

US Student Clubs 2022-2023

American Sign Language Club

Mission: To spread awareness and inclusion of the deaf community. As well as learn more about American Sign Language, host events, fundraisers, and other activities. In the club students will learn the fingerspelling alphabet and common signs used in communication. During club meetings we hope to have guest signers and fun activities.

Beachside Express

Mission: The "Beachers" are an all-male, auditioned acapella group of 10-15 members. We perform throughout the year at concerts, town greens, and private parties, ending the year with the Zombie Jam. Ask any Beacher and they will tell you that the group goes far beyond just the music; its numerous traditions, ample camaraderie, and strong sense of brotherhood make it quite a worthwhile commitment.

Beachside Press (School Newspaper)

Mission: Publishing articles weekly on our website, the Beachside Press aims to provide an outlet for student journalists to write about issues concerning Greens Farms Academy, the nation, and the world. The newspaper aims to have a diverse range of student voices who are willing to showcase their journalistic abilities through writing and interviewing on multiple topics (school-related, social issues, politics, and more). Students are not limited to writing articles, but can also write poems, short stories, and submit photos to put on our website. The Beachside Press has an emerging photographic, artistic, and social media component to its organization and is seeking members to help work on this aspect of the club. If you're interested in web design, we have a vacant Layout Editor position to post articles to the website.

Book Club

Mission: Being able to enjoy reading outside of school assignments and share a love of books with friends and peers.

Best Buddies

Mission: Best Buddies is the world's largest non profit dedicated to ending the physical, social and economic isolation of people with physical and developmental disabilities. Best Buddies Friendship programs build friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering social interactions while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Kids with disabilities form meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy. Our club will pair up with Staples high school to organize best buddy events. It's a rewarding way to get involved in our local community.

<https://www.bestbuddies.org/>

Brazilian Club

Mission: To unite students of different ethnicities by promoting Brazilian culture throughout the school. In the club, members will be educated about Brazilian culture such as the language, festivals, events, history, tradition, music, etc. (World Cup 2022 is almost here so we will do a lot with that as well).

Chess Club

Mission: The chess club aims to teach the basics of chess to people that are new and interested in learning. Depending on how fast the club moves along, the material will get increasingly more difficult and more advanced. For people that already know how to play chess and are advanced, we will go deeper into the material and focus on little things such as positional play.

Club De Español

Mission: The Spanish club strives to help students use their Spanish speaking skills in meaningful ways to communicate both within GFA and outside.

Community Service Board

Mission: The Community Service Board helps to support the outreach efforts of our students and organizes fundraising for events such as Harmony for the Homeless and Pack the House. Each member must complete 25 hours of service per year and work on a committee or fundraiser for at least one of the major projects.

Coding Club

Mission: The Coding Club's mission is to teach everyone in our community computer science. We participate in competitions, and generally just have a good time. If you have an interest in any kinds of computers, you can talk to any of the captains to find out more.

D&D Club

Mission: D&D Club aims to get people interested in the game of Dungeons & Dragons. It is meant to show the different members the basics, how to design characters, and how to play the game (and if possible how to run a game of Dungeons & Dragons). Through gameplay and character creation members will be encouraged to work together to defeat the various monsters they are paired against. As well as creating friendships and writing their own stories as they play through the world laid out before them.

Eco Club

Mission: Eco Club's mission is three-fold: to raise awareness in our school's community about current environmental issues (and ways in which individuals of GFA can be more eco-friendly), to participate in projects and activities that benefit the environment and/or raise environmental awareness in and out of our school, and to further improve the sustainability and reduce the carbon footprint of our school.

Excalibur (Yearbook)

Mission: *Excalibur* is a student-run publication that designs and creates a yearbook for the entire school. Applications for the following year's editorial staff will take place each spring. We hope to involve more of the community in the making of the yearbook and will give students assignments to submit pictures from events like sports games, Spirit Week, field trips, and other everyday activities.

Full Court Peace Club

Mission: Full Court Peace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting and strengthening local communities through basketball. Full Court Peace sees a county-wide, interconnected basketball community that serves all populations regardless of race or socioeconomic status. Here, at GFA, the job for our club is to collect lightly used basketballs, raise money to get equipment, and paint multiple courts over the course of the year in local areas. Our club would meet once every two weeks to discuss our goals and other topics in regards to Full Court Peace Club. If you're interested in giving back to local communities this is definitely the club for you.

Gardening Club

Mission: The Gardening Club is a club that wants to involve GFA students in the amazing garden we have on campus. The point of this club is to help take care of the amazing vegetable garden we have at GFA and to learn more about plants and gardening. You don't need to have any previous experience or knowledge about gardening, just an interest in learning about gardening and enjoy being outside!

GSPN

Mission: GSPN is a sports broadcasting club that will live stream GFA Varsity Basketball games, Wrestling, and potentially Squash matches during the winter season. GSPN's mission is to serve the GFA community by providing a sports network for students and faculty to watch our beloved athletic teams.

Harbor Blues

Mission: The Harbor Blues is an audition-only all-female A Capella group. Voice parts include Altos 1 and 2 and Sopranos 1 and 2, along with, hopefully, a vocal percussionist/beatboxer. Along with weekly rehearsals, there are occasional performances ("gigs") inside and out of school, culminating in a joint performance with Beachers called "Zombie Jam." Blues is a great way to make friends, learn more about singing A Capella, and have a good time.

Horizons Club

Mission: The GFA Horizons Club works with Horizons at GFA to organize volunteers, events, and fundraising with the goal of forming a lasting partnership between the GFA upper school and Horizons students. Horizons partners with students from Bridgeport public schools to develop strong academic, social, and emotional skills, habits of mind, and the resilience to succeed in school and pursue a meaningful choice filled life. If you are interested in joining, email any of the Chairs.

Key Club at GFA

Mission: Key Club is a global organization that allows students to be able to learn through service and volunteerism. Members of Key Club perform acts of service in their communities, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing, and organizing food drives to help the community around us. Feel free to contact any of the chairs if there are any questions!

Komera Club

Mission: The Komera club's main focus is to host discussions concerning current events relating to gender equality and the Feminist Movement. We welcome all opinions and encourage people with opposing viewpoints to attend so we can have productive, enlightening conversations that should be had. The Komera Club plans to raise awareness of girl empowerment in both Rwanda, where the Komera organization actively supports girls' secondary education, and in our community by incorporating middle school girls as well. We will continue to support our 4 Komera scholars, Olive, Solange, Ruth, and Scovia, through their education by raising money with bake sales and the Komera global run hosted at GFA.

LEAD (Learning And Educating about Diversity)

Mission: LEAD's mission is to facilitate discussions around various aspects of diversity in the GFA community and the community as a whole. Discussion topics include race, ethnicity and other core aspects of identity in the context of GFA and current events.

Le Club Français

Mission: Our mission is to create an environment for any level of French speaker to feel comfortable discussing and conversing in French. During our weekly meetings we will watch and discuss French movies, play games in French, and talk in French about current events happening in France and in the world. If you would like to get involved with planning and participating in a French Film Festival (spring), come to the French Club table.

M.A.D (Making a Difference) for Human Rights

Mission: M.A.D for Human Rights aims to create a community where students of all grades can discuss, raise awareness, and participate in various volunteering projects throughout the school year, in relation to global human rights issues. We will have a few bake sales, and student-led projects that we will plan and execute together, as a team. During meetings, we will share our opinions and ideas regarding current affairs and how to help. For example, last year, we led a gigantic project collecting donations for Ukrainian refugees on the border. If you are passionate about one topic or many, this is the place for you to share your voice and make a difference as a teenager in high school.

Math Team

Mission: The GFA Math Team competes on a monthly basis against area schools in the Fairfield County Mathematics League. Students who participate should be strong, careful, and quick in their ability to solve problems ranging from Arithmetic to Pre-calculus. Students from 9th through 12th grade can compete, since questions can be

geared to individual strengths.

Microfinancing Club

Mission: The goal of the Greens Farms Academy Microfinance Club is to educate students and the GFA community about microfinance. Our club raises money through student-led fundraisers in order to make loans through Kiva. We hope to raise awareness and reduce global poverty with every loan. New this year, the GFA Microfinance Club has joined the National High School Microfinance Coalition.

Model UN

Mission: Model UN (United Nations) is a club that participates in various conferences along the coast and abroad in which we act as delegates of recognized nations or political figures and take part in mock committees that focus on current global issues. Club meetings will focus on preparing for conferences and learning essential skills to becoming a successful delegate.

News Decoder

Mission: News-Decoder is a global educational news service for young people. We partner with schools around the world and accompany students through an editorial process that includes identifying story ideas, conducting reporting, consulting experts, developing multimedia content and publishing for a global audience. We help students develop journalistic skills and behaviors that make them better global citizens.

PAWS Club

Mission: PAWS Club's mission is to instill a passion and respect for animals in our members through community service and fundraising. We strive to help as many shelter animals as possible and raise awareness for animal cruelty. PAWS club will spend meetings doing activities like making dog treats and blankets for shelters, organizing fundraisers, and more.

Penumbra

Mission: *Penumbra* has been in existence for many years at GFA as the school's Upper School Literary Magazine. Our mission is two-fold: To support the work of both new and experienced student writers through small group writing workshops throughout the year and to celebrate the best of student writing in the annual publication, *Penumbra*. Submissions to *Penumbra* are all read anonymously by both the editors and the staff. Students must serve at least one year on the staff to be considered for editorship.

Pink Aid

Mission: Pink Aid funds the efforts of organizations that provide compassionate services as well as free mammograms and help with expenses of local women in need, whom are far too many in number. Pink Aid grants help women receive these services, as well as to get free mammograms and aid with expenses. Some of the programs we support are established hospital foundations and national non-profits, while others are smaller grass roots organizations. Large or small, they share our goal to help local women survive breast cancer with compassion". We will have bake sales and small charity events

throughout the year and then organize a whole school sports event in the spring, similar to homecoming.

QUEST

Mission: This year QUEST's (Questioning, Understanding, and Educating about Sexuality Today) mission is focused on the importance of learning in regards to all-encompassing aspects of supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and providing a comfortable atmosphere for conversation. We meet weekly to have discussions, plan events (such as Day of Silence), and provide a safe space for the community and its allies.

Quiz Team

Mission: The GFA Quiz Team looks to promote the love and appreciation for general knowledge through weekly sessions and competitions during the year, including local quiz tournaments and the History Bowl and Bee. All students are welcome to participate in the team's practices and tournaments, in the spirit of the quest for facts and knowledge.

Red and Bloopers

Mission: The Bloopers is a group for Upper School students with interests that fall into the improvisational realm of theatre. The group is dedicated to advancing the improvisational skill of its members, always with an eye for tickling one's fancy with a humorous take on life. The group is also dedicated to sharing the art of improvisation through performances for both the GFA community and outside organizations.

Robotics

Mission: The goal and mission of the GFA Robotics Club is to get students together to help build and program robots, which will compete in competitions with the FIRST Tech Challenge. The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition requires a diverse group of individuals. We need strategists, problem solvers, builders, and individuals who can work in a team environment. The team must complete a challenging project with a limited budget and a strict deadline. The club requires individuals for various positions involving our website, notebook journal, database, fundraising, and publicity. The GFA Robotics club members will also learn the skills to build a successful robot and some of the skills that are important for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) careers. In addition to having fun designing and building the robot there are a number of scholarships (over 14 million dollars) available to FIRST Team participants.

Rocketry

Mission: We use build rockets from scratch, whether that be using CAD, Cardboard, or construction paper, and we launch them into the sky.

Rowan Center Club

Mission: The Rowan Center Club aims to educate and provide a safe space for conversation about sexual harassment and violence during monthly meetings and discussions with the Rowan Center, Fairfield County's Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Running for Relief

Mission: We organize and participate in races and running events about 3 times a year for various charities. Our annual event is the Lower School Fun Day in the spring where we organize track events for GFA's third and fourth graders in order to raise awareness for charity.

GFA Special Interests

Mission: Our club intends to organize group discussions about various topics that are thought-provoking, philosophical and relevant.

Tabletop Club

Mission: Finding fun games to play that can still maintain social distance! If you are interested in joining, email.

TACO - Teen Awareness Conversational Opportunities

Mission: TACO is a student-led group that creates space for high school students to explore topics that affect them inside and outside of a school environment. These topics include drug and alcohol awareness, mental health and wellbeing, social relationships, and appropriate interactions.

Theatre Board

Mission: Theatre Board is composed of students who are interested in promoting and expanding theatre opportunities within the GFA community. Members of this group offer support for theatrical productions and organize related events.