

Austintown Fitch High School LOOKBOOK

2026- 2027

FOREWORD

“Why aren’t you involved in anything at school?”

This is a question often asked to high school students. Unfortunately, those who routinely ask the question rarely provide information that will enable students to get involved. For this very reason, we created the AFHS Look Book to help you find what you’re “looking for” in our school.

High school students desire to be part of something bigger than themselves. They want to contribute to a project of some kind, make a difference in the lives of others, and even make some new friends along the way.

At Austintown Fitch High School, we firmly believe that students will have the best high school experience possible if they connect through both academic and non-academic experiences. We want every student to find his or her respective place and build new relationships with others who share common interests. The AFHS Look Book will provide you with the information and contacts necessary to select a club or organization that is best for you.

Academic Team (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)

Academic Team is a competitive, interscholastic activity which provides members with the opportunity to show off advanced skills in the areas of literature, science, history/current events, art and math. Students compete individually for control of a question. If they are successful, their team is awarded 3 additional, collaborative opportunities for bonus. The season starts in January and ends in a tournament at the end of February. Practices are on Wednesdays.

Art Club (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)

Art Club is open to students in all grade levels. Members participate in a variety of art activities which are not traditionally explored in the classroom. Activities include, but are not limited to: mural painting, teaching art lessons at the elementary school, field trips to museums, and fundraisers. The group also enjoys fun and fellowship while creating art during regularly scheduled meetings.

Chamber Orchestra (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Chamber Orchestra is for all high school students who wish to enhance their skills on either the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students in this group are required to have performed in grades 5-8 at the middle school level or transferred from another high school orchestra. The orchestra performs Three formal concerts a year as well as participates in OMEA adjudicated events. Orchestra members learn and perform a variety of music from authentic orchestral literature to movie classics.

Rock Band (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Rock Band is open to all students at Fitch with no previous experience required. Students in this group will prepare various styles of rock music and have the opportunity to learn the basic fundamentals of guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboards, and singing. The Rock Band performs throughout the year at various concerts on and off the Austintown Local Schools' campus. Along with performing, students will be exposed to the history of rock and roll through field trips to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, local radio stations, and through exposure to careers tied in with the music industry. Students are encouraged to turn everything up to 11.

Concert Band (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Concert Band is for all high school students who wish to enhance their skills on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Students in this group are required to have performed in grades 5-8 at the middle school level or transferred from another high school band. The concert band performs at least three formal concerts a year as well as

participates in OMEA adjudicated events. Concert band members learn and perform a variety of music from authentic wind band literature to movie classics. NOTE: All students registered for Concert Band are members of the Fitch Marching Band. No exceptions will be permitted).

Concert Choir - Audition Only (Grades 10, 11, 12)

Concert Choir is the most elite choir at AFHS. It is an audition-only ensemble comprised of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Concert Choir students are very active at Fitch. Additionally, students are also very active in the community with Youngstown Playhouse, Salem Community Theater, Ballet Western Reserve, Opera Western Reserve, ROTC, National Honor Society, Speech and Debate, Spirit Club, honors and AP classes, Key Club, and much more. The choir is also extremely active in the community. Yearly, the ensemble travels out of state to perform at Veterans Hospitals to adhere to its philanthropic mission of serving the US Armed Forces.

Digital Media Production (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

DMP students will learn how to stage and video record a variety of productions for broadcast over Falcon Media (YouTube: Austintown Falcon Media and Armstrong Cable channel 202), social media platforms, and the web. First-year emphasis is placed on camera set-up and operation, technical aspects of a video camera, and studio operation. Other items to be covered include lighting, audio, editing, and the process of producing a video project. Students in Digital Media 2-4 act as production crew leaders to students in Digital Media 1 and also learn advanced production techniques to be demonstrated by announcing, producing, and directing productions of their own. **This semester course counts as 0.5 Fine Arts Credit and can be used towards the Fine & Performing Arts Graduation Seal.*

Drama Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Drama Club is open to students in all grade levels. Little to no prior stage experience is required. Students in Drama Club are able to take part in on-stage acting, learning elements of lights and sound, hair and makeup, and stage management. Students who wish to join Drama Club are encouraged to take Theater Arts. The Drama Club performs at least one production per year (a play and/or a musical). The Drama Club makes use of live music at performances, clinics with performers from New York City and Chicago, and makes for an experience that mirrors that of a professional theater. Students may also have interests in costume design, improving acting and stage skills, making new and life-long friends, and enjoying the spotlight on stage in front of a live audience.

Dungeons & Dragons Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

If you are looking for adventure, treasure, or simply just a quick way to meet new people, then D&D Club is for you! Open to high school students of all grades, D&D Club guarantees a play space and resources for students to play Dungeons and Dragons either using either their own homebrew campaigns or through the official D&D content published by the Adventurers League. Whether you're a new player who doesn't know the difference between a Flumph and the Demogorgon, or you're a seasoned DM who knows the ins and outs of the weave and the lands of Faerûn, we have the resources to help you experience the world's most popular tabletop roleplaying game on a whole new level. We look forward to rolling initiative with you!

Educators Rising (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Educators Rising is an organization that allows students who are interested in the field of education to explore the dimensions of the teaching profession by taking part in hands-on experiences, setting educational and career goals, and becoming exemplary citizens through school and community service. Opportunities for interested students may include: group meetings, volunteer experiences, college of education visits, professional development conferences, and state and local competitions.

English Festival (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

The YSU English Festival celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2023! Held in April, students who have read the mandatory seven books will be excused from school for one day to participate in fun activities that center around the books they have read and that foster reading and writing skills. Students will also meet and interact with at least one Young Adult author. Throughout the school year, participants get together once a month to discuss the required books. More information can be found at ysuenglishfestival.org.

French Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

The French Club is open to all students enrolled in any French course at Fitch. The club meets after school for various cultural events. Parties, field trips, crafts, cultural speakers, and movie nights allow participants to experience more culture than class time permits. Trips have included theaters, restaurants, the Cleveland Museum, and the

Gateway Clipper French Night. The French Club also gives scholarships to deserving French students.

Freshmen Council (Grade 9)

Freshman Council is a service organization which plans events and fundraisers for the Freshman class. The Council members are chosen based on application, GPA, attendance, and a clean discipline record. Students interested in running for student council in later years, should be involved in Freshman Council.

DECA (Grades 9-12)

DECA is the largest career student organization in the world. Our mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. DECA programs focus on leadership where members develop essential skills by holding chapter officer positions, networking with accomplished business professionals, and by participating in business-focused workshops, seminars, and academic competitions. The cost to join the Falcon Chapter of DECA is \$25 (\$7 state dues, \$6 national dues, \$12 local dues). Local dues provides each member with a t-shirt. Students must attend monthly meetings to ensure membership. There are many community service opportunities for members. There are also many fundraising events to help with expenses endured for workshops, travel, and competitions. Being a member of DECA creates a strong resume for college and the workplace. DECA is highly recommended for all students taking the business and administrative services pathway.

Treble Choir (Grade 9)

Treble Choir is an entry level ensemble consisting mostly of freshman female students who sing in the treble range. Students in 8th grade choir will be able to join Treble Choir with no audition necessary. Here, students will learn the dynamics of high school choir and its place in both the school and community. Students will learn a variety of music through both a traditional and complementary lens. Singers will engage in both singing and dancing along with two concerts per year. All singers are welcome here and no prior experience is required. Singers who do not participate in middle school choir are still permitted to join this inclusive ensemble.

Interact Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Interact Club is a service organization open to students in all grade levels. If you have an interest in serving your school and community, this is the club for you! Interact Club is the high school branch of the local Rotary organization. Each student pays a

membership fee and receives a t-shirt. Our main service project is to recycle paper products. We also hold two food drives a year to help those in need in our local community. We serve at the Rescue Mission of Youngstown with the Rotary Club of Austintown on a monthly basis.

Jazz Band (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Jazz Band is for all high school students who wish to enhance their skills on a jazz instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, bass, drumset). Students in this group are required to have performed on their instrument in grades 5-8 at the middle school level or transferred from another high school. The Jazz band performs at least three formal concerts a year as well as participates in jazz festivals, contests, and other community events. Jazz band members learn and perform a variety of music for the big band including but not limited to swing, rock, funk, and latin styles.

Auditions will only be required if there is a need to balance the ensemble's instrumentation.

Junior Class Officers (Grade 11)

Junior Class Officers are elected at the end of sophomore year to represent and serve their class. The main activity of the Junior Class Officers is planning Prom. Participants must be juniors and meet the responsibility and GPA requirements to run for office. They must also obtain teacher recommendations and be elected to the office by members of their class.

Key Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Kiwanis Educating Youth, or KEY Club, is the student branch of the Kiwanis International organization in our local community, and is a prestigious, service-based organization open to students in grades 9-12. Acceptance into Key Club requires application during our membership drive in the first six weeks of the school year. Once the membership drive closes, new members will not be admitted until the following school year. A 2.5 GPA is required for admittance, in addition to a \$10 membership fee. The fee paid by all members each year maintains our chapter membership with Key Club International. Monthly meetings and service opportunities are available for all members through Kiwanis and Key Club International as well as leadership conferences and local delegate opportunities. In conjunction with the Red Cross, Key Club holds three blood drives per year for the students at AFHS.

Link Crew - Application Required (Grades 11, 12)

Link Crew is a group of the school's greatest student leaders. Link Leaders plan events and activities that help incoming freshmen transition into the new challenges of high school life. A pair of Link Leaders are matched with about ten freshmen for the entire school year and use Freshmen Orientation as a chance to meet and form a connection with each member of their crew. Link Leaders not only focus on mentoring others, but also work on their own leadership skills.

Marching Band (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

The Fitch Marching Band is an extremely active organization with many responsibilities for school and community performances. It is a co-curricular class which also meets during the regular school day. The first quarter grade in the Concert, and Symphonic Bands is based upon attendance at summer rehearsals and performances. Thus it becomes the responsibility of every band member to fulfill their obligations. Membership is required in order to be a part of the Fitch Band program. Once membership is established, it becomes compulsory to follow the guidelines set up for the group. Membership is demanding, but the benefits of membership far outweigh the challenges. The success of the Marching Band is dependent upon its members understanding, accepting, and prioritizing the attendance requirements. (NOTE: *Any student who is a member of the Freshmen, Concert, or Symphonic Bands must also be a member of the Marching Band. No exceptions will be permitted*).

Men's Chorus (Grades 9,10,11, and 12)

Men's Chorus is open to all male singers and no audition is required. No prior experience is needed to sing in the men's ensemble. Brotherhood and camaraderie are the hallmark traits to the men's ensemble. The choir consists of tenor, baritone, and bass voice parts. The choir travels on tour twice a year to local nursing homes, assisted living centers, and is actively engaged in various community service projects in the Tri-County area. In the choir, students perform both classical + popular repertoire along with active choreography. (NOTE: *Men's Chorus is a prerequisite for Concert Choir*).

Mock Trial (Grades 9-12)

Mock Trial is an academic club where students learn about the law and participate in the Ohio Center for Law Related Education's (OCLRE) statewide Mock Trial Competition. Every year, the OCLRE releases a case file about a made up crime or legal incident. In this case file, is all the information about the case including evidence and witness statements. Students with the help of their advisor and legal advisor then prepare both sides of the case, writing opening and closing statements as well as the

direct and cross examinations of witnesses. Beginning in January, the team will compete against other Ohio schools in real courtrooms where students serve as lawyers and witnesses trying to win their case against the opposing team. This club is great for those interested in any legal professions, those who enjoy acting or role playing, or anyone looking to develop reading, writing, or public speaking skills. We practice twice weekly through January or until we are eliminated from competition. Competition dates take place in local courtrooms throughout Ohio and are usually during the school day.

National Honor Society (Grades 11, 12)

National Honor Society (NHS) is a national organization based on four pillars: Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. Involvement in this organization is meant to reward and further cultivate students who are motivated to excel academically and who possess a desire to impact their school and community in a positive way. For initial membership consideration, students must earn a 3.4 cumulative GPA by the end of first semester during their junior year; they must also accrue a minimum of 20 hours of service to apply. While other considerations exist for membership, NHS seeks out students who recognize that positive character, strong leadership, and varied involvement builds communities of which to be proud. If selected for membership, students are required to accumulate an additional 20 hours of service, tutor a minimum of two hours, participate in the Society's only fundraiser, and uphold their responsibility regarding all four NHS pillars. The motto of NHS is *Noblesse Oblige*, which means "to whom much is given, much is expected." Through membership, we expect students to emulate this motto, which will help them grow as students and as members of their community.

Parent Teacher Student Association (Grades 9-12)

PTSA is a student branch of National PTA. PTA is one of the largest and long-standing school advocacy organizations in the country. Our organization is open to students in all grade levels. Meetings are held after school on the third Thursday of each month. The yearly membership fee is \$5. We offer many activities and opportunities for students to get involved and make friends, such as fundraising, advocacy, service, and scholarships. Participation looks great on college applications!

Percussion Ensemble (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Percussion ensemble is an additional semester based class for all high school students who wish to enhance their skills on percussion instruments. Students in this group are required to have performed in grades 5-8 at the middle school level or transferred from another high school band. During the fall semester the class will be centered around the

drumline battery rehearsing music from the marching band season, and learning about proper maintenance and tuning for the marching percussion instruments. In the spring semester students will prepare music for the small concert percussion ensemble to be performed at OMEA events and the spring concert. *NOTE: All students registered for Concert Band are members of the Fitch Marching Band. No exceptions will be permitted).*

Reading, Discussion, and Enrichment (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Students are invited into RDE as a result of their gifted status or by recommendation from their teachers. This club is designed for those who enjoy delving into literary masterpieces in order to investigate the events of the world that shape our lives. Each grade level of RDE has its own “club within the club.” As a culminating activity, students perform skits that tie the books together and show what they have learned throughout the year.

Senior Class Officers (Grade 12)

Senior Class Officers are elected by members of their class at the end of junior year to represent and serve the senior class. Those who wish to be officers must obtain teacher recommendations, meet the responsibility requirement, and the GPA requirements in order to be placed on the ballot. The officers’ main activity is to plan and decorate for the fall Homecoming Dance. Other responsibilities include Toys for Tots, Senior Picnic, Senior Breakfast, and Commencement. Participants must be able to communicate effectively with members of the graduating class.

Ski and Snowboarding Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Since its inception, the Ski and Snowboarding Club has been a place for students in grades 4-12 to join together, get outside, and have the most fun you can have during our cold, but wonderful winter months. The season begins in January and consists of five day trips every Saturday after Christmas break, as well as an optional sixth evening trip for tubing and night skiing at the end of the season. All trips are made with weather permitting. Each outing will consist of four hours of skiing and/or snowboarding, including an hour-long lesson with one of the skilled resort instructors. Our go-to locations can change year to year and include Brandywine, Boston Mills, and Alpine Valley. The participation fee can be paid online to the BMBW Ski Resort which covers the season lift pass, rentals (if necessary), and a lesson. This program is heavily discounted and will save participants hundreds of dollars over the winter ski season. There is also a one-time \$20 bus fee that covers all five day trips. Look for sign-up information online through the school’s main website under the “club/sports” tab and in grade level offices at the end of September.

Sophomore Class Officers (Grade 10)

Sophomore Class Officers are elected at the end of freshman year to represent and serve the sophomore class. Sophomore Class Officers help at prom and fundraise for their own junior prom. Those who wish to be officers must obtain teacher recommendations and meet the responsibility and GPA requirements in order to be placed on the ballot.

Spanish Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Spanish Club is open to students in grades 9-12 who are currently enrolled in a Spanish course at Fitch. The purpose of the club is to provide educational opportunities outside of the classroom for students who have a strong passion for the Spanish language and culture. The club also provides many opportunities for students to expand their knowledge of the language and culture, including conversation, movies, food, music, and much more. Meetings are held after school at least once per month. The Spanish Club also gives scholarships to deserving students of Spanish.

German Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

German Club is open to all students in grades 9-12 at Fitch. The purpose of the club is to provide educational opportunities outside of the classroom for students who have a strong passion for the German language and culture. The club also provides many opportunities for students to expand their knowledge of the language and culture, including conversation, movies, food, music, and much more. Meetings are held after school at least once per month.

American Sign Language Club (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)

ASL Club is an organization for students to learn American Sign Language, promote unity, diversity, and cultural awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. Students will improve their sign language skills through signing events, both on and off campus, and increasing exposure to the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Club leaders provide instruction, activities, and ASL help to members, and non members. ASL club meets periodically throughout the year after school. All levels of current ASL members are welcome.

Speech and Debate Team (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Speech and Debate is a varsity (lettering) and JV team open to all students in grades 9-12. Mandatory tryouts are held in both the spring and fall. Students compete in local tournaments on Saturdays from November through February, earning trophies and the possibilities of a varsity letter and scholarships. If qualified, students can compete at the state and national level. It is an opportunity for formal speech training and competition in various categories. Students can try out for speech events that include, but are not limited to, humorous and dramatic interpretations, original speech writing and presentation, prose and poetry, and speaking on foreign and U.S. current events. Debate events can be as an individual or in a partnership. Competitive speech skills can be transferred to other content areas and serve as a lifelong foundation for success. The self-esteem developed through competitive speaking enhances skills that the participant will use in high school classrooms, college, and in the workplace.

Spirit Club (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

The Spirit Club is the driving force behind school-wide spirit at AFHS. Members cheer at games, make signs, choose game day dress themes, and paint their faces to show their Falcon pride! One of the main roles of the Spirit Club is to plan and carry out school events, especially pep rallies. Members of this group play a vital role in creating a positive culture and atmosphere in our school. CHANGE TO: raising school spirit and supporting all of our athletic teams and student organizations at Fitch.

Students Serving Veterans (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

This group works throughout the year to provide support for veterans of all ages. Students Serving Veterans assist with the annual Veterans' Day ceremony and, Veterans' Spaghetti Dinner. Any student with a desire to perform community service and a strong sense of patriotism is encouraged to join!

Symphonic Band (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

This group is made up of the finest and most dedicated band students at Fitch. Membership is by audition only, and the number of students chosen is at the discretion of the director. Private lessons are greatly encouraged for each student in order to maintain the highest standards of musicianship. The Symphonic band performs at least three formal concerts a year as well as participates in OMEA adjudicated events, contests, exchange concerts, and any other opportunities which present themselves. Symphonic Band members learn and perform a variety of music from authentic wind

band literature to movie classics. NOTE: All students registered for Symphonic Band are members of the Fitch Marching Band. No exceptions will be permitted).

The Talon (Grades 10, 11, and 12)

The Talon is a student-led workshop environment which creates and publishes the high school newspaper in both online and print formats. Students experience all aspects of running a newspaper which include: writing content, layout and design, photography, editing, advertising, and marketing. Members of the staff develop skills in leadership and communication during this year-long course.

Fitch Harmonics - Audition Only (Grades 10,11, and 12)

Fitch Harmonics is an audition-only junior varsity choral ensemble. Singers may audition for Fitch Harmonics from either Treble Choir or from 8th grade choir upon the recommendation of Mr. Klein or Mrs. Keown. Fitch Harmonics sings a variety of traditional and contemporary choral literature and engages in both singing and dancing during performances. The ensemble performs three concerts per school year and is very active in the community. (NOTE: *Fitch Harmonics is a prerequisite for Concert Choir*).

Yearbook - Application Required (Grades 10, 11, and 12)

Yearbook students are responsible for the content, design, layout, and sale of the AFHS Yearbook. Students who are interested in being a part of the staff must have a GPA of 2.7 or higher, be self motivated, and have some experience with photography. Members must be cooperative, punctual, professional, creative, and productive. Students are responsible for taking digital photos, conducting interviews, managing clerical operations, making announcements, and maintaining signage. They must also compose, design, and edit all elements of text, graphic art, and digital photography layouts. Participants also gain organizational skills and build upon their reading and writing skills. This course requires students to be available outside of regular class hours to attend sporting events and student activities.

JROTC - Class Registration Required (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

JROTC is an Air Force high school program designed to allow students to become better citizens both in their community and beyond. While in the JROTC program, students have an opportunity to perform in drill competitions and physical fitness (Raider team) competitions. These competitions are team-oriented and occur around the region and across the country. Drill competitions will begin in December and will go until the end of the school year, with a major regional competition in Dayton, Ohio, in April 2025. The Raider team is a physical fitness

team where students compete against other JROTC programs in various physical activities.

These

activities stress the importance to work as a team, being physically fit, and to complete the events in the quickest amount of time. The JROTC program is open to all high school students in grades 9-12, and there is no military requirement to participate.