

**Comsewogue  
Class and Club  
Handbook**

**2018-2019**

### **The Academic Club: Ms. McGuinness**

If you're good at Trivial Pursuit or just have a lot of knowledge, this club may be for you! Comsewogue High School competes in the Regional Quiz Bowl Tournaments at Port Jefferson High School and in MSG Varsity and Channel 12's The Challenge.

Quiz Bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for which players attend periodic practices and then represent their school at varsity tournaments. Quiz bowl questions range over the entire spectrum of a high school curriculum and also include a certain amount of current events, sports, and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. (Adapted from NAQT High School Quiz Bowl.)

### **The Art Club: Ms. Lahovitch**

Looking for a place to help your artistic talents grow? The Art Club is a comfortable place to explore many areas in art. An open studio atmosphere allows for individual projects as well as group work.

### **Art Honor Society: Ms. Melton**

The Art Honor Society created in 1994 is designed to recognize students with outstanding achievement in art and assist in the development of their artistic abilities.

### **Athletes Helping Athletes: Ms. Kidd**

Athletes Helping Athletes is a selective club in which varsity athletes will be trained as facilitators, by current and former professional athletes, to engage young people and work with them in our community. Through this process they will help younger students examine personal and group behaviors, and discuss issues and choices that exist in their lives such as healthy life decisions, bullying and drug/alcohol prevention. As leaders they will model positive behaviors and decisions necessary for success not only in athletics but in life as well.

### **B.U.T.Y. (Bring Unity to Youth): Ms. Kinane**

The BUTY Program was first started in 1989. The goal is to foster mutual respect and understanding among all groups regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. We also strive to enforce character building traits within the school population and community. Activities have included school-wide "contests" to encourage respect and kindness between all members of the school, surveys to show how similar we all are, field trips to become involved in Unity Day, and the like. We also participate in fundraisers for organizations such as Ride for Life. Club member's input determines many of our yearly projects and the focus of our projects. This is a service organization that will be an asset on your college resume.

### **Comsewogue Connections Club: Ms. Palin**

The Comsewogue Connections Club aims to assist English as a New Language learner's transition into American culture and the New York Educational System and to bridge cultural divides by educating students, forming mentor/mentee relationships, and providing a forum for community outreach. All students who are interested in fostering an understanding and inclusive culture in Comsewogue, in fighting discrimination in general, and who would like to make a lasting impact on others that will be mutually beneficial should sign up for this club.

- Students will speak English and Spanish and will improve both communication and team building skills.
- Students will broaden their own knowledge of the world as a result of having direct access to different cultures.
- Students will have the opportunity to teach, tutor, and mentor--all roles which shape leaders.

### **Drama Club: Ms. Johnson**

Comsewogue High School's Drama Club is responsible for putting on the school's theatrical productions. From the yearly musical to the fall and spring dramas, there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in the dramatic arts. Learn about acting, lighting, sound, song, and stage direction. Experience the thrill of live performance and the challenge of putting a quality show together.

### **English Honor Society: Ms. Harste**

This is the startup year for a new honor society in English. Much time will be devoted to establishing a chapter and fundraising for our new club. All interested students are encouraged to join, regardless of GPA. National requirement for Honor inductees is an 85 GPA in good standing, and inductions will occur in the spring. Students will participate in community service, including tutoring fellow students. Because this is a new club, we will be exploring the interests of club members, but possible activities will include book talks, poetry reading and discussion, and a multitude of writing. This is a great opportunity for all interested to be part of the creation of a chapter in a national organization, which will look great on college applications, in addition to exploring literature with enthusiastic peers.

### **FIDM Fashion Club: Ms. Melton (volunteer)**

This is an international high school fashion program sponsored by FIDM, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, a prestigious fashion college with four campuses located in California's fashion and entertainment centers. This club is dedicated to helping students interested in pursuing careers in fashion, fashion merchandising/marketing and all other areas of this fast growing industry. Participants will work on creating work for portfolios and gaining experience for a career in the fashion industry. Club Presidents lead activities at their meetings, organize events, and

do fundraisers. Perhaps the biggest advantage to FIDM's Fashion Club is that the President and members qualify for exclusive scholarships to attend FIDM, between \$4,000 and \$24,000, plus they get access to special contests and giveaways. This is a great opportunity for students serious about a career in Fashion.

### **French Honor Society: Ms. Daneels**

The French Club/French Honor Society participates in many different activities throughout the year. Our focus is to expand cultural awareness through participation in different holiday celebrations such as Mardi Gras, Candlemas and le Poisson d'Avril. Each year we plan a different cultural trip such as Broadway shows, visiting museums and eating at authentic French restaurants. In addition, we actively participate in community service projects.

### **Girl's Leader Club: Ms. Harste**

Activities include: Homecoming Food Drive, Trick or Treat Street, Holiday Gift Shopping, Senior Citizens Prom, Spring Egg Hunt, Community Garden, Special Olympics, and Walk in the Sunshine. There will be announcements and signs posted regarding meeting dates.

### **Greenagers: Ms. Coffman**

The Greenagers Club will work within the school and community to promote environmentally friendly practices. Club members will become familiar with current environmental issues and learn ways in which to become more "green" in everyday life.

### **Italian Honor Society: Mr. Drucker**

The Italian Honor Society is involved in community service activities such as food and clothing drives. The society also provides tutoring in Italian for those students in need of assistance. Fundraising allows the society to enjoy holiday parties, welcoming and farewell parties for our exchange students, and field trips to museums, theater productions, and restaurants. Students who wish to become members of the Italian Honor Society must have a cumulative average of at least 90 in Italian and must have attended meetings and participated in various activities from the beginning of that year prior to applying for membership in March.

### **Law Club: Mr. Schauss**

The Comsewogue Law Club participates in the New York State Bar Association Mock Trial Tournament. If you're thinking of being a lawyer or love watching episodes of Law and Order and can picture yourself saying "Objection!" this club may be for you.

The mock trial program teaches high school students basic trial practice skills. Students learn how to conduct direct and cross-examinations, how to present opening

and closing statements, how to think on their feet and learn the dynamics of a courtroom. Students will also learn how to analyze legal issues and apply the law to the facts of the case. Additionally, Mock Trial teaches professionalism. Students learn ethics, civility and how to be zealous but courteous advocates for their clients. Good sportsmanship and respect for all participants are central to this competition. (Adapted from NYS Mock trial tournament materials.)

### **L.E.A.P. (Just Say No): Ms. B. Casey**

Leading and Empowering to Achieve your Potential, will be a new program at Comsewogue High School in the upcoming school year. Through training, programming, and volunteerism, L.E.A.P. will help committed students develop themselves in a way that will empower them, giving them the knowledge and experience to successfully navigate and work toward the betterment of the world in which they live. All students are required to sign a contract before they begin the program and L.E.A.P. is open to all students in Comsewogue High School. Do not be afraid to TAKE THE LEAP!

### **LGBT Club: Dr. Wolf**

The LGBT club recognizes and embraces individuals of all identities. We work together to create an atmosphere of acceptance where students can succeed and thrive. We have meaningful discussion about issues that impact the LGBT community and brainstorm ways in which we can increase understanding and tolerance. We conduct fundraisers in order to bring in guest speakers to increase education for our members.

### **Literary Magazine Advisor: Mr. Karwoski**

We are proud to announce the return of the Comsewogue High School Literary Magazine Club this year! The goal of the Literary Magazine Club is to offer students a creative outlet for their written and artistic work in a quarterly online forum. We invite students to share their original poetry, short fiction, creative essays, art/photography, and even musical talents with the school and community. Meetings run like writing workshops and students make the decisions about the ideas, themes, images, and language they wish to explore and offer the world. Live readings, guest speakers, and community outreach will also enrich the experience for our members. We hope you stop by for a meeting and share your words with us.

### **Math Honor Society: Ms. Engel**

NYS Math Honor Society will be working toward sponsoring a “Family Math Fun Night”. High school student members will sponsor a night designed for elementary school students and their parents to engage in Math activities and events that will heighten student’s awareness and interest in math. Students with an overall scholastic

average of 85% and a minimum of 3 semesters of high school math with an 85% average and having good character and service can apply for admission.

### **Math League: Mr. Posnanski**

**MAKE IT COUNT!** The Math League meets every Monday from September to February. Come as you please but be prepared to compete against neighboring schools once a month. The problems may be challenging but the meetings will always be interesting. Creativity and analytical thinking play an important role in finding a solution. 10th to 12th graders welcome!

### **National Honor Society: Ms. K. Verdisco/Ms. Nadeau**

The National Honor Society has a food drive “Meals on Wheels” (September – November), Toy Drive (October – December) and provides peer tutoring (November – May). The application process is open to all seniors in October and all juniors in February. The senior induction is in December and the Junior Induction is the last Wednesday in May. Listen for P.A. announcements.

### **Ninth Grade Math Team: TBD**

**MAKE IT COUNT!** The Math Team meets every Tuesdays from September to February. Come as you please but be prepared to compete against neighboring schools once a month. The problems may be challenging but the meetings will always be interesting. Creativity and analytical thinking play an important role in finding a solution. This team is open to freshman only.

### **Peer Pals: Ms. Hirko/Ms. Mujanovic**

Peer Pals is a club aimed to provide support and friendship between both general and special education students. This club builds leadership skills while embracing acceptance, diversity, and fun.

### **Robotics Club: Mr. Monte**

The Robotics Club will design and build a robot which competes at Hofstra University. Fundraising, wrench turning and getting your hands dirty are just a part of all the fun!

### **S.A.D.D: Ms. B. Casey**

Students Against Drunk Driving is an organization dedicated to providing students with information about the hazards of substance abuse. Activities have included a presentation of a school play, pre-prom activities, promoting alcohol free parties, poster contests, guest support programs and peer intervention programs at the elementary schools.

### **Science Club: Ms. B. Casey**

The purpose of the Science Club is to promote and direct specific skills, knowledge, and information about science. The club meets on a regular basis and will develop

specific programs and activities based on students' interest. The club may also conduct field trips.

### **Science National Honor Society: Ms. Goldberg**

The Science National Honor Society is an organization designed for the serious science student. Participants are selected for membership, and must have a 90 average in their science classes. Each member will have taken honors or AP science classes, and are required to take at least one AP science class. The students who are involved with the Science National Honor Society are those students who are seriously considering a career in the scientific field, and are strongly looking at science as a college major. By participating in the Science National Honor Society, students will attend scientific lectures, mentor their peers, tutors those in need of additional help, and organize events for scientific inquiry. Students will also have the opportunity to research different scientific fields to help them choose a career path that is best suited for them.

### **Social Studies Honor Society: Ms. McGuinness**

RHI KAPPA Social Studies Honor Society is a national organization for high school juniors and seniors that recognize excellence in the field of Social Studies. The mission and purpose of this organization is to promote scholarship and to recognize academic excellence in social studies in secondary school environments and the community, and to encourage interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for the social studies. To become a member, the student must have been in attendance at Comsewogue High School for one semester prior to being considered, must have completed two core courses in the field of social studies and be prepared to complete at least three core courses. The minimum GPA for these courses is an unweighted 3.00 or the numerical equivalent. The student must also have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.00.

### **Spanish Honor Society: Ms. Trypaluk**

The honor society is involved in community service activities such as food and clothing drives. The society also provides tutoring in Spanish for those students in need of assistance. Fundraising allows the society to enjoy holiday parties, welcoming or farewell parties for our exchange students and field trips to museums, theater productions and restaurants. Students who wish to become a member of the Spanish Honor Society must have a cumulative average of at least 90 in Spanish and must have attended meetings and participated in various activities from the beginning of that school year prior to applying for membership in March.

### **S.U.S.S.: Mr. Harris**

S.U.S.S. stands for “Students United for Safe Schools.” Our club helps to stop bullying and make our school a healthy, positive, and friendly environment for learning and beyond. We plan on doing many exciting projects throughout the year. We try to go to all the schools and spread the word of non-violence, bully avoidance, and how to make our schools a safe environment. We’ve done many things such as going to the elementary schools, reading to the students, teaching them what bullying is, and how to appropriately deal with confrontations. We have had bake sales in the high school throughout the year. This helps us raise money for other future projects. Together we have created a public service announcement video. This video was shown at Met’s Stadium! The video communicated how words can hurt others. In this club, you learn how do so much more to help your community. You will not only help others, but lift yourself to a new and higher level than you ever could have imagined! This is just a small taste of what our club is about. We are all family here, and last year was magic! Let's have another wonderful year! Please come and Join us!

### **TASK: Mr. Valerio**

TASK is the overall governing body of Comsewogue High School. Its representatives are made up of elected student officials and representatives from class and club organizations.

### **Technology Club: Mr. Fischetti**

Technology Club will provide students with exposure and experience to the diverse aspects of technology, as there is an increased demand for individuals comprehensive in these fields. This goal will be accomplished by: student-facilitated training sessions in educational software and hardware; student-run tutorials on use of educational computer programs (Google Documents, Spreadsheet, etc.); providing students with leadership roles in passing down technological knowledge and experience to the lower grades (possible vehicle is a student-facilitated Technology Road Show); and discussions on the ethical aspects of technology use.

### **Tri-M: Ms. Nadeau**

Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) is the National Honor Society of Music. Students who are currently enrolled in a music ensemble may apply to become an apprentice. When the requirements of apprenticeship are completed, the student will be included into the society. Tri-M is a service organization, which assists, in cultural endeavors in the Comsewogue community. In the past, this group has assisted at community events, high school plays and musicals, J.F.K. Middle School productions and various concerts throughout the district. Information about meetings and activities may be obtained from the bulletin board in the music wing.

### **Warriors of Faith: Ms. Merone**

Warriors of Faith is a Christian based club in which students apply Bible passages to their daily lives, discuss ethical and moral situations, and engage in community service. People of all faiths are welcome to attend. Once a month we have a guest speaker and a donated lunch from Chick Fil-A. We meet after x-time on Wednesdays. Come join the fun!

### **Yearbook: Ms. Harste**

Students design and publish the yearbook. They participate in the design, layout, photography, copywriting, and business aspects (yearbook sales, fundraising, money management, etc.) of publishing a yearbook. Trips include a conference to Columbia University and Gettysburg College (editors only).

### **Class of 2019: Mr. Wessel**

All class members are invited and encouraged to participate. This year activities include building a Homecoming float, fundraising and planning for the prom, to name just a few.

### **Class of 2020: Ms. Coffman**

All class members are invited and encouraged to participate. We will build a float for the Homecoming Parade and have fundraisers.

### **Class of 2021: Ms. Danisi**

All class members are invited and encouraged to participate. We will build a float for the Homecoming Parade and have fundraisers.

### **Class of 2022: Mr. Schauss**

All class members are invited and encouraged to participate. We will build a float for the Homecoming Parade and have fundraisers.