

# Oak Park and River Forest High School

## Student Activities Information



Student Activity Office: Room 174

Director of Student Activities:

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Student Activities Assistant:

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**Important 2019-2020 Dates:**

**Lunch-time Activity Fair:**

Tuesday, September 10th

**Homecoming Dance:**

Saturday, October 12th, 7-10pm

**Winter Activity Fair:**

Tuesday, January 21st

**Junior/Senior Prom:**

Saturday, May 16th, 6:30-11:30pm

**For More Information:**

-Follow [opractivities](#) on Instagram!

-Check your email for the Daily Bulletin and other email updates

-Check the Student Activities Website: <http://www.oprfhs.org/activities/>

**OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**  
**2019-2020**

**A Place for All (APA)**

**Ms. Pitt & Ms. Colamussi**

A Place for All is OPRF's gay-straight alliance (GSA), a chapter of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. A Place for All focuses on the social and political issues facing LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, etc.) people around the world. Our purpose is to provide a safe, supportive, and fun environment to build friendships, have discussions, and plan activities and events to increase understanding and acceptance of LGBT+ people in our school and communities. Our club welcomes *all* students.

**Adventure Education Club**

**Ms. Graham**

This club will provide opportunities like learning how to belay, climbing the rock wall, exploring the high ropes course, and more. Trips like camping and skiing may take place too!

**Anime**

**Ms. Pitt**

Anime club is a place for students to explore their interest in anime. Students are welcome to read manga, watch anime, create cosplay, draw their favorite characters, and find many other ways to enjoy anime fandom. The club also takes at least one field trip to a local anime convention.

**Art Club**

**Mr. VanDuinen**

The Art Club works to enrich and enhance the art experience provided at the high school and provide students with additional opportunities to express themselves through the visual arts. Self-directed and teacher guided projects are available.

**ASPIRA (Latin Leadership Club)**

**Ms. Diaz**

OPRFHS ASPIRA is a school affiliate of a national organization devoted to the education and leadership development of Latinx students/. ASPIRA takes its name from the Spanish verb *aspirar*, "to aspire." Meetings and activities focus on helping students become educated, committed leaders for the community's future benefit and explore cultures to gain different perspectives.

**Astronomy Club**

**Mr. McCarron & Mr. Weisman**

The club meets to discuss the celestial bodies and their magnitudes, motions and constitution. Members use telescopes to explore the universe.

**Athletics\***

*OPRF has 29 IHSA competitive athletic sports teams and 3 Special Olympic teams (floor hockey, basketball & track). Each sport requires tryouts and a sports physical. Each team also needs student managers- see the coach if interested. Also, the Special Olympic teams require volunteer coaches. Visit the Athletic Office or webpage for more information! <http://www.oprfhs.org/athletics/>*

**Best Buddies**

**Ms. Joyce, Ms. Kennedy, & Mr. Singletary**

The mission of Best Buddies is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships. OPRF has a very active high school chapter of the international organization providing organized field trips, parties and events that allow friendships to flourish. The chapter has fun in and out of school.

**B.L.U. (Black Leaders Union)**

**Mr. Wade & Ms. Campbell**

The goal of B.L.U. is to assist students in their scholarship potential by providing a support system of peers, faculty, and parents to motivate and maintain enrollment and successful achievement in regular, honors, and Advanced Placement classes. Through a variety of activities (cultural and social) -- and by providing ongoing positive peer reinforcement for academic achievement, excellence, and school participation -- students are able to maximize their full potential.

**Book Club****Ms. Brueggemann**

Join us in the Library after school on the Second Thursday of each month for our monthly meeting of the Book Club. Members will select titles for the club to read throughout the year. We'll provide the books; you bring your love of reading! Questions? Email Ms. Brueggemann at [lbrueggemann@oprfrhs.org](mailto:lbrueggemann@oprfrhs.org).

**Business Club****Mr. Purvis**

OPRF's Business Club is a student lead group that will use real life marketing strategies to improve awareness about programs and events in the High School and local community. Building business knowledge via real world hands on experience is the goal of this group. Students can come with or without business knowledge or experience. All are welcome.

**Chemistry Club****Mr. McKittrick & Mr. Bernthal**

The club is designed to expose students to chemical concepts, chemistry careers, and real-world applications using experiments, demonstrations and discussions. The goal of the club is to allow students to experiment using a hands-on method and develop inquiry skills without a grading component. Students of all grade levels are encouraged to participate. Enrollment in chemistry is not a prerequisite.

**Chess Team****Mr. Aramil & Mr. Linniger**

The Chess Team at Oak Park and River Forest High School exists to provide students with an opportunity to play chess at either a friendly or competitive interscholastic level. Chess is an I.H.S.A. activity, and OPRFHS competes in the West Suburban Silver Conference, the West Suburban District, and the I.H.S.A. State Team meets. However, players of all ability and interest levels are welcome at practice. Most club members are serious and competitive but several participate in practices only at a friendly level. There are no qualifications for membership but to compete, players must make an eight-person team by winning challenge matches under competitive conditions.

**Chinese Cultural Society****Ms. Hung**

The Chinese Cultural Society learns, explores, and celebrates the Chinese culture through all aspects of culture.

**Cosmetology Club****Mrs. Cheney & TBD**

The Cosmetology Club investigates, demonstrates, and practices different types of makeup application, hair, and nails. The club has guest presenters and field trips. Students learn to apply their own make up in a variety of ways as well as application to others, they learn tips for different skin colors and fashions, hair, nails, as well as about careers in the field.

**Creative Writing Club****Ms. Fox**

Description Coming Soon!!!

**Crest\*****Ms. Lee**

Crest, the school literary magazine, is a compilation of student writing and artwork that best meets the credo, "those things that are best." Crest comes out once a year in late spring. Editors meet during a specified time during both semesters. As the publication date nears, it is necessary for the editors to donate larger amounts of time. They meet in order to determine what pieces should be included in the magazine and what design the magazine should have. There are currently no formal qualifications required for becoming an editor. It is recommended, however, that prospective editors have some knowledge of literature and artwork, be able to work closely with other people for the whole year, and be able to make firm, quick decisions, as only a very small portion of the work submitted is chosen for publication.

### **Debate**

**Mr. Freehan**

The OPRF Debate Society competes at academic debate tournaments against other schools from throughout Illinois and the Midwest. Students compete at the novice (first-year), JV and Varsity levels and are taught public speaking, argument writing, critical thinking, and academic research skills as they prepare to debate the national high school topic each year. For the 2009-2010 school year, students will debate different proposals for the federal government to invest in alternative energy, discussing hundreds of related, important environmental, economic, political, and ethical issues at a time where global warming, high oil prices, and "green" technologies are on the front page of the newspaper and central issues in the upcoming Presidential election. Students in policy debate compete in two-person teams and argue both for and against the topic in alternating debates, developing teamwork skills, and work collaboratively with the coach on preparation, research, speaking technique, and argument strategy.

### **Drama Club**

**Ms. Bayer**

Drama Club is open to all students interested in theatre. Whether you are a performer or technician all are welcome no matter your experience. Meetings cover topics such as auditioning, lighting techniques, play reading, planning for college, theatre games etc. They attend productions at local theatres and put on a Theatre Workshop in the spring. Everyone is welcome!

### **Dudes Making a Difference**

**Mr. Dorame**

Dudes Makin' a Difference is a group of high school students who support the local social service agency Sarah's Inn with fundraising and volunteer work.

### **Ethics Bowl**

**Ms. Nash**

National High School Ethics Bowl is a nationwide organization that promotes respectful, supportive, and rigorous discussion of timely ethical topics. We meet, research, and discuss issues in cases released by Nationals, then identify clearly how we think those issues should be addressed. During the interscholastic competition, teams are rewarded for depth and breadth of thought, their ability to think carefully and analytically about complex issues, and the respect shown to their peers.

### **Environmental Club**

**Ms. McGrail & Ms. Kaiser**

This club is a place for all students interested in environmental issues and concerns. Students are encouraged to develop and use their leadership skills while making OPRFHS, local and international areas a bit more "Green" through student developed projects. Plan to be engaged in some activity on a weekly basis (sometimes including maintaining the school garden). The only qualification is interest and a commitment for change.

### **FCCLA**

**Mrs. Tenuta**

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is a national Career and Technical Student Organization that provides personal growth, leadership development and career preparation opportunities for students. Students must be enrolled or have been enrolled in a Family and Consumer Science course in order to join (culinary, apparel/textiles, early childhood education). Students compete in events at the sectional, state and national level.

### **Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA)^**

**Mr. Arriaga**

FCA is a non-school sponsored club where students read the Bible, talk about their faith and pray. We welcome everyone, regardless of religion or faith.

### **FREE (Females Reaching for Educational Excellence)\***

**TBA**

FREE is a female ONLY empowerment group. Our goal is to help students soar personally, socially and academically.

### **French Club**

**Ms. Grady & Ms. Canales**

Bonjour! OPRFHS' French Club is an exciting club celebrating the culture and language of France. French Club members practice their French at meetings, eat French food, watch French films, take excursions to the French Market, Art Institute and French restaurants, and engage in other cultural activities. Whether you speak French or not, French Club is a great place to have fun and learn more about the French culture and language!

### **Freshman Class Council**

**Ms. Bayer**

Freshman Class Council is a student leadership group, focusing on issues of interest to freshman students, developing leadership skills, community service projects, fundraising and other fun activities. Every year the council works on different projects depending on student interest. All freshmen students are welcome.

### **Friendship Bracelet Club**

**Mr. Collins**

Friendship Bracelet Club is all about the fun of making colorful thread bracelets. We meet once a week and share a wide variety of styles and braiding techniques from the straightforward to the complex. The club also participates in a yearly charity fundraiser as well as other school-wide events. No experience needed just an interest in having fun and making functional and decorative art!

### **German Club**

**Ms. Boyce**

Hallo! Guten Tag! The German Club explores and celebrates all aspect of the German Culture through art, food, and more! Everyone is welcome whether you speak German or not!

### **Gospel Choir, Dance & Mime\***

**Mrs. Jackson, Ms. Brown & Mrs. Johnson**

The Gospel Choir is a multicultural choir ensemble of the high school. The choir is an activity for all students who enjoy singing, features a variety of choral music including contemporary, traditional, spirituals, and hymnal gospel songs. The choir fosters student achievement, leadership, creativity and friendship. The Gospel Choir has been organized since 1979 and is one of the most highly supported activities in the high school. The Gospel Choir incorporated dance and mime in 2006 to include students who like gospel music but were not interested in singing. Dance and Mime are great avenues for students to be creative and expressive. This extra avenue also allows more students to be active in co-curricular activities.

### **Healthy Youth Peer Educators (HYPE)\***

**Ms. Colamussi**

HYPE is a peer educator program where students model a healthy lifestyle and teach other students how to make healthy choices. HYPE leads interactive class workshops and fun school wide activities and events to promote healthy choices. HYPE topics include developing healthy habits, the effects of substance use, healthy stress management, and how to help a friend. Students can volunteer to help with HYPE activities and events throughout the year. Students can also apply in the spring to be peer educators in HYPE next school year.

### **Hip Hop Club**

**Mr. Clark & Mr. Krick**

Oak Park and River Forest Hip Hop Club is a student driven club that provides all students interested in the Hip Hop Culture an opportunity to express their artistic expressions through music production and dance choreography.

### **History Club**

**Mr. Tarshish**

History club is open to all students and provides a unique opportunity to engage in thoughtful dialogue and look deeper into topics and perspectives that historically have been overshadowed or omitted. Through discussions, guest speakers, and field trips, history club promotes a place for every student to dive deeper into history.

### **Huskie Athletic Council**

**Mr. Coughlin, Mr. Terretta**

The **Huskie Athletic Council** is for all athletes and supporters of Huskie Athletics. Any person who has lettered in a sport is encouraged and welcome to join. The Huskie Athletic Council has the job of promoting spirit in athletics and running community service projects for athletes and teams. Every athlete is encouraged to join in and help the school and community.

### **Huskie Spirit Council**

**Ms. Prendergast**

The **Huskie Spirit council** plans and leads the spirit events throughout the school! The club picks the themes for athletic events, plans out trips to see competitions off campus, assists in planning the spirit assemblies and brainstorms other ways to raise the school spirit and overall morale of OPRFHS! All students from all backgrounds, interests, sports, and clubs are needed to help promote all events within the school and community!

### **Huskie Helpers**

**Mr. Pena**

The Huskie Helpers is a group of dedicated students that volunteer at local nonprofit organizations. They began their volunteer work at Hephzibah and other agencies in the area to help children.

### **International Club**

**Ms. Grady & Ms. Oliver**

This club is comprised of international students who are studying at OPRF for the school year and OPRF students who are interested in learning about our guests and their culture. It is a support system for the exchange students to answer questions about the American culture or academics. Students also plan activities together outside of school so that they may take full advantage of their time here in Oak Park. International students also help to publicize study abroad programs by speaking to World Language students at our meeting in January.

### **Intramurals**

**Mr. Geovanes, Mr. Harris**

In addition to interscholastic sports, OPRF offers intramurals and open gym. Students may participate in a variety of activities before and after school. Intramurals are offered in the following: Girls Flag Football, Boys Flag Football, Basketball, Badminton, Bowling, Ultimate Frisbee. There are also tournaments like Huskiepalooza that consists of a Dodgeball tournament! You can play the sports or help plan the events and referee!

### **Japanese Club**

**Ms. Schmadeke**

Japanese club explore anything Japanese; including pop culture, music, anime, fashion, arts, crafts, food and more. It is open to all students. No knowledge of Japanese language or culture is necessary. It is casual and fun! Come join us!

### **Jazz Band II\***

**Mr. Svejda**

Currently, OPRFHS has a co-curricular jazz band that is open to students. There are no auditions and the group meets once a week and gives concerts with the Jazz Ensemble throughout the year.

### **Jewish Student Connection**

**Mrs. Kimmel**

Jewish Student Connection is for anyone interested in Judaism, the Hebrew language, history of the Middle East (back to Abraham), Israeli culture, and diaspora Jewish cultures. Most members are Jewish, but not all. We meet on Tuesdays at 3:15 in room 386. Activities include playing games, discussing topics, hearing lectures, and eating food (which is often kosher food).

### **Little Theatre Performances\***

**Various Directors**

The four shows held in the Little Theatre (two each in the fall and spring) provide intensive exposure to the audition/rehearsal/production process for all students interested in quality theater. Participating in plays after school helps translate the drama curriculum to the stage. Auditions for the Little Theatre plays and the musical are open to all, regardless of experience. Students interested in technical design or show operations (rigging, running crew, lighting, construction, and sound) should see Stage Crew, below. **Tryouts, auditions or invitations required.**

### **Make-Up/Theatrical Club**

**Mrs. Cheney**

The Make-Up Committee does make-up for each of the productions in the Little Theatre, Auditorium, and Studio 200. The students assist the make-up designer with inventory of make up, with purchasing of supplies, set up of make up the days of performance, doing make up for the performances, and clean up. No previous experience is necessary to join this committee.

### **Marching Band and Color Guard/Flags\***

**Mr. Svejda, Mr. Fredrickson, & Mr. Pearson**

Marching Band is a co-curricular extension of the OPRFHS music program. It is an all volunteer organization open to students enrolled in performing arts classes. Color guard members are open to any student in school. The marching band performs at home football games, three to four parades a year, and three IHSA competitions. The band usually tours every other year. Previous trips have included the Magic Kingdom Parade in Orlando, Florida; the Martin L. King Jr. Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Peach Bowl Festival/Game in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **Math Team\***

**Ms. Hardin, Mr. Kostal, Ms. Moran, & Ms. O'Connor**

The Math Team is open to all students who are interested in competing in mathematics contests throughout the school year. These contests include meets held here at home and at other schools; team and individual contests, and local, state, and national contests. The purpose of the team is to use the practice sessions and contests to teach problem solving skills, with the emphasis on sharing and discussing strategies and problems with other students. To become a member of the team, a student needs a good ability in math, an interest in working on math problems beyond the scope of his/her math course, and a willingness to attend the practice sessions and meets. Any student in an honors or advanced level math class is encouraged to join.

### **Mock Trial\***

**Mr. Mertz**

Mock Trial was designed to give students a hands-on courtroom experience. Students serve as lawyers and witnesses, competing against other schools' teams in trial competitions. Mock Trial is great for those interested in law, argument, theatre, and debate. The Mock Trial team represents the high school at the Illinois State Bar Association's Mock Trial tournament in Springfield each spring. Contact Ms. Limberg, or Mr. Soffer for more details.

### **Model U.N.\***

**Mr. Pena**

Model UN is an awareness club focused on both national and international causes. Our goal is to have at least one major fundraiser each quarter. We plan to engage in a variety of events to raise both money and awareness. Activities will include t-shirt sales, guest speakers, community awareness, battle of the bands, and we even hope to raise enough money to participate in a genocide conference. We plan to focus a great deal of attention on genocidal issues in Africa and engage in activities in conjunction with the *Invisible Children* movement. Model UN is a student-run club and all are welcomed to attend.

### **Movie Critics Club**

**Mr. Mulvaney**

This club chooses school-appropriate movies to watch, study, and discuss. Particular cinema analytic criteria is used to discuss each movie. All opinions and interests are welcomed!

### **MSAN**

**Ms. Riles**

MSAN is a network of schools from around the country engaged in pursuing strategies for overcoming the achievement gap in schools. The student organization in the high school seeks to identify issues of racial inequity from a student-centered perspective. Identifying issues of racial inequity within the school community enables the students to develop action plans for addressing and overcoming these obstacles for students. This student organization is driven by students who hope to create a more equitable school environment for all members of the OPRFHS school community.

### **Multicultural Leadership Council**

**Mr. Alexander & Mr. Lee Williams**

The Multicultural Leadership Council is open to all students interested in leadership development and service oriented activities revolving around shared differences and collective responsibility for the school community.

**Musical\*****Ms Bayer, Ms. McGuire, Mr. Pearson, & Ms. Cornelius**

The Musical is a collaborative activity incorporating drama, music, dance and technical theatre to produce a large-scale performance for the OPRF community. The Winter Musical adds dance, singing, and live music to the performance experience. Students can participate by auditioning in December. Students should be comfortable singing, dancing and acting in front of an audience and be available to rehearse daily. All students must audition to be cast in the production.

**One ACTS/International Thespian Society Troupe 5405:****Mrs. Cheney**

This is an Honor Society for students in theatre, musical theatre, speech, broadcasting, and dance. Students participate in the annual High School Theatre Festival, One Acts Festival, and various field trips and service activities. The One Act show is performed in the spring. Tryouts are required. The performance consists of several One-Acts to entertain and inspire the audience.

**Orchesis\*****Ms. Johnson**

Orchesis is an in-school dance company composed of advanced dance students, freshmen through seniors. Orchesis presents two dance concerts during the school year that provide a large variety of dance styles. The dance company participates in different activities and festivals outside of school, and is sometimes available to perform within the community.

**Pep Band\*****Mr. Fredrickson**

The Pep Band, which has not existed for over 20 years here at OPRF would be used to spice up home girls' and boys' basketball games, play-off games and other key athletic and school-wide events. This also provides another opportunity to gain student involvement. This would make the entire game experience enjoyable for athletes and fans.

**Photography Club****Ms. Carrow**

Students with an interest in photography meet to share their work and ideas in an informal manner. Activities include collaboration with other novice photographers, informal critiques, experimentation with photographic techniques, open lab time, gallery shows or lectures, and group photo outings. All students are invited to attend throughout the school year. Experience in photography and a black-n-white darkroom is encouraged.

**Prom Planning Committee****Mr. Weisman**

The Prom Planning Committee is comprised of seniors whose sole purpose is planning and executing the Junior and Senior Prom. This committee helps decide the venue, menu, theme, keepsakes, etc. This is the ideal club for students interested in planning.

**Psychology Club****Ms. North-Hamill**

The Psychology Club invites all students who are interested in psychology and who are eager to learn more about this fascinating subject. The club provides the opportunity for students to share their enthusiasm for Psychology with other students, and the chance to directly apply their growing knowledge of psychological concepts to issues and events that are a part of their everyday life. Psychology Club meetings include open discussions, movies, guest speakers including psychology professors, psychotherapists, social workers, writers, counselors, and other experts in the field. Hand-outs of relevant information are available to all who attend each meeting. There are also fun hands on experiments and activities related to psychology. The club meets 2-3 times a month and is open to all students.

**Robotics Club****Ms. Kaiser & Mr. Cain**

Robotics is a team-oriented competitive club in which students work together to build robots and program them to compete in events against teams from other schools. Teams that do well are able to qualify for state and world competitions. Students work with teams of 4 or 5, each of whom plays a special role in designing, building, and handling the robot. No previous robotics experience is necessary.

### **S.A.F.E. (Students Advocating for Equity)**

**Ms. Glower & Ms. Himes**

S.A.F.E. stands for Students Advocating for Equity. Our club aims to create a dialogue between staff and students about school climate where students are comfortable expressing their views about the culture of the school and the community. Our club works to collaborate with staff on becoming more equitable.

### **Scholastic Bowl**

**Ms. Brent & Mr. Mertz**

At Scholastic Bowl team meetings, participants "buzz in" to answer questions about academic subjects and trivia. At IHSA events, team members compete against teams from other schools. Scholastic Bowl functions as both a club and a team: Though only students who attend weekly practices may compete in meets, students who come to play at our weekly meetings are not required to compete

### **Science Fiction and Fantasy Club**

**Mr. Dorame**

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Club of Oak Park and River Forest High School is dedicated to the enjoyment and creation of all materials related to science fiction, fantasy, and science fantasy. The club has organized a yearly Sci-Fi/Fantasy convention, called OPCON, since 1989.

### **Science Olympiad\***

**Mr. Kennedy & Ms. Kralik**

Science Olympiad functions much like a football or soccer team, requiring preparation, commitment, coaching and practice throughout the year. Both a JV and Varsity OPRF team field 15 students who cross-train for a variety of events in their skill set. Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events. Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on group participation. But most importantly, in the words of Sir Isaac Newton "Science Olympiad is Awesome!"

### **Shakespeare Performance and Competition Club**

**Mr. Bell**

The Shakespeare Performance and Competition Club is an open club that plays with Shakespeare in performance. We will watch the pros do it, but more importantly, we get up on our feet and make these words our own. No experience or confidence with Shakespeare or acting needed! Come because you want to play, to build confidence, to prep an audition piece, create Shakespeare-inspired new pieces, or just to work with interesting people and texts. In addition to regular meetings, club members will have the opportunity to attend plays and workshops throughout the year. The club also sponsors members or a team in each of Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Teen Slam, and English Speaking Union's Monologue Competition.

### **Show Choir "Noteworthy"\***

**Ms. Hooper, Mr. Fredrickson, & Mr. Burgess**

Noteworthy is where students combine choral singing with dance movements and perform at OPRF as well as in the community.

### **Sign Language Club**

**Ms. Cartier & Ms. Litowsky**

Sign Language Club is a place for students to learn American sign language and explore Deaf Culture. From beginners to fluent signers, everyone is welcome. No experience is necessary.

### **Snowball**

**Ms. Colamussi, Ms. Baghri, & Mr. Long**

Snowball is a three-day retreat weekend held at the beginning of March and facilitated by OPRF Snowball student leaders. Snowball student leaders undergo an intensive six-month training process to learn skills to lead weekend sessions at the retreat. The purpose of the Snowball retreat is to provide a safe and supportive environment for student participants to develop leadership skills, enhance positive decision making, provide and receive peer support, and cultivate personal growth. The weekend covers topics that impact students on a personal, school, and societal level, and is also jam packed with fun activities like camp songs, movie night, game night, and more!

### **Spanish Club**

**Mr. Gonzalez**

Spanish Club is a space where students can come and learn about, appreciate, and celebrate the Spanish culture! Students will complete art projects, cook food, and participate in other activities to enhance their knowledge of the culture. No need to know how to speak Spanish, all ages and abilities welcome!

### **Speech Team - Individual Events/Forensics\***

**Ms. Cheney, Ms. Welter, Ms. Frisch & TBD**

Speech Team provides students with opportunities in public speaking, acting, and oral interpretation. Students learn the fundamentals of oral communication and prepare, practice, and compete in any of 15 events, including public speaking, interpretation, short story, verse, radio, acting, original writing, and debate. Students attend weekly tournaments throughout the year. Students also participate in the National Speech and Debate Association, an honor society for students in Speech, Public Speaking, and Debate. Students attend one weekly meeting and two half-hour coaching sessions per week plus all day competition on Saturdays.

### **Spoken Word Club**

**Mr. Clark, Mr. Kahn & Mr. Levin**

This club is a venue for students who enjoy writing and performing their own poetry. Meeting time is spent on a variety of activities, ranging from open mics to collaborative writing to guest poet readings to writing and performance workshops. The Club holds performance showcases three times a year when students share their original work. Student writings from these performances are compiled in "chapbooks" commemorating the events. The Club also sponsors a team to compete in the Chicagoland Teen Poetry Slam each spring.

### **Stage Crew**

**Ms. Sadowski & Mr. Scholtens**

If you are interested in the magic of the theater, then Stage Crew is for you. Stage crew builds the sets, designs the lighting and sound, and executes the technical magic for the four Little Theatre Productions and the Winter Musical sponsored by the Fine and Performing Arts Division. Students gain additional production experience by designing lights and sound for the Orchesis dance shows and a host of other concerts, productions, and events held in the Auditorium and Little Theatre. Membership is open to all students.

### **Student Action Alliance<sup>^</sup>**

**Mr. Clark**

Student Action Alliance is a student led group made up of OPRF student activists. SAA organizes within OPRF to champion systemic social change within high school and community settings. SAA campaigns for unity, a celebration of diversity, and equity. SAA will meet at least once per month to discuss local, as well as national topics, identifying how best SAA can take stands and elicit change. Actions include: fund raisers, information dissemination, and rallies. Last year, SAA cosponsored the Black History Month t-shirt fundraiser, which raised nearly \$3,000 and helped to send OPRF students to Washington D.C. over spring break to visit the African American History museum.

### **Student Council**

**Ms. Prendergast**

At Oak Park and River Forest High School, projects are the lifeblood of Student Council. Through projects and/or activities, Student Council carries out the wishes of the student body on matters that affect them. Student Council develops projects that deal with issues of importance to students. Projects include student parking, on-campus lunch, charity month, Mr. OPRF, Homecoming activities, etc. There are 6 Student Council Officers that run the meetings for all students willing to participate!

### **Students for Peace and Justice**

**Ms. Lee**

Students for Peace and Justice is a political organization with the purpose of increasing awareness about student and human rights issues relevant to the OPRFHS community. Past issues have included organizing AIDS Awareness Week, protesting sweatshop labor, and insuring the student body has a voice in the school.

**Studio 200\*****Directing: Ms. Arceo-Witzl and Ms. Burns / Technical: Ms. Sadowski**

Studio 200 is an extra-curricular drama program developed to give acting, directing, and design opportunities to students. There are four productions per year, one during each quarter. Auditions are open to all students at OPRFHS, with no experience necessary. Studio 200 is supported in the design and technical aspects of theater through the Theater Technology and Design Class. Students who are interested in helping with lighting, sound, sets, props, make-up, costumes and publicity are encouraged to get involved. Directors in Studio 200 are seniors who demonstrate extensive experience in the theater department, including participation in the Acting 1 and Directing sequence, through an interview and portfolio process at the end of their junior year.

**Synchronized Swim Team\*****Ms. Preuss**

The Synchronized Swim Team season extends from January-May. This team is a co-curricular activity where members combine their swim and dance skills to perform synchronized swim routines to music. The season builds up to a showcase of routines to a theme chosen by the team. Routines are choreographed mostly by students with a full group opening and closing number choreographed by the coaches. New members are also highlighted in their own routine. Open Swim takes place in January. We encourage you to come and try us out to see if we are the right fit for you!

**Table Tennis Club****Mr. Colquhoun**

The Table Tennis Club provides students with an opportunity to play ping pong with opponents in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere. Students will find fellow classmates to play at their same ability and intensity level. We meet every week during the school year; come as often as you can and stay as long as you want, and bring your friends. All students are welcome and no equipment is necessary.

**Table Top Gaming****Mr. Mulvaney**

The club is designed to provide a space for students to socialize whilst learning about and participating and exploring the table top gaming world!

**Tau Gamma****Ms. Nelson & Ms. Stow**

Tau Gamma is a service organization devoted to promoting volunteerism in our community. Members have access to numerous volunteer opportunities in Oak Park, River Forest and the Chicagoland area. Students may join at anytime during the year to learn more about how their efforts can affect the lives of others in our communities..

**Video Announcements****Ms. Myers**

Description Coming Soon...

**Video Gaming Club****Mr. Davis**

This is a club for people who like playing computer and console games. We play multiplayer games on the computer using school Steam accounts (CS:GO, Gary's Mod, some RTS and other games as available) and we also sometimes have a console gaming system available (Wii, PS3, Xbox 360). We meet all year, so you can participate when you can. Come in and play with or against other students!

**Vocal Jazz Ensemble \*****Ms. McGuire, Mr. Carter & Ms. Allgood**

Students who participate in Vocal Jazz will learn beginning, intermediate and/or advanced vocal jazz concepts including style, harmony and dissonance, vocal improvisation and microphone technique. Students audition for the top three of four ensembles and will perform at the vocal jazz concert in April. Interested students should have an interest in singing in the vocal jazz style and be able to work cooperatively with others. All students are welcome to audition and everyone is invited to participate in the fourth ensemble, "Blue Note". Student rehearsals are weekly and attendance is taken.

### **Wheel Throwing/Empty Bowls**

**Ms. Doherty**

Students who attend Wheel Throwing Club can learn basic throwing skills from student mentors in September and October. With those skills, students should be able to create vases and bowls. As the year progresses, interested students will create bowls for the Empty Bowls Project and Community Dinner in February. Leadership for the Empty Bowls Project comes from experienced wheel throwing club members, and committee members can be from the Wheel Throwing Club or any interested person. Last year's committee members often become next year's leadership. Interested students should be able to work cooperatively with others, and Empty Bowls Project volunteers should be willing to work long volunteer hours and have fun doing so! While all students are welcome, we are limited to the equipment we have in the classroom.

### **Women in Leadership** ^

**Ms. Baghri**

This club is meant to celebrate women in leadership positions and examine the paths they took to get there. It's meant to educate others of the obstacles females place in accomplishing leadership positions and also educate all students in how to overcome the obstacles. This club is meant to educate and inspire!

### **Youth Activism & Civics Club**

**Mr. Schwartz**

YAC provides students with the opportunity to engage in political activism on the local, state, and national level. This club is for students who want to do more than share political posts on social media. Focusing on one or two issues per semester, YAC members organize events raising awareness for their chosen issue and lobby the school administration and their government representatives to make advancements on the issue. In addition, YAC offers students volunteer opportunities (canvassing, phone banking, etc.) in local political campaigns.

### **Youth Conference**

**Ms. North-Hamill**

Youth Conference is an activity that promotes open discussion of questions of significance to teens. Students from OPRF, Trinity and Fenwick participate. The conference involves a full-day program where the students gather to discuss important issues with expert guests from the Chicagoland area.

\*Requires auditions/application

^Indicates "unofficial" club status

*Revised 8/18/19*