



Mountain Lakes High School

Clubs and Activities 2025-2026

Academic Team Quiz Bowl | Advisors: Ms. Chandra and Mr. Elfers

The academic team quiz bowl is a buzzer-based academic trivia game where two teams of students compete to answer questions across a wide range of subjects, including history, literature, science, popular culture, and current events. The fast-paced format requires quick thinking and broad general knowledge, often likened to the game show Jeopardy!. Teams earn points by answering toss-up questions and can gain additional points by answering bonus questions. The Mountain Lakes Academic Team has been very competitive in local competitions and finished second at nationals in Arlington VA at the end of the 24-25 season. Join us on Fridays in room 445 during the lunch block for some trivia fun!

American Sign Language Club (ASL) | Advisor: Mr. Giousios

The mission of the ASL Club is to promote awareness and appreciation of American Sign Language and Deaf culture, provide a supportive community for learning and practicing ASL, and foster meaningful connections between Deaf and hearing individuals through education, advocacy, and social engagement.

Art Club | Advisor: Ms. Adams

Joining the art club in high school offers a vibrant and inclusive environment where creativity thrives. Beyond providing open studio time for personal artistic exploration, the club emphasizes collaborative projects and student-led demonstrations and workshops. This dynamic approach fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as students work together on diverse art initiatives and share their unique techniques with peers. The art club also strengthens communication skills through presentations and critiques, helping members articulate their ideas and provide constructive feedback. By balancing individual creativity with collaborative efforts, the art club equips students with a versatile skill set that enhances their artistic abilities and prepares them for future professional and personal endeavors.

Chess Club | Advisor: Ms. Chandra

Mountain Lakes Chess Club offers great opportunities for students to play friendly games of chess against their peers in a low-stress environment, as well as learning new strategies to improve their own game. We usually meet once a week during lunch. Attendance is optional but if you want to improve at Chess, the best way is by showing up. We also have a ML Chess Team, which competes with the teams of the other High Schools. Games are held both at ML and at the competing High Schools. Everyone is welcome. If you want to just play chess, join us during our weekly meetings. You are also welcome to be part of the ML Chess team. All are welcome, regardless of the level.

Cookies for Kids Cancer | Advisor: Ms. Fiorina

The club would be based around the non profit Cookies for Kids Cancer. The charity raises money for pediatric cancer research. Pediatric cancer kills more children than any other disease, yet only receives 4% of the annual budget from the National Institutes of Health. The charity encourages grass roots bake sales to raise money and awareness for such a worthy cause. We organize and run bake sales in order to raise money for pediatric cancer research. We plan to hold these bake sales at school events such as games and matches. We are working to determine if students can receive service hours for their time.

Cooking Club | Advisor: Ms. Fiorina

MLHS Cooking club typically meets twice a month on Tuesdays from 2:50-4:00 in the foods room 363. Dues for joining are only \$5.00 for the entire year to cover the cost of groceries. Members have quite a bit of input as to “what are we making” and often the recipes are geared around a holiday near the meeting. All grades are welcome and encouraged to join and participate as often as possible. Choosing dishes from students’ favorite restaurants or something they see on social media is something we do often. Fast recipes that are enjoyable and fun to prepare in groups! This is a great opportunity to practice students’ love of cooking and baking or a place they can come and learn something new.

Deaf Academic Bowl | Advisors: Ms. Gates and Ms. Richter

The Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School students was established by Gallaudet University with the goal of fostering the pursuit of academic excellence, promoting a spirit of academic competition and sportsmanship, and providing social opportunities for the development of collegiality and lifelong friendships. Every year, Gallaudet University hosts four Regional competitions for up to 60 teams of Deaf and Hard of Hearing high school students from schools across the United States. The Mountain Lakes Chapter of the Academic bowl competes in the East Regional competition yearly. The MLHS chapter of Deaf Academic bowl meets weekly to prepare for the yearly competition covering a variety of subjects like current events, language and literature, mathematics, pop culture and science and technology. All categories are infused with questions about and relating to deaf culture. This MLHS club is open to any student with a hearing loss who would like to participate.

Debate Team | Advisors: Dr. Politano and Ms. Rodriguez

The Mountain Lakes Speech and Debate team meets weekly to prepare students for Parliamentary and Lincoln Douglas format debate and competes at tournaments nationally and across the state. MLSD membership builds confidence, boosts classroom performance, improves communication, and increases critical thinking skills to prepare students for college. Our team provides life skills vital to a young person's success in the future: its members are represented at the top 50 US colleges at a rate 23% higher than that of the general population.

DECA | Advisor: Ms. Geveke and Ms. Percy

DECA is a business competition club. It has the largest membership of any club in MLHS! DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in business. With 250k members nationwide it is also a strong club brand on college applications.

Drama Club | Advisor: Ms. Petrucci-McGuire

Step into the spotlight—or cheer from the wings—with Drama Club! Whether you love acting, singing, building sets, designing costumes, or simply want to enjoy theatre without being on stage, there's a place for you. You don't have to be involved in productions to participate—we also host theatre games, workshops, trips, and social events. Drama Club is about creativity, teamwork, and building friendships while exploring the magic of performance. Come join us and help keep the arts alive at our school!

EMT Club | Advisor: Mr. Posner

The purpose of the EMT Club is to educate and prepare students interested in emergency medical services by providing hands-on training, knowledge of first aid and emergency response, and opportunities to develop skills essential for careers in healthcare and emergency management. The club fosters leadership, teamwork, and community service through participation in drills, certifications, and outreach activities.

Environmental Club | Advisor: Ms. Castellana

The MLHS Environmental Club helps bring awareness to local and global environmental issues. Club members partake in a variety of activities, some of those include: maintaining the high school botanical garden, town cleanups, being a resource to town projects such as the library garden and Birchwood Lake rain garden, and raising money for environmental causes. In addition, club members partake in spreading awareness throughout the school to promote eco-friendly practices.

Fashion Forward Club | Advisor: Ms. Fiorina

This club will foster growth and education of all things fashion. It will explore the complex aspects of the fashion business and strengthen creativity.

Fishing Club | Advisor: Mr. Merritt

The Mountain Lakes Fishing club holds fishing derbies, helps the stocking of local lakes and ponds, and raises money for Warriors on the Water. WOW is a non-profit organization that helps veterans gain access to fishing tackle and takes them on fishing expeditions. Meetings are held during the lunch periods.

Formula 1 Club | Advisor: Ms. Cornell

The mission of the Formula 1 Club is to unite fans of Formula 1 racing by fostering a community where members can share their passion, deepen their knowledge of the sport, and stay engaged with the latest races, teams, and drivers.

French Club | Advisor: Dr. Politano

The primary goal of the French Club is to foster a love for the French language and culture among students and to offer them a welcoming yet dedicated environment for learning a new language. The club's focus on French culture also encourages exploration of the French-speaking world. In addition to the various activities organized by the club each semester, students will have the opportunity to correspond with pen pals in France as part of their French classes. This interaction promotes a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures.

The club sponsors various activities, including watching films and attending Broadway shows. In the past few years, our French Club has seen *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. We also plan to visit the United Nations and the Metropolitan Museum to view impressionist paintings studied in French classes. Our goal is to share French and Francophone culture with our school community throughout the year, in addition to celebrating National French Week in November.

GSA Club | Advisor: Ms. DeTrolio

The GSA is an inclusive club that provides a supportive space for LGBTQ+ students and allies. We focus on building community, celebrating diversity, and advocating for acceptance and equality. Whether you want to connect with others, learn more, or simply have a place where you belong, the GSA is open to you.

Golf Club | Advisor: Ms. Fiorina

The purpose of the MLHS Golf Club is to introduce students to the game of golf, develop their skills, and foster a love for the sport in a fun and supportive environment. The club aims to promote physical activity, sportsmanship, and camaraderie among members while providing opportunities for practice, friendly competition, and learning about golf etiquette and strategy.

HOSA | Advisors: Ms. Castellana and Ms. Gerhart

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is a global student-led organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and several federal and state agencies. HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration, and experience. HOSA actively promotes career opportunities in the health industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. This club's main focus is on the competition event where students pick a main topic of their liking and take information-based tests, skills-based tests, or a combination of the two.

Indian Culture Club | Advisor: Ms. Chandra

The Indian Cultural Club is a great platform for students to share their experiences and traditions. We are excited to celebrate the many facets of Indian Culture from the festivals to Bollywood to Cricket to the amazing Indian cuisines, to name a few. The club offers its members cultural enrichment and awareness, leadership opportunities, community building and socializing. **Join** the ICC and let the fun begin!

Investment Club/Investment Banking Club | Advisor: Ms. Stolarczuk

The mission of the Investment Club is to educate and empower members to make informed investment decisions by exploring financial markets, analyzing investment opportunities, and sharing knowledge in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Italian Club | Advisor: Dr. Politano

The purpose of the Mountain Lakes Italian club is to celebrate Italian and Italian-American culture, and to raise awareness of the many accomplishments that people of Italian and Italian-Americans descent have made across the United States.

Jazz Club | Advisor: Mr. Price

The purpose of the Jazz Club is to introduce and familiarize students with jazz materials such as musicians, songs, vocabulary and culture. The club will also help students interested in Jazz Band to prepare and practice the music they will be playing.

JrNAD | Advisors: Ms. Cottone and Ms. Perry

The Junior National Association for the Deaf, a program of the NAD, offers deaf and hard of hearing students in 7th through 12th grade opportunities to develop leadership skills, learn and demonstrate citizenship, participate in service activities and continually foster activities that encourage communication and relationships between the deaf and hearing students at MLHS. The club is open to students who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as any other student who would like to provide service and work to build a connection between the deaf and hearing students at MLHS.

Key Club | Advisors: Ms. Fiorina and Ms. Venanzi

Key Club is a nationwide service club in which students contribute to their school and community. Students do many projects to raise funds and awareness to support great charitable causes.

LETS Club | Advisor: Ms. DeTrolio

The LETS Club, Let's End The Stigma, is a safe space for students who want to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. Through projects, discussions, and activities, members work together to promote kindness, acceptance, and support within our school community.

Makers Club | Advisors: Ms. Cornell and Mr. Scancarella

The mission of the Makers Club is to teach students about engineering, to learn about design processes, to learn how to 3D print and to HAVE FUN!

Math Club | Advisor: Mr. Ayhan

We administer AMC 12A and 12B as well as 10A and 10B to the students who want to take it. We usually have 3-5 students qualify each year for the AIME level. We also compete in the Math League in our county, and we were number one in our region.

Math Minutes | Advisor: Ms. Alfano

The purpose of Math Minutes is to give MLHS students additional math practice if they are struggling with math or if they seek to be more confident in their math abilities.

Mind Over Muscle (Mental Health for Athletes) | Advisor: Mr. Maurizi

To help students understand the importance of putting mental health first in sports and create a supportive and relatable space to promote a healthy balance between well-being and athletic performance.

Mock Trial | Advisor: Ms. Gillespie

Our Mock Trial Club aims to offer students the opportunity to engage in simulated legal proceedings, honing their skills in critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork. Through the exploration of legal concepts, case analysis, and role-play activities, students will develop a deeper understanding of the judicial system and courtroom procedures. This club is designed to provide hands-on experience in trial advocacy, fostering a passion for law and advocacy among participants. We hope to host a mix of interclub competitions to help educate our members while also giving them real world experience through NJ State Bar-High School's Mock Trial Simulations.

Model UN | Advisor: Mr. Ziccardi

The mission of Model United Nations for students to become more involved in their role as global citizens. Students will be honing their public speaking skills by participation in the annual Model UN symposium.

Morgan's Message | Advisor: Ms. Preston

The mission of Morgan's Message Club is to strive to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health within the student-athlete community and equalize the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics. The Club will aim to expand the dialogue on mental health by normalizing conversations, empowering those who suffer in silence and supporting those who feel alone.

Mountaineer | Advisor: Mr. Ziccardi

Mountain Lakes High School's student-led digital newspaper club! This club meets on a bi-monthly basis and consists of both staff writers and editors, with publications released at the end of each month. *The Mountaineer* is dedicated to representing student voices and increasing the journalistic skills of those who participate. Staff writers choose the subject of their articles, conduct interviews and/or investigative research, and submit to the editorial staff for review in order to be featured on *The Mountaineer* website. All are welcome to join and new members can get involved throughout the course of the school year.

Pen Pal Club | Advisor: Dr. Politano

The purpose of the Pen Pal Club is to foster meaningful connections, cultural exchange, and communication skills by pairing members with pen pals locally or around the world. Through regular written correspondence, members will build friendships, gain global perspectives, and develop empathy, patience, and self-expression.

The Phoenix Literary Magazine | Advisor: Ms. Novachevska

The Phoenix is a website publication featuring the artists of Mountain Lakes High School including visual arts, creative writing, and theater. We are submission-based and are always looking for artists to send their work! It is a good platform for students to show off their talent and show what is happening in the art world around the school.

Photography Club | Advisor: Ms. Novachevska

The purpose of the Photography Club is to inspire creativity, develop technical skills, and foster a community of individuals who share a passion for photography. The club provides opportunities for members to learn, practice, and showcase their work through workshops, photo walks, critiques, and exhibitions. A group for photographers to work together, meet, and share their work.

Politics Club | Advisor: Mr. Hoffman

MLHS Politics Club meets one or two times each month, usually in the evening, to discuss current issues of government. Student leaders choose a few topics in advance, including domestic and foreign policy issues, and provide links for students to read in advance of the meeting. Discussions, which are NOT debates, welcome viewpoints from all sides of controversial topics, and are always civil.

Red Cross Club | Advisor: Ms. Busch

The purpose of the Red Cross Club is to support the humanitarian mission of the American Red Cross by engaging students in volunteer service, disaster preparedness, health and safety education, and community outreach. The club empowers members to make a positive impact through leadership, compassion, and a commitment to helping others in times of need.

Robotics Club | Advisor: Mr. Merritt

The Mountain Lakes Robotics team competes in the First Tech Challenge of NJ. We use the Tetrrix robot building system along with the REV command module. The students learn to build, program in Java and compete with their robots. We are guaranteed three competitions a year and can move on to the State and National level if we qualify. Meetings are during lunch and after school depending on the availability of the Advisor.

Science Olympiad | Advisor: Mr. Scancarella

The purpose of the Science Olympiad Team is to inspire a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing students with hands-on, competitive opportunities to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. The team fosters collaboration and academic excellence through preparation for and participation in regional and national Science Olympiad competitions.

SGA | Advisor: Ms. Venanzi

The Student Government Association (SGA) is composed of grade level officers as well as an Executive Board. Each grade level Student Government includes a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Class Representatives. The Executive Board is composed of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and they serve as a resource for the grade level officers. The Executive Board is responsible for planning the Homecoming Dance and Winter Formal with the input and assistance of the grade level officers. In addition to these responsibilities, the Executive Board also coordinates with each grade level to assist in offering support for the grade level fundraisers and grade specific events (Freshman Dance, Prom, etc). The SGA meets throughout the school year to plan and discuss school events, and help to disseminate information to the student population and elicit student opinions on school event details.

Spanish Club | Advisor: Ms. Rodriguez

The Spanish Club has a dual purpose:

1. Appreciate the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and encourage as many people as possible in the school to participate. This is achieved through events like salsa dancing lessons, empanada cooking contests, Day of the Dead celebrations, culture tournaments, etc.
2. Learn about problems facing Spanish-speaking countries today and raise money/awareness for organizations that are helping. This charitable aspect of the Spanish Club is to make sure that we are doing what we can with our knowledge of Spanish culture from school to make a difference in the world.

Stress Less Club | Advisor: Ms. Lindsay

The purpose of the Stress Less Club is to promote mental wellness, emotional balance, and healthy coping strategies among students. Through relaxation activities, peer support, and wellness education, the club aims to create a safe, inclusive space where students can reduce stress, build resilience, and prioritize their well-being.

Toastmasters Gavel Club | Advisor: Ms. Gillespie

Toastmasters Gavel Club provides students a chance to practice public speaking skills in a non-competitive, social environment. We meet during lunch one or two times each month. One student opens with jokes, another delivers a short prepared speech, and a third student provides prompts for volunteers to deliver a very short "off-the-cuff" speech. All speakers are evaluated by a peer for time, use of "fillers" and overall quality.

Video Game Club | Advisor: Mr. Wallace

A space for students to connect through gaming, tournaments, and community events. Beyond playing, we give back by running Tech Bars at the Mountain Lakes Library to help seniors with their devices, and we're excited to grow into game design and development activities.

Weightlifting Club | Advisor: Mr. Doniloski

The purpose of the Weightlifting Club is to promote physical fitness, strength training, and overall wellness through safe and effective weightlifting practices. The club fosters a supportive environment where members of all experience levels can set personal goals, improve technique, and build discipline, confidence, and community.

Yearbook | Advisor: Ms. Adams

Joining the yearbook club in high school offers more than just a way to capture school memories-it's a gateway to acquiring essential real-world skills. As a member, you gain hands-on experience in project management, learning to plan, organize, and meet deadlines effectively. The collaborative nature of the club enhances your teamwork and communication skills, while the creative aspects cultivate abilities in graphic design, writing, and photography. Through creating a comprehensive record of the school year's history, students gain practical experience in journalism, design, and business. Our Lakes yearbook, recognized with numerous awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the Garden State Press Association, and featured by Herff Jones/Varsity Brands as one of the top high school yearbooks nationwide, exemplifies the high caliber of work and learning that the club fosters. Joining the yearbook club not only enriches your resume but also prepares you for future professional environments where detail, creativity, time management, and collaboration are key.

Peer Leadership Program | Advisors: Mr. Doniloski and Ms. Suarez

Peer Leadership is a club that is offered to rising Juniors and it is a two-year commitment. This club looks for students who are responsible, positive role models and who exhibit initiative and self-direction. Peer leaders participate in various activities throughout the school year.

Peer Leaders must adhere to the following expectations:

1. Participate in the planning and facilitation of 4 Freshman meetings throughout the school year (quarterly)
2. Attend all Peer Leadership events (Freshman field day, Peer Leader training, Freshman open house, and other activities)
3. Be drug and alcohol-free.
4. Serve as a positive role model in all aspects and for all students at MLHS during Junior and Senior years.

To be considered an application must be submitted. All applicants will be invited to an in-person group interview and demo lesson. The selection process is the application, the interview/demo lesson, and teacher feedback. The program is committed to providing outstanding leadership to the Mountain Lakes School District.

The Wingman Program | Advisors: Ms. Fiorina and Ms. Suarez

The Wingman program is powerful because it fosters a culture of inclusion, empathy, and connection within communities, addressing the deep-seated need for belonging and acceptance. Engaging participants in social-emotional learning activities empowers individuals to recognize the importance of kindness, understanding, and support in their interactions. This program helps people feel welcomed and creates an environment where everyone feels valued and heard. When individuals feel connected and supported, they are more likely to contribute positively to their community, leading to a ripple effect of positive change. The Wingman program encourages participants to step up as leaders in fostering these connections, creating a community where everyone looks out for each other. This focus on social-emotional growth can reduce instances of bullying, increase empathy, and build stronger, more resilient communities where differences are celebrated and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.