

**ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

**CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

**2022-2023**





# Ellington High School

## Clubs and Activities

**2022 – 2023**

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

The Ellington Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, marital status, gender identity or expression, genetic information, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability including, but not limited to, intellectual disability: past or present history of mental disorder, past or present history of physical disability, past or present history of learning disability in its programs, activities, and employment practices as set forth in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Any person having inquiries concerning the Ellington Public Schools' compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504, should contact Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services at the Ellington Public Schools, P. O. Box 179, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 or 860.896.2300.

# Action Alliance

**Mrs. Ramachandran and Ms. Scarbrough**

The Action Alliance works to pull together and support major clubs and groups throughout the EHS community, such as the RUC, WLC, StuCo, ULC, and more, as a means of organizing and actualizing social activism. This club offers unmatched leadership experience and truly rewarding projects that affect the entire community.

# Art Club

**Ms. Canova and Ms. Lanz**

Art Club welcomes all EHS staff and students in any grade-level. It provides a safe space for creative risk-taking and lends access to a variety of opportunities to engage individually or collaboratively in artistic enrichment activities. Some activities include: weekly open studio hour, collaboration in the town scarecrow contest (3x 1st place winners), EHS Art Holiday Boutique, EMS PTO Vendor fair, Pumpkin Painting, Cookie Decorating, Face Painting, Gingerbread Houses, Murals, Community Diversity Projects, Heritage Celebrations, Live Demonstrations at Open House and Parent/Teacher Conferences, and more.

Art Club students also support the National Art Honor Society by assisting with school beautification and installation of several local, district-wide, school-wide, and regional Student Art Exhibitions including the annual Arts Center East Student Exhibition, Youth Services-Rise Above's Community "Gallery Night," Annual EHS NAHS Induction Ceremony and Year-Exhibition.

# Audio & Video Club

**Mr. Omelchenko**

The Audio Video Club is dedicated to giving students access and opportunity in high quality recording and editing experiences. Students are in charge of making sure that EHS events are accessible through multiple platforms as well as helping students create engaging content to share with the EHS community.

# BOND

**Ms. Canova and Ms. Lanz**

This student-led club will promote ideas of integration, bonding with peers, diversity, and the purest form of friendship. Our mission is to not only improve the social environment among Ellington High School students, but to the entire Ellington Public Schools system. Activities in the Ellington community promoted/hosted by BOND will spread these ideas as well. Our message of unifying all people, no matter where they fall in regards to neurodiversity, can be extended to the town of Ellington as a whole.

# Color Guard

**Mr. DeLassus and Mr. VanHoy**

Color Guard competes alongside the Marching Band at the Eastern States Exposition and in the following parades: Firemen's Fair, The Four Town Fair, and Memorial Day. They also perform field shows at competitions. Practice takes place after school.

# Cooking Club

**Mr. Helmin**

The Cooking Club is an after school program, open to all students who want to learn how to prepare food that is fun, quickly prepared, and delicious. The club was created to provide an opportunity to students who are unable to take a Culinary Arts course during the regular academic year due to their schedule. There are cooking demonstrations by Chef Helmin and students also get to prepare their own food alongside Student Chefs from the Culinary Competition Team. The faire includes making simple appetizers to 30 minute meals, seasonal dishes, and of course...dessert! The Club meets about once a month in Room 308.

# Debate Club

**Mr. Byrne**

The Debate Club is organized for the purpose of improving students' ability to research and organize information, think critically, and speak in public. Members will research hot-topic issues in teams of two and learn how to discuss and argue opposing points of view. It's a great way to work on debate skills such as public speaking, research, and building an argument. The goal is to eventually participate as a team in the Civics First CT debate competition.

# French Club and Honor Society

**Ms. Scarbrough and Ms. Patten**

The EHS French Club welcomes all students to partake in engaging in, with, and around the French language and Francophone culture. Members will participate in games, film screenings, book clubs, and more.

The Société Honoraire de Français is a national program designed by French teachers in the United States to provide opportunity/activities, recognition, scholarship, and support for secondary school French programs across the nation.

# **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**

**Mr. Bifolck and Mrs. LaDuke**

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is an extra-curricular club for students interested in business. It is a national organization with chapters in hundreds of high schools across the nation and many here in Connecticut. The focus of FBLA is to provide experiences that connect what students learn in school with the business world. It helps prepare students for college as well as careers in business. Some of the FBLA activities include fund

raising, community service, charitable contributions, connecting with other FBLA chapters, networking with local businesses, guest speakers, field trips, competitions, workshops and more. Chapter officers gain even more leadership experience with public speaking, organizing and running meetings, note taking, managing the treasury, and coordinating events and activities. FBLA is a student-run club with advisors from the EHS business department. The club provides worthwhile and fun experiences for any student who is interested in business.

# **Future Healthcare Professionals Club**

**Mrs. Contorno**

Future Healthcare Professionals Club is a wide-ranged activity club that would provide students with opportunities to support not only their own communities but also people who are in need of a smile, this includes volunteering at hospitals and senior centers. This club would also teach students leaning toward a medical career.

# The Gaming Club

**Mr. Giorgi**

The Gaming Club is a place for gamers to have a fun and welcoming community at EHS, with a focus on teamwork and strategy. We meet every Monday to play various video games. There are no requirements to join, and no prior knowledge of video games is required.

# Gay-Straight Alliance

**Mr. Johnston**

The Ellington High School Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-run club that provides a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation, and work to end prejudice around issues of gender and sexual orientation. The participants of the GSA work on educating themselves and the broader school community about sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

# Green Earth/Gardening Club

**Mrs. R. Johnson**

The Green Earth club is for students interested in environmental issues and their impact on our planet. The Green Earth club will focus on implementing a school-wide composting program for food scraps at EHS. Members would help inform the student body of the program and its importance. In addition, we will incorporate some gardening into the club as well. Students will grow and sell a variety of plant material (ex. flowering annuals, vegetables, potted plants, etc.) Members will learn to care for and maintain the plants, as well as how the production of a living product works. We will also learn about the management and operation of the greenhouse.

# The Knight Writers Literary Magazine and Creative Writing Club



## **Mrs. Reilly and Mrs. White**

The purpose of the Knight Writers is twofold: to serve as a creative writing club and as a vehicle for publication of student work. The Knight Writers meet every other week after school to share work in progress, give editing advice, engage in creative writing activities, and review materials submitted for publication in The Knight Writers literary magazine. Anybody with an interest in writing creatively and in sharing the love of the written word is welcome.

## **Library Advisory**

**Mrs. Hartling**

Members of the student Library Advisory Board meet monthly during lunch block to assist with selection of new library materials, the review of existing or to-be-acquired books, and ways to promote the library resources. The board also organizes the morning Breakfast Book Club events, which are open to all members of the student body. Members of this group may participate in additional projects as requested such as videotaping of promotional videos, updating of display cases, and use of social media to promote the library holdings and upcoming library events.

## **Link Crew**

**Mrs. Contorno and Mrs. Linehan**

Link Crew is a high school transition program designed to build relationships between incoming freshmen and a selected group of upperclassmen within Ellington High School. Link crew focuses on

creating a positive and comfortable environment throughout the school while promoting student leadership. As leaders, upperclassmen will mentor incoming freshmen while guiding them through a successful transition. This process begins during freshman orientation and continuously develops throughout the school year through a variety of events and opportunities for freshmen and their student leaders to reconnect.

## Math Team

**Mr. Melillo**

Making its return to EHS after over a decade, The Math Team is an organization dedicated to learning more about the world of mathematics, and to enjoy the mental challenge it offers. Some of the things this might include are:

- Diving deeper into the topics that are covered in class.
- Learning powerful shortcuts and identities to tie different topics together.
- Solving unique and challenging problems for the enjoyment and exercise of it.
- Sharing math problems and topics with peers for the above purposes.

Ultimately, the purpose of the Math Team is to become a full chapter of the Mu Alpha Theta society, and compete against other teams across the region and across the country through national mathematics contests! These contests may even result in awards and prizes for those that perform exceptionally well. We will meet bimonthly at the minimum. While all students are welcome to study mathematics, it is recommended that members have a solid background in Algebra 2 minimum in order to enter contests.

## Mock Trial Team

**Mrs. Ouellet**

The EHS Mock Trial program is designed to provide students with authentic life experiences with respect to our legal system. Mock Trial is both a state and federal program in which schools are provided with a fictional court case and compete against each other in a simulation of

a trial under real-life conditions (i.e. in a real courtroom, with real judges). There are opening and closing statements, as well as direct and cross examinations of witnesses. Students review case materials (which include stipulated facts, witness affidavits, case law, and exhibits) and prepare arguments from the perspective of both the prosecution/plaintiff (criminal/civil) and the defense. Preparations begin in September and the first competition is held in December. The mock trial program challenges students' reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as speaking, viewing, listening, and presenting. Students may choose to be attorneys or witnesses. For more information please contact Mrs. Ouellet, Advisor to the EHS Mock Trial Team. More information can also be found at [www.civicsfirstct.org](http://www.civicsfirstct.org).

## National Art Honor Society

Ms. Lanz

The National Art Honor Society program inspires and recognizes students with an outstanding ability and keen interest in the visual arts. These students become members of a distinguished group of 58,000+ outstanding art students. Students gain peer recognition, leadership growth opportunities, college and career preparation, and an unmatched sense of camaraderie. The NAHS program at EHS is different from an “art club.” Students are required to meet eligibility criteria for membership as detailed in the Constitutions and school bylaws, found in the [NAHS handbook](#). Membership provides eligibility to apply for the Rising Stars Secondary Recognition Program Award (Juniors and Seniors only). Students are eligible to apply for the Charles M. Robertson Memorial Scholarship and scholarships to Columbus College of Art and Design, Maryland Institute College of Art, and The Art Institute (Seniors only). Students have the opportunity to be published in

NAHS News (the semi-annual, full-color digital publication of the NAHS program). Artwork submitted for inclusion is often used in other NAEA

For more information about the criteria for eligibility, please refer to the annual EHS Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook.

# National Honor Society

**Mrs. Ouellet**

The Robert W. Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society at Ellington High School selects for membership those juniors and seniors who demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service and character. A committee, composed of the chapter advisor and at least five faculty members appointed by the principal, using the information gathered and the national guidelines, selects students to the chapter. Membership will be granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council on the condition of their having met the standards for selection.

For more information about the criteria for eligibility, please refer to the annual EHS Student and Parent/Guardian Handbook.

# Opening Knight Players

**Mr. Prenetta and Mrs. Willis**

Membership in the Opening Knight Players Drama Club is open to any student interested in theater. Throughout the school year, students may participate in the production of a major play, musical, student written/directed one-acts, 30 X 60 plays, and attendance at the Connecticut Drama Association's Annual play festival. For

these events, students can involve themselves in a wide range of activities including acting, crew work, directing, and playwriting. Students may also participate in field trips to numerous professional theatrical productions, including an annual trip to Broadway.

Exceptional theater students also have the opportunity to be inducted into Troupe 5226 of the International Thespian Society, an honor society that recognizes outstanding leadership in theater arts. This group of Thespians performs community service, organize several social events, prepare the Thespian Induction Ceremony, and plan the annual drama banquet.

## Peer Advocates for a Better Society (PAABS)

**Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kelly**

Peer Advocates for a better society is a mutually student and faculty advisor run group that works to improve school climate at EHS. Our mission is to foster awareness and understanding of others by promoting tolerance and self-dignity through cultural understanding and ethical behavior. We will work to create school initiatives which aim to create a positive school environment that will help shape our future graduates into innovators and honorable individuals.

Meeting a minimum of once a month after school, Peer Advocates for a Better Society members will work independently and/or in conjunction with other school clubs, activities, and faculty members on projects such as the "Compliment Walk," local community service.

Future Goals: PAABS and its members will continually work to create new initiatives and goals based on student demand, the needs of Ellington High School, and the changing Ellington community.

If you are an individual who could see yourself participating in the above mentioned activities and would like to play a critical role in shaping our school environment, you are more than welcome to join the Peer Advocates for a better society effort!

# Racial Unity Club

**Mrs. Ramachandram and Ms. Scarbrough**

The EHS Racial Unity Club is dedicated to building a community of trust and acceptance by advocating for minority ethnicities, providing space for discussion, activism, and more. We encourage people of all backgrounds, heritages, and ethnicities to be a part of the conversation, activities, and larger activism.

# Red Cross Club

**Mrs. Lombardi**

The Red Cross Club is associated with the international Red Cross organization. This club will provide students from EHS with opportunities to make a difference in our society, develop leadership skills throughout the process and empower students with opportunities that will be beneficial to them in the future. Students may become involved in events such as organizing blood or first aid kit drives, offering CPR training and certification, general fundraisers, facilitating parties or personal care kits for veterans, etc.

# Spanish Club & Honor Society

**Mrs. Stoner**

The EHS Spanish Club welcomes all students to engage in, with, and around the Spanish language and culture. Members will participate in games, film screenings, book clubs, and more.

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica is a national program designed by Spanish teachers in the United States to provide

opportunity/activities, recognition, scholarship, and support for secondary school Spanish programs across the nation.

## Sports/Recreation

### Athletics

Please visit the Athletics page of our web site for information on tryouts/practices, schedules, and requirements.

Athletic Director – Mr. Anderson Rawlins

### Girls

Basketball – Ms. Clare-Kerney  
Cheerleading – Ms. Wilson  
Cross Country – Mr. Zylberman  
Dance - Mrs. Martino  
Golf – Mr. Stiles  
Gymnastics – Ms. Tyler  
Hockey – Mr. Downs  
Indoor Track – Mr. Corbett  
Lacrosse – Mr. Kozik  
Outdoor Track – Mr. Corbett  
Soccer – Mr. LaPorte  
Softball – Mr. Gordon  
Swimming – Miss Loignon  
Tennis – Mrs. French  
Unified Basketball – Mr. Schroth  
Volleyball – Ms. Meyer

### Boys

Baseball – Mr. Pointek  
Basketball – Mr. Fietas  
Cross Country – Mr. Zylberman  
Football – Mr. Tautkus  
Golf – Mr. Stiles  
Hockey – Mr. Fijalkowski  
Indoor Track – Mr. Corbett  
Lacrosse – Mr. Giordano  
Outdoor Track – Mr. Corbett  
Soccer – Mr. Gosselin  
Swimming – Mr. Mattia  
Tennis – Mr. Willis  
Unified Basketball – Mr. Schroth

## Student Council

**Mr. Helmin**

The Student Council is one of the primary governing student organizations at Ellington High School. Membership is open to all grade levels and General Assembly Induction Ceremonies take place in October of each school year. Members are required to attend all General Assembly meetings, participate on various sub-committees and most annual events including: Freshmen Orientation, Class Officer

Elections, EHS Open House, EHS Parent/Teacher Conferences, Spirit Week, Homecoming Dance, a Veterans' Day Assembly, Special Issues Resolution Council, and various fundraisers and charity events. General Assembly meetings occur once a month. Freshmen students are encouraged to join.

## **Tri-M Music Honor Society**

**Mr. DeLassus and Mr. Diamond**

The Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter at EHS offers students the chance to perform, places them in leadership positions, and gives them the opportunity to serve the community. It highlights the school's music program, helps students grow in innumerable ways. The students decide when to hold meetings, what music to learn and perform, and which community service activities to pursue.

## **Uknighthed Leadership Committee**

**Mr. Grzyb, Mrs. Howarth and Mr. Schroth**

The EHS Unified Leadership Committee (ULC) is a group of students who organize the annual U-Knighthed Week held in February which begins with a school-wide kick off assembly and culminates with a pep rally. The objective is to develop honorable individuals who are respectful, responsible, confident, and

ethical by promoting acceptance among the student body through the use of self-reflection, open-mindedness, and integrity. The ULC strives to create EHS as a prejudice-free zone by promoting the student developed U-Knighthed Pledge that includes the statement, "I will make a conscious effort to be



aware of my own biases against people whom are different from me.”

## Winter Guard

**Mr. DeLassus and Mr. VanHoy (Winter - Spring)**

The Winter Guard practices at Crystal Lake School and performs artistic dance and color guard type shows at competitions in the spring.

## Women’s Leadership Coalition

**Ms. Canova and Ms. Donovan**

It is our mission to develop and empower young women and their allies to build a community of advocates and supporters for advancing young women. We encourage those who identify as female and those who advocate for women to take on leadership roles to have and be a voice. We want to facilitate conversations around the needs and struggles of young women in our community at EHS, and to create a safe space where all feel welcomed to have these types of conversations. Ultimately, we would like young women to feel like they can make change and that their voices can be heard for the greater good.

## Yearbook

**Mrs. Reilly**

The activity is open to all students who wish to plan and design the Ellington High School Yearbook. Members are responsible for the

entire book and all business aspects of sales. This is a big responsibility but also a great way to become a part of the permanent memory we create with our annual yearbook publication! This group meets weekly after school where members receive assignments and responsibilities. The length of time required for assigned tasks varies depending upon the scope of the assignment. Students are expected to work independently to complete page assignments. Alternate meeting times are arranged as needed. Staff members in the yearbook club learn to organize, plan, and lay out text and artwork for the high school yearbook. They also learn photography and Photoshop skills. Members who are involved in the club for subsequent years are expected to take leadership roles, and preference for those positions will be given to returning seniors.