

MORRIS HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

2011 - 2012

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ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

The team consists of a total of 18 members (3 members and 3 alternates from each of 3 achievement levels).

Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors prepare to be tested on a prescribed schedule of academic subjects. This competition progresses from local to national levels with the winning school from each state competing for the national championship.

ART SERVICES CLUB

Assists the school faculty, staff, administration and school clubs with needed artwork. The members create posters, (for Home and School Association, Thespians, School Plays, etc.), assist teachers who need special artwork for bulletin boards, and help on special requests from the yearbook, school newspaper, and literary magazine. The students also assist the Art Department with the setting up of art exhibits and showcases around school and at the county Teen Arts Festival.

Students who work on Art Services are currently in art classes at all levels.

CHORUS

The Choral Department at Morris Hills High School offers all students a variety of opportunities to participate in vocal music. Chorus can be taken as a full year 5-credit course. Madrigals, Women's Chorus, Men's Choir and the Knights Templar also provide students with differing avenues of musical expression and performance.

The Knights Templar and the Madrigals are auditioned groups. These two ensembles frequently represent Morris Hills High School at public events and concerts and are our two most select choirs. Auditions occur during the first month of school.

In all vocal groups, emphasis is placed on learning and using healthy vocal techniques, reading music notation and understanding different types of choral literature through the study of music history and world music cultures.

All students are first encouraged to join Chorus as a 5-credit course. A weekly lunch lesson is required of all Chorus students. If their schedule does not allow them to take classes, the other option of after school participation is encouraged. Students must take Chorus during the school day if they wish to audition for Knights Templar and Madrigals.

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard, also known as "A Touch of Class", is a group of up to 24 girls who perform marching/dance routines to music of the Marching Band. The students develop marching and coordination skills through the use of equipment such as the rifle, sabre, and flag.

D.E.C.A.

DECA/Delta Epsilon Chi is an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service. Membership is open to any student enrolled in a business class who is interested in learning more about the marketing aspect of business.

Our objectives are to have active student involvement, to prepare students for academic competitions, to involve students in community activities, and to organize and conduct successful fundraising efforts.

Some of the activities in which DECA students participate are regional and state conferences, calendar fundraisers, a muscular dystrophy shamrock sale, and various leadership activities throughout the year. In addition, DECA and FBLA both manage the school store – The Knights Table.

For more information, visit the Morris Hills DECA website at <http://mail.mhrd.k12.nj.us/~mhdeca/home.htm>.

ERASE

The ERASE (Eliminate Racism and Sexism Everywhere) Club was established to raise awareness about cultural diversity. More importantly, group members strive to promote racial unity and equality both in school and in the community. Through movies, speakers, hands-on activities and school wide programs, the ERASE Club strives to assist staff and students in recognizing and respecting the cultural and religious beliefs, perspectives, attitudes and behaviors of various cultures which exist in our school and community.

Our school clearly recognizes that as diversity grows it becomes increasingly important for our staff and students to acquire the knowledge, skills and values essential for functioning in a multi-ethnic society. All students of Morris Hills High School can join the club and/or participate in ERASE Club activities.

FAMILY, CAREER, COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

FCCLA is a nationally recognized organization that helps students become strong leaders. We are dedicated to connecting family life with all aspects of school, work and the community. It is a good idea to have taken a Family and Consumer Sciences Class either in middle school or high school, but it is not a requirement. Classes might include cooking, sewing or family/child care. Main events organized by FCCLA include:

Sponsoring a blood drive for students, teachers, and parents

Raising funds for Feed the Children, a program that delivers food to hungry children and their families

Organizing and participating in the March of Dimes' "March for Babies"

Raising funds for charitable projects by creating and selling Dirt Cups, selling class-color beads, and sponsoring a jeans day for teachers

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club (**cercle francais**) is an active, enthusiastic group of students who enjoy French and cultural activities related to the language.

The French Club meets once or twice monthly in order to experience the culture and civilization of France and other French speaking countries outside the classroom, and to provide an opportunity for socialization to students with similar interests.

The students hold theme "tastings" of French food (cheeses, desserts, etc.), meet with other language clubs to experience their particular cuisines, view French films, dine in a French restaurant, sing, plan fund-raising activities, support the French National Honor Society, and organize publications. Activities in any particular year depend upon student interest and enthusiasm as this is a student-led club whose officers and members have most of the input.

FRESHMAN CLASS

The Freshman Class raises money for activities held during the junior and senior year (proms and class activities). While class officers are elected, the goal is to strive for total class involvement.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a nonprofit education association made up of students preparing for business or business related fields. It is the largest business career student organization in the world. FBLA's mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. Through region and state-based competitions at the Leadership Conferences, students can compete in events testing their business knowledge and skills.

GAMES CLUB

Games Club meets on Wednesday afternoons in Room #252 and was created by the students, for the students. Like to dance? Love rock? The Games Club has Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero, along with a bunch of different board and card games. It is a fun and light-hearted group, and since weekly attendance is not required, it does not interfere with any sports. Come check us out!

GAY / STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA)

It is the Mission of the Morris Hills Gay Straight Alliance to educate people about identity, to promote a safe and equal school environment where no student feels disenfranchised. We work to increase people's awareness of the impact of stereotypes and prejudice. The Morris Hills GSA seeks to develop a school environment where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community. The GSA promotes equality and acceptance for everyone. We are committed to respecting each others views and opinions. We respect and embrace diversity and difference. It is the goal of GSA to ensure a safe and accepting environment for all.

GSA meets after school weekly on Thursdays. We promote and participate in community service activities. The GSA, partners with Starbucks to sponsor an annual "Arts Day" which promotes visual, and performance arts. We partner with ERASE to participate in activities such as movies, International Night and "Mix it up Day". The Morris Hills GSA has worked with the library to identify and improve literary resources for all students.

GERMAN CLUB

Students in the German Club expand and enrich their formal German studies and experiences through a variety of planned in-school and community activities such as the traditional Oktoberfest, film presentations, sharing of student travel experiences, field trips, sampling of German cuisine in German restaurants, and letter exchanges with students in German speaking countries.

Any student grades 9-12 interested in German studies and culture may participate in this club.

HILLTOPPER

Hilltopper, the school paper, is published 3-4 times a year. It provides all students the opportunity to express editorial views, comment on world and local events, and create feature articles.

Primarily, the Hilltopper seeks to educate students on the state of the world, to inform them on important local events, and foremost, report the happenings within the school. For the staff, the objective is to learn, through practical application, how to prepare and edit copy, layout a paper, take pictures, and distribute it appropriately.

HAPPINESS, OPPORTUNITIES, PROSPERITY, for EVERYONE (H.O.P.E.)

H.O.P.E. is an acronym that stands for **H**appiness, **O**pportunities, **P**rosperity, for **E**veryone. H.O.P.E. will give a volunteer experience for those individuals who care to better the community and school atmosphere. Anyone is welcome to volunteer at any point of the year. The H.O.P.E. Club will sponsor trips to soup kitchens and clean up days in parks and around the community. Awareness months will be held around topics including diseases affecting society and autism. H.O.P.E. members decorate showcases and create and design posters for events.

INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club is a Rotary Club sponsored organization of young people whose purpose is to provide opportunity for students to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding.

To be eligible for membership, a student must possess good character and leadership potential.

The Interact Club will plan at least two projects each year, one to serve the school or community and one to advance international understanding. Good service projects take lots of people and planning and persistence if they are going to succeed. An active member picks up practical experience, discovers new interests and at times, shares the "good feeling" that goes with serving others.

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY TROOP 1736

This organization is an honor society for those involved in Dramatics. A student must earn membership by participating in at least two productions for a total of 100 hours of work. Participation should be in at least two areas of play production. Students may earn up to 5 pts or 50 hours through participation in community theatre, professional theatre or other activities in the performing arts.

The goals of this organization are to promote interest in and understanding of the theater in its many different forms.

To maintain membership status, thespians must continue participation in any two of the following theatre activities: school play and/or school musical, state competitions and/or festivals, student productions, fundraisers.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band is an ensemble of musicians learning and performing the "American" music of Jazz. Individuals learn proper audition, staging, solo and ensemble performance techniques. Auditions are a requirement for ensemble participation according to the following schedule:

December – information given for Jazz band audition

January – auditions for Jazz Band, one after school rehearsal a week

January through May – performances at all band concerts, local high school jazz band competitions and the Morris County Teen Arts Festival held at Morris County College.

JUNIOR CLASS

The Junior Class sponsors fundraisers and community service events. The fundraisers are to cover some of the costs of the Junior Prom, as well as sending funds towards Senior Class expenses. The Junior Prom will be held in May or June. Elected officers as well as interested class members are encouraged to participate in all activities.

JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA (JSA)

The Junior State of America is the largest student-run high school organization in America. It is filled with members that are interested in politics, government, debate, the law, and education. What is so special about JSA is that students organize every aspect of it, from the school chapter level to national administration.

Junior State members also take part in three exciting overnight conventions: Spring State, Congress, and Fall State. Junior State conventions allow for an exchange of ideas through student participation in debates, thought tasks, problem solving, and open forum discussions.

KEY CLUB

The Key Club is a service organization for high school students who work to develop initiative, leadership and good citizenship skills in its members by organizing activities to benefit the community. The Key Club is sponsored by a local Kiwanis Club, which is composed of leading business and professional people of the community. The Key Club is the largest service organization of its kind with over 130,000 members in approximately 3,800 clubs around the world.

LEO CLUB

The LEO Club is a service organization that stands for Leadership, Excellence and Opportunity. This organization allows students to get actively involved in community service activities. The club is sponsored by the Lions Club of Rockaway Township. It has been involved in fundraising hundreds of dollars each year for various charities and community groups. Our largest fundraiser is working along with the Lions Club to help raise money for the blind and sight impaired, including participation in the Special Olympics and its annual Pennies for Puppies fundraiser.

MARCHING BAND

A group of energetic students perform music with visual aids such as marching maneuvers and color guard equipment.

The objective of this unit is based on the building of each member's character, musicianship, responsibilities, dedication, commitment and experiences.

All students are welcome to join. Music is distributed in May followed by four summer rehearsals and Band Camp in late August. During the fall there are two weekly rehearsals, weekend football games, and six band competitions. A spring trip for the entire Music Department is offered to all who are interested. In the spring, there is participation in local parades.

MATH CLUB

In the New Jersey Math League Competition, students' minds are challenged during a series of 6 tests consisting of 6 problems. Certificates of Merit are awarded to high scoring students.

MATHEMATICS HONOR SOCIETY

Students who are currently taking or who have completed pre-calculus and have maintained a 95.0 average in math classes and an overall average of 85.0 for their high school career are eligible for membership in the Morris Hills High School Mathematics Honor Society. The honor society's goal is to recognize outstanding mathematics achievement. Students complete an application which is then verified by an advisor.

Students in this organization are required to participate in the peer-tutoring program organized by the President and Vice-President. This organization raises funds to give scholarships to students at graduation who have excelled in math and are planning on continuing their studies in a math-related field in college.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The Morris Hills Mock Trial Team participates in a statewide competition each year sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Students work as a team to "try" a criminal or civil case representing both the prosecution and the defense. The New Jersey State Bar Foundation prepares background information for a new case each year based on fictional characters and events. Students play the parts of attorneys, witnesses and jury members and use modified trial procedures. Students compete against teams from other schools during the statewide competition and their performances are evaluated by practicing lawyers and judges. Students also have the opportunity to work with practicing lawyers during the preparation process.

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

Students who have maintained a 90.0 average or higher in art classes for two years are eligible for membership in the National Art Honor Society. This would include all Juniors and Seniors who qualify. All nominations are made by the Art Department staff based on grade point average in his or her course. This average is not weighted, it is the actual average, and must be maintained in all art courses taken. Students who are inducted as members must continue to participate in the art department offerings.

This organization raises funds to have their annual induction ceremony and to give awards to students at graduation. The students in National Art Honor Society work on committees helping with art and community services.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The N.H.S. is an organization that honors students for exceptional leadership, scholarship, service, and character. In order to be nominated for membership, students must have a cumulative GPA of 90.0 or greater by the third marking period of their junior year. Members are selected by a committee of faculty members who take into account the students' leadership, character and service.

The Honor Society's goal is to recognize outstanding student achievement and to encourage good citizenship through service to the community and through the development of good character.

Students are required to participate in a group service project, to participate in the induction ceremony and to maintain high standards of leadership, service and character. In addition, students must maintain a minimum 90.0 GPA, complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service, participate in fundraisers and serve as peer tutors for the Morris Hills community.

PEER LISTENING

Peer Listening is a leadership component of the MHRD Program for the Gifted and Talented. The purpose of the program is to promote healthy decision making, disseminate accurate information about drug and alcohol use, and to prepare outreach activities for younger students in our sending district. Students develop their communication and leadership skills throughout the year. Applications can be picked up from Mrs. Rudge in Room #101. An interview is required.

PEER TUTORING

Peer tutoring provides assistance to those students who exhibit difficulties in one or more academic courses. Students in need of assistance are referred by teachers, guidance counselors, and parents.

Peer tutoring provides structure and remediation and strives to give students further opportunity to pass course work. Peer tutors are involved because of their academic ability and desire to assist others.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Photography is much more than just having a camera and taking pictures. Students in this club have opportunities to hone their skills by understanding and learning about what makes a good photograph, from composition to artistic expression. In addition, members of this club will learn how to use state of the art software to edit and enhance photographic images for their own use, as well as for publication. Students are encouraged to practice their skills while photographing school related activities and sporting events. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to explore this exciting side of the visual arts.

PHYSICS CLUB

Students in this club explore areas of physics not covered in traditional classroom curriculum. Members of the club explore different areas of physics, including astronomy, engineering, and applied physics.

Scholarship applications are available to all participants.

PROJECT LEAD

Project LEAD stands for Leadership, Education, Action and Development. The club is dedicated to helping other students through its many activities such as freshmen orientation, spirit activities, and quality socials. The club also serves members of the community through adult school and various community service projects.

The goals of the club are to (1) create an atmosphere in school for learning and for social and physical development, (2) to meet the freshmen the summer before coming to Morris Hills and attempt to make the adjustment to school easier, and (3) to run quality activities in an attempt to promote a positive school atmosphere.

The faculty recommends students for Project LEAD based on the following criteria:

- * *Willingness to serve the Morris Hills community in a positive way*
- * *Displaying a healthy attitude towards school*
- * *Reliability*
- * *Positive attitude*
- * *Friendly*
- * *Leadership*

The students are selected after writing a one-page essay and being interviewed by a panel of current Project LEADers. Project LEADers serve as leaders in the school and community.

SCHOOL MUSICAL

A full length production of a Broadway Musical is presented during the second half of the year. Actors, singers and dancers audition for solo, featured and chorus roles. Musicians audition for orchestral parts. All students are encouraged to join one or more of the following crews: Stage, Costumes, Make-up, Lighting, Sound, Publicity and House.

The musical is open to the entire Morris Hills student body. Commitment and team work are needed to accomplish this enormous undertaking.

SCHOOL PLAY

Production of a full-length drama or comedy is presented the first half of the year. Students interested in acting will audition for available roles. Students not cast, as well as others interested in working behind the scenes, are encouraged to join one or more of the following crews: Stage, Costumes, Make-up, Lighting, Sound Publicity and House.

From the first audition to the last performance, students will acquire basic, intermediate, and advanced techniques and skills related to the role(s) they have undertaken.

SEED

SEED is the school creative arts magazine published in the spring of each year. All Morris Hills students are invited to submit original poetry, short prose works, and art work for consideration by the staff. The best work is published in a magazine.

The goals of this activity are:

1. To provide a showcase for the creative writing and art of Morris Hills students.
2. To provide staff members the opportunity to practice and learn the skills required to produce a magazine.
3. To send the message that the Morris Hills community values literature, writing and art.

Students who are involved with the production of the magazine are expected to submit material to the magazine, to encourage submission by the entire student body, to assist in the evaluation of the works to be included in the magazine, and to assist in fund raisers to support the magazine.

Additionally, students are also responsible for the promotion and sale of the magazine.

SENIOR CLASS

The Senior Class officers, under the direction of the advisors are responsible for ensuring a successful senior year for their classmates. This includes being responsible for making decisions involving their classmates and acting as positive role models.

A general objective of the class is to ensure a successful completion of the major projects of the Senior Class including the Senior Awards Assembly, the Senior Prom, Senior Breakfast and Graduation.

Students are encouraged to become involved in decision-making directly related to senior activities either by running for office or by becoming members of committees, such as the Prom Committee.

SKI CLUB

This club is devoted to the sports of (Alpine) downhill skiing and snowboarding. Members pay a set fee in the fall of the school year in order to qualify for group rates at Camel Back Ski Resort. Weekly evening trips are made in January and February. Usually five or six of these evening trips are scheduled.

SOPHOMORE CLASS

The Sophomore Class officers work hard as leaders of the class to motivate others in various fundraising activities and to promote a sense of class spirit at pep rallies, in recognition of student achievement, and at any class activity.

Fundraising is necessary in order to have an adequate treasury for such activities as the Junior and Senior Proms, the Senior Gift, and other expenses associated with graduation. The leaders of the Sophomore Class are responsible for three major fundraising campaigns. These officers are responsible for the organization of the fundraiser, the publicity of the fundraiser, and completing all tasks necessary to make the fundraiser successful.

The Sophomore Class officers are responsible to organize and attend all class meetings. These meetings should be held on a monthly basis at a time that would accommodate all Sophomore Class officers and the Sophomore Class advisor.

SPORTS MEDICINE CLUB

The Sports Medicine Club is an activity intended to allow students to explore and promote interest in sports-medicine careers. The many fascinating and varied career paths are explored by way of discussions, speakers and field trips. Students are also taught basic athletic training techniques and assist the athletic trainer with daily responsibilities. In order to participate in the Sports Medicine Club, you must be a Senior and enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Program.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The SGA is a student-centered organization with the dual purpose of fostering school spirit and acting as a liaison between the school's students and administration.

The SGA has four Executive Officer positions – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All Class Officers from each of the four grade levels within Morris Hills High School serve as members of the SGA Legislative Body.

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (TSA)

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is the national organization for technology education students. It consists of high school, intermediate and elementary students who are currently enrolled in or have completed technology education courses. TSA was originally established in 1978 as the American Industrial Arts Students Association (AIASA). In 1998, AIASA changed its name to Technology Student Association to reflect a commitment to the dynamic field of technology and the future.

Purpose – TSA promotes students to “grow through achievement” through co-curricular and extracurricular activities that make a student’s education and training more meaningful. TSA provides the opportunity to:

- 1) experiment and learn new skills one might otherwise never experience;
- 2) be involved in projects for oneself, one’s chapter, one’s school and community;
- 3) meet and work with leaders from industry and commerce who can provide career information;
- 4) lead others to follow and to make decisions;
- 5) receive all member services provided for TSA members from the TSA national office.

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Application for membership is considered on the basis of five points of distinction: scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership, and service. The academic requirements for membership are: a total number of 10 credits in music coursework, a cumulative grade point average of 85.0 in all subjects, and a cumulative grade point average of 95.0 in music coursework. Character emphasizes a devotion to high ideals and recognizes no barriers between people of diverse backgrounds. Cooperation teaches friendliness and the true spirit of getting along with others.

Leadership guides everyone to greater undertakings. Service encourages assistance and kindness to others. All candidates must exhibit dedication to the art of music through service in their school as performers in band or chorus, through distinction as members of musical performance honors groups, or through bringing music into the lives of others through their service as volunteers in musical experiences in their communities.

TV PRODUCTION CLUB

The TV Production Club meets as needed to produce student written programs. The club works on taping segments for the school’s cable show, “Knightwatch”. The club also films all requested school events, such as Homecoming, Powder Puff, the School Plays and Musicals, Morris Hills Idol, the G & T Showcase, and MSG Varsity.

VARSITY CLUB

The purposes of this club are to stimulate general interest in all athletics, to promote greater participation in sports, to foster a high and enthusiastic team and school spirit, to engender among the athletes of this school the highest qualities of fellowship, sportsmanship and honor, and to maintain pleasant athletic relationships with other educational institutions.

After consideration by the Induction Committee, any student enrolled in Morris Hills High School who has earned a varsity letter in any sport, or who has earned a varsity letter in cheerleading, is automatically eligible for membership in the Varsity Club.

The students are involved in fund raising activities and the allocation of those funds for school projects. Attendance and participation at school activities are encouraged. Activities to foster and improve sportsmanship and school spirit are provided by the club.

WINTER GUARD, EXCALIBUR

Energetic students perform a marching/dance routine to recorded music on a prepared gym floor covering.

The students develop dance and coordination skills through the use of equipment such as the rifle, sabre and flag.

All students are welcome. Practice is twice a week in the evenings. Performances are at local high school competitions on Saturdays. Winter Guard season is November through April.

WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETIES

The World Languages Department sponsors the French, Spanish and German National Honor Societies which are organizations that honor outstanding academic performance in the French, Spanish and German languages. In order to be selected to join these honor societies, a student must have attained an average of 90.0 or above in the first 2 (for German) or 3 (for French and Spanish) years of language study. Students must continue their study of the language and maintain a 90.0 or above average in order to maintain membership. Scholarships and awards are available through the national organizations (AATF, AATS and AATG) which sponsor the honor societies.

The World Languages Department also sponsors the ESL Honor Society which honors outstanding academic performance in English as a Second Language. In order to be selected to join the honor society, students must maintain an average of 90.0 or above during three consecutive marking periods of ESL either at the beginner or advanced level.

YEARBOOK CLUB

All activities involved in the yearbook club focus on the construction of the yearbook. Taking pictures, drawing layouts, cropping photographs, writing and typing copy, selling advertisements and yearbooks are all activities that the club members undertake. The physical goal is to produce an excellent yearbook that arrives in June before graduation. Materials must be prepared on time each year to meet a series of deadlines that spans from September to May. Any pictures for publication must meet yearbook specifications. See yearbook advisor for those specifications. There may be a cost involved.

Students undertake the responsibilities of managing sections of the book, choosing photographs to fill those sections and participating actively in sales promotions, ad campaigns and yearbook distributions. Students also use the most current computer techniques to produce a camera-ready yearbook. Even though there is a yearbook class that students can take for credit, the yearbook club is still the active force behind producing the yearbook.

YOUTH ALIVE

The Youth Alive Club is a group of students who would like to grow spiritually through a study of the Bible.

The club meets weekly. Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged. We do fundraisers for charity and periodically have functions outside of school.

NOTE TO THE STUDENT

Co-curricular activities are considered a vital and integral component of the Morris Hills Educational Program. You are encouraged to join and become actively involved in one or more of these activities. They can be a means by which you should realize further personal growth and educational enrichment.

This handbook contains a description of the clubs and activities offered at Morris Hills. Hopefully, you will use it as a reference to assist you in selecting those co-curricular areas you wish to join.