

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The purpose of these various clubs and activities is to further the educational and recreational opportunities of *all* students.

Amnesty International- Ms. McKinstry
Anime Club- Mr. Hitov
Brain Bee- Ms. Duane
Choraleers- Mr. Costello
Color Guard– Mr. Lucas, TBA
Drama Club/Spring Play – Ms. St. Jean
French/Spanish Club- Ms. Paez & Ms. St. Jean
Future Teachers of America- Ms. Sawyer
GSA/Diversity Club- Ms. Coonan & Ms. Sawyer
Health Occupations of America- Ms. Goncalves
Hip Hop Dance Crew- Mr. Paras
Junior Classics League- Ms. Willard
Karate- Mr. Doherty
Marching Band- Ms. Colwell Snyder
Math Team- Mr. Bail & Mr. Hamparian
Mock Trial- Mrs. LaValle & Mrs. Sullivan
Mountain Biking Club- Dale Ploski
National Honor Society- Mr. Pratt
Passages- Mr. Berthiaume
Recycling Club- Ms. O'Brien & Mr. Hyde
Show Choir- Mr. Paras
Ski Club- Ms. Swanson
Student Council- Ms. Willard & Ms. Kowszik
Tantasqua Buddies- Ms. Morway
Tantasqua Web Series- Mr. Cusick
Tech Prep Ambassadors- Ms. Sawyer
The Tomahawk- Ms. Norton
Thomas Jefferson Forum- Ms. Sullivan
Tri-M- Mrs. Colwell, Mrs. Costello, Mr. Paras
Video Game Club- Mr. Nameika
Vocal Jazz Ensemble- Mr. Costello
Warrior Fitness Club- Mr. Casaceli
Yearbook Staff- Mr. Barr

Other clubs and activities may be organized when there is sufficient student interest. Students interested in forming a club or activity should simply see the Principal, who will listen to the idea, provide input, and ask that a formal proposal be drafted.

Club & Activity Descriptions

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. Members undertake action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity.

Anime Club – students meet weekly to view and discuss various Anime movies, create Manga comics, and learn about Japanese culture.

Braine Bee is an opportunity for students in grades 9 – 12 to learn about Neuroscience and the human brain, and to compete with other students in Central Massachusetts for an opportunity to represent our region in the U.S. National Brain Bee.

Choraleers is a selected vocal ensemble which studies and performs acapella chamber music. The repertoire focuses primarily on musical literature arranged in 4 to 8 part harmony. Enrollment is with the permission of the instructor, resulting from auditions to take place during the spring of the previous school year for the first semester, and during the first week of the second semester. Performances are mandatory and more frequent than other vocal ensembles, especially during the holiday season. Students earn one academic credit per semester. This course is open to students in grade 9 – 12. Rehearsals are Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-5:00pm each week from August through June.

Color Guard is part of the Tantasqua Regional High School Marching Band. While flags are the primary medium for this performance group, dance is also incorporated in each routine. No experience is necessary; however, skill development is essential for the group to perform successfully as part of the marching band's half-time show for football season. This group also marches as part of annual Memorial Day parades in the towns of our school district. Auditions for this performing group are held in the spring of the school year prior to a fall semester start. This ensemble is open to students in grades 9 – 12.

Drama Club is an after school activity which meets periodically for the purpose of promoting drama at Tantasqua Regional High School. Students learn and practice the art of theater through theater games and exercises and once or twice a year prepare plays for performance.

Future Teachers of America – The Tantasqua Chapter of Future Teachers of America is a club open to all students interested in working with children or considering a future in teaching. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. Activities include seasonal and holiday projects with the elementary schools in the district, and job shadowing opportunities throughout the school year. The most important event is the annual fund raiser, which provides two scholarships to graduating seniors, one a club member and one to a non-member.

Gay/Straight Alliance/Diversity Club is a club dedicated to promoting tolerance and understanding inside Tantasqua and in the greater community. As the name suggests, the club welcomes all students with the desire to unite and make a difference, regardless of sexual orientation. Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month and include discussions of relevant current issues.

Health Occupations Club encourages the participation of students who are interested in pursuing activities related to all aspects of health care. One of the club's major functions

is raising scholarship money to award one student from the Academic and Technical Divisions. Senior students accepted into a health related college major are eligible for this scholarship. Other activities include volunteering at local nursing homes and visiting various health care facilities.

Hip Hop Dance Crew is an auditioned group comprising of about twenty-five students. These students specialize in several dance styles such as breaking, popping, locking, house, and tut. They perform throughout the year at sporting events, pep-rallies, and stage performances.

Junior Classics League is a national organization that focuses on language, culture, and enthusiasm. Includes the exploration of the classics as well as Latin language. Meets Thursday after school.

Marching Band is an integral part of the band program at Tantasqua. The first quarter of the school year is devoted almost exclusively to the preparation of a field show for all home football games. Students who are not in Concert Band are encouraged to participate in outside of class rehearsals and the performances and activities pertaining to this activity. In the Spring Marching Band participates in parades and festivities in surround communities. Marching Band also provides many travel and social opportunities for student members.

Math Team is a club for students interested in solving challenging and sometimes unconventional problems in mathematics. Members participate in four meets in the Worcester County Mathematics League during each school year. The meets usually occur on Wednesdays in October, December, January, and March. Meets consist of individual rounds and a team round. Meet topics include material from Arithmetic, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus.

Mock Trial – Students are given a hypothetical case provided by the Massachusetts BAR Association and then have months to prepare arguments for the defense and prosecution. Students then participate in 3 live trials in a real court with real judges. Great for students interested in the law, courts, police investigations, evidence, debating, etc.

Mountain Bike Club is a dedicated off road bike group that meets in the Fall and Spring seasons. It is open to grades 9 – 12 and focuses on bike safety, maintenance, and off road riding skills. Each Friday we offer a ride that allows all rider abilities to participate.

Passages is the high school's literary magazine; it is composed of poetry, fiction, and artwork. *Passages* is often a collaborative effort between the English and Art departments. Since so many submissions are received each year, students make decisions as to what will appear in the publication. High school students of all grade levels are encouraged to join.

Recycling Club meets each Wednesday. Members collect used paper and send it out to be recycled. The purpose of the club is to promote environmental responsibility and an

awareness of personal and collective obligation to the health of the earth. This is a student/teacher collaborative effort.

Show Choir is a mixed vocal ensemble in which the performers are expected to sing and dance. A professional choreographer works with the vocal instructor to create and teach dance/movement to each piece. No dance experience is necessary, but a willingness to work hard is essential. Course enrollment is with permission from the instructor, resulting from auditions, which take place during the spring of the previous school year. Students earn one academic credit for the school year. This course is open to students in grades 9-12. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 5:00-9:00pm each week from August through March with a minimum of four Saturday commitments for competition and dress rehearsal.

Ski Club strives to provide a venue for wholesome outdoor activity for our young people during the winter months. The club meets for six Saturday afternoon/evenings in January through February. The members travel by bus to Mount Wachusett in Princeton, Massachusetts. Tantasqua's Ski Club is the oldest student club at Wachusett Mountain. Many generations of students began their lifelong love for skiing and boarding by participating in the club.

Spanish/French Club meets twice monthly. Activities are geared towards increasing cultural awareness. Typical events include the creation of meals featuring Spanish and French food, Spanish dancing lessons and a movie in Spanish. Officers are elected annually and the club is open to all students of French and/or Spanish.

Student Council members plan, run, and report on various events including student activities, staff appreciation, community service, and fund raising. Students are elected annually to serve a one year position on the council. The Student Council's goals are:

1. To cultivate a sense of harmony and community among the student body and staff members.
2. To develop responsible interaction between the student body, faculty, administration, and community members.

Tantasqua Buddies enhances the lives of individuals with disabilities through the building of one-to-one friendships and group social activities.

Tantasqua Web Series is a weekly student produced high school video drama broadcast online.

Tech Prep Ambassadors are Tech students who demonstrate leadership, character, and citizenship in our school community. The duties of Tech Prep Ambassadors include recruitment of students to join Tech, assist at Parents' Nights by directing parents in the building and providing information about Tech Prep at our display table, provide guided tours of the Tech Division (December) and all-school tours (June) to the grade 8 students, greet and assist visitors to the building on Career Day and other days when career speakers have been invited, and help set up the auditorium for our annual multi-media

production and other character education assemblies. Students must apply to be ambassadors.

The Tomahawk – The Next Generation News is a student-generated publication printed by *The Southbridge Evening News*. It is a collaborative effort of students from area schools. All Tantasqua students are eligible to write news articles, fiction, and poetry for publication on a monthly basis. Interested Tantasqua students can qualify for the position of Editor with some prior experience.

Thomas Jefferson Forum is the Tantasqua's Community Service Club. Students organize and carry out various service and fundraising projects that benefit the Tantasqua communities. Recent activities include Adopt-A-Highway, fundraising for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Harrington Memorial Hospital Duck Race. The largest annual event is the Tantasqua Relay for Life that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. Students in all classes are encouraged to join the Thomas Jefferson Forum.

Tri-M, or Modern Music Makers, is an international academic music society where its members must demonstrate musical aptitude, academic success, and leadership. Throughout the year, these students partake in various outreach projects and volunteer their time within the district and throughout the community at music related events.

Video Game Club meets one afternoon each week in the Wilson Media Center. The club members play a number of popular video games. Once each year, the club holds a video game competition in the auditorium.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble is Tantasqua Regional High School's most selective vocal ensemble. The repertoire focuses on music of the jazz and swing genres. Students chosen for this small ensemble possess a high level of music skill in the areas of vocal technique, sight singing, and musical score analysis. This ensemble makes a professionally recorded CD each spring and performs often throughout the community as well as in school concerts and Tantasqua's annual Jazz Showcase Concert each April. Auditions for this ensemble take place in mid October and rehearsals are Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:00pm as well as some Tuesday evenings. This ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12.

Warrior Fitness Club was created fourteen years ago. Its creation came about as a way of introducing and involving students in an active and healthy lifestyle. By establishing such programs and various after-school activities (basketball, volleyball, weight training, karate, etc.) we have been able to keep students interested and active with fitness related games. One goal has and always will be to have students enjoy being active with a healthy lifestyle and also to help develop social skills. Another goal is to have the students develop their skills in relation to being responsible, fair, and honest in the activities in which they participate. A five dollar (\$5) fee is required for participation.

Yearbook staff is responsible for the design and production of the school's yearbook. The staff consists of an editor, section editors, photographers, layout designers, advertising

manager and business manager. These positions are filled through an application process which occurs in the late spring and again in the early fall. The yearbook staff meets two-three times per week in the fall and one time per week in the spring.