes during the next meeting. The Anime Club strives for having fun and exploring student interest in animation.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays each month from October through May in Room 153.

The Book Club

Advisor: Barry Backelman and Jesse Fernandez

E-Mail: <u>Bbackelman@portchesterschools.org</u> Jfernandez@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Book Club is for students devoted to a love of literature. Each month, students select a book to read and discuss. Titles will be from different genres from drama to fantasy/science fiction to graphic novels. In addition, the group engages in after school field trips to literary-themed destinations and/or events.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from October through May in Room 133.

Environmental Club

Advisors: Victoria Prashad

E-Mail: <u>Vprashad@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The purpose of the Environmental Club is to learn about the environment and sustainability, while also advocating for a healthy lifestyle through a low-impact, environmentally friendly use of public lands and forests. Students may participate in service projects and weekend adventures in the great outdoors, while learning about and implementing the "leave no trace" principle.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 3:05 to 4:30 p.m. from October through May in Room 204.

The Fellowship Club

Advisor: Maria Somers

E-mail: Msomers@portchesterschools.org

Description: In the Theology Club, students will have the opportunity to discuss and explore the theological subjects of spirituality and philosophy and how these are reflected in the actions of humans.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month from October through May in Room 103.

French Club

Advisor: Deborah Pelletier

E-mail: Dpelletier@portchesterschools.org

Description: The mission of the French Club is to provide activities for students that promote understanding and goodwill among different ethnic groups by offering a variety of Francophone-related events. The French Club will also combine certain activities with the Spanish and Italian Clubs. Students need not be enrolled in a world language class to participate.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from October through May in Room 137.

Future Business Leaders of America

Advisor: Tom Josephson

E-mail: <u>Tjosephson@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The Future Business Leaders of America is an organization for students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. The

organization, through its meetings and activities, seeks to develop competent business leadership skills, strengthen the confidence of students in themselves, create more interest in and understanding of American business enterprise, encourage members in the development of individual projects that contribute to the improvement of the community, develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, foster patriotism, encourage and practice efficient money management, encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty, assist students in the establishment of occupational goals, and facilitate the transition from school to work.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. from October through May in Room 236.1.



Gaming Club

Advisor: Jeffrey Kravitz, Rich Laconi, and Anton

Raskin

E-Mail: <u>Jkravitz@portchesterschools.org</u>

Rlaconi@portchesterschools.org Araskin@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Gaming Club aims to provide a safe, reliable, local venue for students to play multiplayer video games together. Local multiplayer gaming, as opposed to the online variety, necessitates a very human, very positive community of support. The club will focus mainly on the competitive fighting genre including games from Capcom's Street Fighter series and Nintendo's Smash Brothers series. Those who are unfamiliar with the genre will be given the chance to learn to play from club advisors and fellow club members. The club is open to other genres and even board or card games based on member interest.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. from October through May in Room 101.

Gardening Club

Advisor: Joseph Fontana

E-Mail: Jfontana@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Gardening Club is designed to educate, as well as help students find enjoyment in the areas of gardening and horticulture.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. from October through May in Room 200.

Gay-Straight Alliance

Advisor: Barry Backelman and Aaron Glazer

E-Mail: <u>Bbackelman@portchesterschools.org</u> Aglazer@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-run club that brings together LGBTQ and straight students to support each other, provide a safe place to socialize, and create a platform for activism to fight homophobia and transphobia.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. from October through May in Room 133.

Italian Club

Advisor: Krysten Puzzo

E-mail: Kpuzzo@portchesterschools.org

Description: The mission of the Italian club is to positively promote the Italian language and culture through activities and celebrations. The Italian Club will also combine certain activities with the French and Spanish Clubs. Students need not be enrolled in a World Language to participate.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month from October through May in Room 138.

Key Club

Advisor: Brian Knudsen

E-mail: Bknudsen@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Key Club is a student-led internationally recognized organization which provides its members with opportunities to serve, build character, and develop leadership skills. Members believe that service is an essential piece of a successful high school experience

The Key Club organizes holiday food baskets, toy drives, fundraising events for special causes, and other student-initiated service projects in the Port Chester community.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the Wednesdays from October through May in Room 112, in addition to called meetings associated with the club's organized activities.

Latinos Unidos Culture Club

Advisor: Rosa Peña and Kathryn Zappone

Description: Latinos Unidos Culture Club offers opportunities to embrace Latino culture in the context of learning about the cultures around them. The club sponsors activities to fundraise for scholarships for graduating students to help further their education. All students are welcomed.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from October through May in Room 250.

Ping Pong Club

Advisor: Anton Raskin

E-mail: Araskin@portchesterschools.org

Description: Students will learn basic fundamentals of Ping Pong (Table Tennis) and learn to live a healthier lifestyle through physical activity.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. from December through March in the Cafeteria.

Ram Coding Alliance

Advisor: Kristen Aberasturi, Rich Laconi, Alex Miller and Virginia Peterson

E-mail: Kaberasturi@portchesterschools.org
Rlaconi@portchesterschools.org
Amiller@portchesterschools.org
Vjadav@portchesterschools.org

Description: This club is for students interested in computer science topics. Through project-based learning, students will develop their skills, confidence, and the ability to build games, websites, and applications through computer programming.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on Tuesdays from October through May in Room 209.

Science Research Club

Advisor: Alex Miller

E-mail: Amiller@portchesterschools.org

Description: This club is for ninth grade students who intend to enroll in the *Authentic Science*

Research Program in grades 10, 11, and 12. Fundamentals of research will be explored in the areas of science, technology, and engineering.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from October through May in Room 205.

Slam Poetry Club

Advisor: Nelson Diaz

E-mail: Ndiaz@portchesterschools.org

Description: The purpose of the Slam Poetry Club is to provide an opportunity for students to creatively express themselves through the oral art of slam poetry. Students will share their original work or the work of other poets. Students will also collaborate with each other to improve each other's writing as well as compete against each other in poetry slams. Students will have the opportunity to craft and develop their presentation and performance skills. The club is open to any and all Port Chester High School poets and lovers of poetry.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and last Tuesday of each month from October through May in Room 136.

Spanish Club

Advisor: Martha Sendoya

E-mail: Msendoya@portchesterschools.org

Description: The mission of the Spanish Club is to sponsor activities that promote understanding and goodwill among different ethnic groups and

enhance creativity in diversity. The club sponsors activities throughout the school year to provide authentic Hispanic cultural experiences and disseminate the traditions and customs of the Spanish-speaking community. The Spanish Club will also combine certain activities with the French and Italian Clubs. Students need not be enrolled in a world language to participate.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month from October through May in Room 149.

Tamarack Tower Literary Magazine: Creative Writing Club

Advisor: Jesse Fernandez

E-mail: <u>Jfernandez@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The Creative Writing Club (CWC) is a forum for those with a love of creative writing and/or art where you can share your work in a friendly and positive environment with the goal of improving your craft and potentially publishing. Each meeting you are asked to submit a new piece of writing to the club's Google Classroom page (code: x4xdu4) no later than the night before the club meets. Submissions should be no longer than 500 words, with numbered pages on the bottom, and double-spaced.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from October through May in Room 113.

Performing and Visual Arts Clubs

Students at Port Chester High School are offered a variety of performing and visual arts programs. It is part of our mission to afford our students the opportunity to become familiar with all of the arts and develop their individual talents.

Dance Club

Advisor: Shante Pride

E-mail: Spride@portchesterschools.org

Description: Step Dance or "stepping" is an elaborate synchronized group of routines that are performed in a militaristic style. Stepping encourages bonding, pride in PCHS and sportsmanship in the community.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held three times a week after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from October through May.

Drama Club

Advisor: Stephanie Darrow

E-mail: Sdarrow@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Drama Club provides an exciting opportunity for students to work as a cooperative team in the production of two large-scale theatrical productions per year. Students act, run crew, publicize, run lights, engineer sound and manage the entire process under the supervision of the adviser who facilitates the artistic, business, and technical aspects of production.

Date of Meetings: Meetings and rehearsals are held 2-4 times per week from September through April, leading to two stage productions, a drama or comedy production in the fall and a musical in the spring.

Film Club

Advisor: Jesse Fernandez

E-mail: <u>Jfernandez@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The Film Club allows students the opportunity to film, edit, and produce short films under the supervision of staff who advise on the artistic, financial, and technical aspects of production.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on Tuesdays from 3:05 to 4:00 p.m. from October through May in Room 236.

High School Show Choir (Glee Club)

Advisor: Mitchell Woodford

E-mail: Mwoodford@portchesterschools.org

Description: Students in the Show Choir will be able to cultivate their musical interest by performing popular Broadway and pop music. The Choir hopes to reinforce the relevance of music in a student's everyday life. This club is focused on singing, dancing, and performing. Students will have the opportunity to perform for friends, family, and their community.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in Room 229 or the Auditorium, depending on room usage.

High School Select Choir

Advisor: Linda Ventura

E-mail: Lventura@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Select Choir is an advanced vocal ensemble, open by audition only, which performs a variety of music including popular, choral literature, musical theater, and other musical styles. The group performs at all District Concert events, as well as community performances, and gives a yearly Cabaret, featuring soloists performing with a professional band. While enrollment in Concert Choir is encouraged, it is not a prerequisite for auditioning.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held Monday evenings in Room 229 from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. from September through May in Room 229.

Jazz Band

Advisor: Michael Miceli

E-mail: Mmiceli@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Jazz Band is an opportunity for students to perform and become experts in the art of Jazz and musical improvisation.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held after school on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 in the Auditorium.

Peningian: Yearbook

Advisors: Peter Pezzella and Sue Pezzella

E-mail: moments@optonline.net

Description: The Yearbook Club carries on the tradition of recording and publishing a chronicle of the school year by producing Port Chester High School's annual yearbook.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held after school on Thursdays from October through May in the Internet Cafe.

Rock Band

Advisor: Michael Miceli

E-mail: Mmiceli@portchesterschools.org

Description: This club will offer the opportunity for students to play and perform rock music on all instruments: from guitar, bass, drums, vocals, keyboard, horns, or other instruments. Students will be assigned songs to work on; they can choose songs; or they can write songs.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held after school on Tuesdays, from 3:05-5:05, February through May in the Auditorium.



Honor Societies

National Art Honor Society

Point of Contact: Katie Barnett, April Dessereau, and Kenneth Van Vlack

E-mail: Kbarnett@portchesterschools.org

Adessereau@portchesterschools.org Kvanvlack@portchesterschools.org

Description: The National Art Honor Society is an organization of students and staff that recognizes and appreciates the importance of creativity in a school community as well as in their lives. Students demonstrate their dedication to the arts through both participation in the organization, as well as community service in the arts. Students who fulfill requirements will be invited to join the organization in the fall of their Junior year and subsequently inducted.

Qualifications for Membership: Requirements for participation are an 80 or better overall average in school and an 88 or better average in an art course. Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 3:05 to 4:00 p.m. from October through May in Room 254.

National English Honor Society

Point of Contact: Rich Laconi

E-Mail: Rlaconi@portchesterschools.org

Description: The National English Honor Society is an organization of students and staff that recognizes and appreciates the study of English language arts and has adopted the name "Shakespeare's Scholars."

Students who fulfill requirements will be invited to join the organization in the fall and inducted October 25, 2018.

Qualifications for Membership: Requirements for participation are an overall average of at least 80, a 90 in the previous year's English course, and a current placement in either IB English Language and Literature or AP English Literature.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:05 to 4:00 p.m. from October through May in Room 133.

French Honor Society

Advisor: Deborah Pelletier

E-mail: Dpelletier@portchesterschools.org

Description: The French Honor Society is an organization of students and staff that recognizes and appreciates study of the French language.

Qualifications for Membership: A regularly enrolled sophomore, junior, or senior who has exhibited high academic achievement by maintaining an average of 90 or better in the study of French (having completed level 2 and participating in level 3 or beyond) with an overall cumulative average of 85 or better and without any failing grades in the year of enrollment.

Date of Induction: Students are notified in late

April/early May, and the induction ceremony

takes place May 21, 2019.



Italian Honor Society

Advisor: Annamarie DiBerardino

E-mail: Adiberardino@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Italian Honor Society is an organization of students and staff that recognizes and appreciates study of the Italian language.

Qualifications for Membership: A regularly enrolled sophomore, junior, or senior who has exhibited high academic achievement by maintaining an average of 90 or better in the study of Italian (having completed level 2 and participating in level 3 or beyond) with an overall cumulative average of 85 or better and without any failing grades in the year of enrollment.

Date of Induction: Students are notified in late April/early May, and the induction ceremony takes place in May 21, 2019.

Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society

Advisor: Alex Lepes

E-mail: Alepes@portchesterschools.org

Description: Mu Alpha Theta is a nationally recognized High School Mathematics Honor Society. The purpose of this Honor Society is to acknowledge and promote students who show a keen interest in mathematics.

Qualifications for Membership: To be eligible for membership to Mu Alpha Theta, students must have completed three years of high school mathematics, provided their mathematics work was done with distinction. Distinction is defined by an overall average of 85 or better. In addition, New York State Regents Exams in Mathematics are also factored into the calculation of the overall average.

Date of Induction and Meetings: Students will be notified in mid November, and the induction

ceremony takes place concurrently with the Science Honor Society March 20, 2019. Meets are help on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 3:05 to 3:45 in Room 242.

National Honor Society

Advisor: Estrella Marziani

E-mail: Emarziani@portchesterschools.org

Description: The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. NHS is not only an honor roll, but a commitment from those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Qualifications for Membership: The Port Chester Chapter of the National Honor Society is by invitation as a junior and/or senior based on scholastic achievement of an 88 or higher average. Students must submit endorsements from two teachers/coaches/mentors in the school community to ensure that they display the criteria being met in the areas of leadership, service, and character in relation to the Port Chester School Community.

Date of Induction and Meetings: Students are invited to begin the application process in early October. The NHS Committee will then review the applications. The induction ceremony takes place October 25, 2018. Regular Meetings are held on the third Tuesday at 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from September through May in Room 113.

Science Honor Society

Advisor: Maria Recchia

E-mail: Mrecchia@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Science Honor Society is an organization for students who are interested in

and excel in the sciences.

Qualifications for Membership: Candidates must meet academic criteria in order to be inducted into the *Science Honor Society*. Members receive formal recognition and take part in science advancement at Port Chester High School through activities such as peer tutoring.

Date of Induction: Students are notified in late February, and the induction ceremony takes place concurrently with the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society March 20, 2019.

Spanish Honor Society

Advisor: Caryn Rodman

E-mail: Crodman@portchesterschools.org

Description: The Spanish Honor Society is an organization of students and staff that recognizes and appreciates study of the Spanish language.

Qualifications for Membership: A regularly enrolled sophomore, junior, or senior who has exhibited high academic achievement by maintaining an average of 90 or better in the study of Spanish (having completed level 2 and participating in level 3 or beyond) with an overall cumulative average of 85 or better and without any failing grades in the year of enrollment.

Date of Induction: Students are notified in late April/early May, and the induction ceremony takes place May 21, 2019.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Advisor: Linda Ventura

E-mail: <u>Lventura@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The Tri-M Music Honor Society, Chapter 1191, is our local high school chapter of the National Tri-M Music Honor Society. This group is a community service organization, whose members are held to high academic and musical standards. Activities include assisting District music staff, wreath raffles, mentoring lessons at elementary schools, small fundraisers, musical activities such as Karaoke Night and the Battle of the Bands. At the end of the year, all proceeds are donated to a music-related charity.

Qualifications for Membership: Admission to the group is by application only. A student must have an 80 or better average in all of his/her classes, a minimum of two music activities participated in through the school or community. Induction occurs October 15, 2018.

Date of Induction and Meetings: Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. in Room 229 from October through May. Officers will meet with the advisory an additional time once a month as well.



Grade-Level and Student Government Activities

Freshman Class Officers

Advisors: Porfirio Gonzowitz and Natalie Tejada

E-mail: Pgonzowitz@portchesterschools.org
Ntejada@portchesterschools.org

Description: The purpose of the freshman class committee is to promote school spirit and raise funds for future events. The goal is to help students plan and run activities targeted towards the class, promote class unity and class spirit and above all, be a positive influence among the class and the greater school community.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on Tuesdays at least twice per month from 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from October through May in Room 236.

Sophomore Class Officers

Advisor: Olivia Antonopoulos and Victoria Prashad

E-mail: Oantonopoulos@portchesterschools.org

Vprashad@portchesterschools.org

Description: The purpose of the Sophomore Class Committee is primarily to promote school spirit within the student body. The Committee will encourage sophomores to participate in fundraising activities in order to raise funds for future events. The committee will strive to foster a sense of unity in the student body, as well as promote pride in our school, by holding monthly meetings that are open to all.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from October through May in Room 110.

Junior Class Officers

Advisors: Eric DiNome and Rigoberto Martinez

E-mail: Edinome@portchesterschools.org Rmartinez@portchesterschools.org

Description: The purpose of the Junior Class and the Junior class officers is to promote school spirit and encourage juniors to engage actively in all Junior Class activities and fundraising. Class unity is promoted through the purchase of a class ring and the long-standing tradition of the Junior Ring Ceremony each spring.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from October through May in Room 135.

Senior Class Officers

Advisors: Jackie Bisignano, Jeffrey Kravitz, and Jonathan Plato

E-mails: <u>Jbisignano@portchesterschools.org</u>
<u>Jkravitz@portchesterschools.org</u>
<u>Jplato@portchesterschools.org</u>

Description: The purpose of the Senior Class and the Senior Class Officers is to promote school spirit and encourage seniors to participate actively in Senior Class activities and fundraising. Senior year is an amazing year, with seniors enthusiastically looking forward to participating in spirit-building activities, creating a Senior T-shirt, planning Senior Prom, and preparing for their graduation.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held Mondays from 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from through June in the Room 236.1.

Student Senate

Advisors: TBD

E-mail: TBD

Description: The Student Senate looks for students in all grade levels who want to have their voices heard. As such, the Senate discusses ways to positively influence school culture. It also looks at policies and holds fundraisers for charitable causes. The Student Senate works with all student activity groups to coordinate fundraising activities. Fundraising requests are approved on a weekly basis, and student leaders are also communicated with on a weekly basis through the Remind App.

Date of Meetings: Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 3:05 to 3:45 p.m. from October through May in Room 135

At Port Chester High School, we encourage students to participate in the variety of cocurricular and extracurricular opportunities offered at our school. Research has shown that participation in after school activities improve student success in terms of grades and attendance. In addition, participation in activities after school enhances our students' education, builds character and values, develops interpersonal skills, improves time management, fosters teamwork and camaraderie, and allows students to pursue their passions. I strongly encourage students to benefit by being involved in the life of the school, both during and after the school day, to build school spirit and pride, increase student engagement, and create a strong sense of community.

CLUBS IN SEARCH OF ADVISORS

Clubs or activities that have met in the recent past but for whom no advisor exists for 2018-19. See a club you'd like to see revived? Find a teacher to support it, and have them notify the Principal!

Debate Club

Badminton Club

Model United Nations

