Morris Hills High School



ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK
2026 - 2027

ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

Academic decathletes meet after school and asynchronously to prepare to take general knowledge tests in Language & Literature, Social Science, Music, Art, Economics, Math and Science related to a common usad.org theme. Selected decathletes also participate in speech, essay, interview and superquiz events. Students can win individual awards, with the highest scoring teams advancing to state and national competitions. The team consists of varied academic levels: three Honor students (3.750 - 4.00 GPA), three Scholastic students (3.00 - 3.749 GPA), three Varsity students (0.00 - 2.999 GPA) and up to nine additional competing members. Team selection occurs in November based on varied measures, and decathletes must attend a full-day competition (Saturday, late January) . The team also encourages parent volunteers.

Advisor Contact: Lora Santucci **(lsantucci@mhrd.org)**

AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE CLUB (AACC)

The African American Culture Club or AACC provides students with meaningful opportunities to highlight and celebrate the ever evolving rich tapestry of the diverse cultures of the people of Africa. We maintain a safely inclusive forum and place for nurturing racial awareness, empathy and compassion while enriching the experiences of the Black community connected to the Morris Hills High School.

Advisor Contact: Peter D. Adams **(padams@mhrd.org)**

ART SERVICES CLUB

Provides the school administration, faculty, and school sponsored clubs and activities with traditional and digital graphic art products for school functions. Students create a variety of visual communications material: design images and logos, create and maintain award displays, indoor and outdoor signs, banners, posters, and program covers. Recommended for students who are interested in art, photography, and graphic design.

Advisor Contact: Lew Gabriele **(lgabriele@mhrd.org)**

ASIAN HERITAGE CLUB

The Asian Heritage Club fosters an inclusive environment for club members in the hopes that they can better appreciate diversity through interactions with Asian cultures, history, and people. Club members can look forward to cultural game nights, potlucks, collaborations with other Morris Hills clubs, and more. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join the club to either discover their cultural roots or gain new perspectives through knowledge of how Asians have shaped the world as we know it.

Advisor Contact:

ASTRONOMY & PHYSICS CLUB

The Astronomy & Physics Club is for those who want to take their science education to a level outside the classroom. We have Star Parties up at Gifford Field (we have an amateur astronomer) where we locate planets, star cluster, and nebulae (area where stars are born). The club is also a venue to take part in competitions including the Physics Olympics (a statewide event that takes place in January of each year). Physics Olympics has 6 fun events that students prepare for after school. There is also Science Bowl where students prepare for tough questions in physics, math, astronomy, biology, and chemistry. Also it is a time for those who like topics in relativity and quantum mechanics to just discuss those topics. Take your science education to a whole new level, join the Astronomy & Physics Club.

Advisor Contact: Nick Maloupis **(nmaloupis@mhrd.org)**

BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY

The Business Department created the Business Honor Society to recognize those Junior and Senior students who have displayed outstanding academic performance in their business courses. In order to be selected to join this honor society, a student must be a Junior or Senior and have attained at least a 90 or above average (weighted) in their business courses. Additionally, they must have at least an 85 or above average in all of their academic courses. Eligible Juniors must have completed at least two (2) courses in business by the end of their Junior year and be enrolled in a business course for their Senior year. Eligible Seniors must have completed three (3) courses in business by the end of their current school year. Eligible Seniors apply in October for consideration and eligible Juniors apply in February. Once accepted, students must maintain their GPA in order to be inducted in April.
Advisor Contact: Debbi Sabatini **(dsabatini@mhrd.org)**

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club was started by students who wanted to play chess at competitive levels. The club also has lessons for beginners and would like to have more female students to enjoy the game of chess. We have a tournament or two throughout the year with first and second place trophies. If you would like to play competitive chess, learn how to play chess, or just come by and enjoy our club then visit Room # 252. We meet twice a month usually on Wednesday or Thursday.
Advisor Contact: Nick Maloupis **(nmaloupis@mhrd.org)**

CO-CURRICULAR CHOIRS

The Choir Department at Morris Hills High School offers all students a variety of opportunities to participate in vocal music. In addition to the curricular choir classes, students also have the opportunity to audition for one or more of the co-curricular choirs offered. Knightingales, Knights Templar, and Scarlet Singers provide students with differing venues of musical expression and performance outside of the curricular choir class. These choirs frequently represent Morris Hills at public events and concerts and are considered Morris Hills' Select Choirs. All three are auditioned groups and auditions are held in the beginning of the school year during the first month of school.

In all vocal groups, emphasis is placed on learning and using healthy vocal techniques, reading music notation and understanding different types of choral literature through the study of varying world music cultures.

*Students must be enrolled in a curricular choir class during the day in order to audition for and participate in any co-curricular choir.
Advisor Contact: Michelle Uhler **(muhler@mhrd.org)**

COLORGUARD

The Colorguard is a group of students who perform marching/dance routines to the music of the Marching Band. The students develop marching, dance and coordination skills through the use of equipment such as the colorguard rifle, sabre, and flag. The colorguard season begins in the spring and continues through the summer and ends in the middle of November. Students are permitted to join beginning in the eighth grade and no previous experience is necessary to join the group. This is a competitively focused group and attendance at all practices and competitions is important for the success of the group.
Advisor Contact: Allyson Moreno **(amoreno@mhrd.org)**

DECA

DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service. Membership is open to any student enrolled in a business class who is interested in learning more about the marketing aspect of business.
Our objectives are to have active student involvement, prepare students for academic competitions, involve students in community activities, and organize and conduct successful fundraising efforts.

Some of the activities in which DECA students participate are regional and state conferences, fundraisers, and various leadership activities throughout the year.

In New Jersey, per the Department of Education, a high school student member should currently be or formerly been enrolled in a marketing, business, hospitality, business finance, management or entrepreneurship class. Personal Financial Literacy, even if taught by the business department, does not qualify students to be a part of DECA. For more information, visit NJDECA.org or DECA.com.
Advisor Contact: Colleen Perry **(cperry@mhrd.org)**

ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL LITERACY CLUB

The Economics & Financial Literacy Club has the goal to discuss important and relevant topics in economics to gain a better understanding of our world - questioning the ethics, methods, and ideals of businesses/entities to achieve their goals. We aim to teach members about macro/micro concepts and cover important financial literacy topics like:

- Credit cards and credit scores
- How banks work
- Loans and paying for college
- Investing
- Saving, spending, tracking your expenses, budgeting
- Insurance

Advisor Contact: Vincent Limon **(vlimon@mhrd.org)**

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CLUB

The Environmental Action Club is the club for you if like to **make a difference by <u>doing</u> things** like: promoting recycling around our school campus, cleaning litter from local streams, rivers, parks, and woods. Our club has restored areas to the natural state throughout the years. If you have concerns about mankind's stewardship to our marvelous planet with its life, this is the club for you.
Advisor Contact:

ERASE

The ERASE (Eliminate Racism and Sexism Everywhere) Club was established to raise awareness about cultural diversity. More importantly, group members strive to promote racial unity and equality both in school and in the community. Through movies, speakers, hands-on activities and school wide programs, the ERASE Club strives to assist staff and students in recognizing and respecting the cultural and religious beliefs, perspectives, attitudes and behaviors of various cultures which exist in our school and community.

Our school clearly recognizes that as diversity grows it becomes increasingly important for our staff and students to acquire the knowledge, skills and values essential for functioning in a multi-ethnic society. All students of Morris Hills High School can join the club and/or participate in ERASE Club activities.
Advisor Contact: Marcia Ghetti **(mghetti@mhrd.org)**

ESPORTS

Esports embraces students' passion for competitive gaming to foster collaboration, creativity and inclusion. Participants build strengths in problem solving, teamwork and communication, as well as STEAM skills. And, they get to explore video and sound editing, graphic design, broadcasting, event planning and more.

The Morris Hills Esports Teams consists of a State Champion Rocket League Team, a Chess Team, an Overwatch Team, a Valorant Team and a new Overcooked Team. All Teams have both Varsity and JV levels. Our teams participate in statewide competitions each year sponsored by Garden State Esports. Varsity players will be eligible for Varsity letters as they meet the required criteria.

All are welcome. Students who do not wish to compete are welcome to join us after school as well and just play for fun with friends.

There are three Esport seasons - Fall, Winter & Spring. The teams meet in the Esports Lab (A4) Tues, Wed, & Thurs during each season.
Advisor Contact: Debbi Sabatini **(dsabatini@mhrd.org)**

FAMILY, CAREER, COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA (FCCLA)

FCCLA is a nationally recognized organization that helps students at Morris Hills become strong leaders. We are dedicated to connecting family life with all aspects of school, work and the community. The club meets weekly to raise funds for charitable projects.
Main events include:
Sponsoring a blood drive for students, teachers, and parents
Collecting prom dresses and organizing a Prom Shop to distribute the dresses for free to students from Morris Hills, Morris Knolls, and other local high schools.
Assisting the ERASE Club with their annual Multicultural Dinner
Assisting the NJEA with their annual Veteran's Day Dinner
Advisor Contact: Doris Lembo **(dlembo@mhrd.org)**

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club (**cercle francais**) is an active, enthusiastic group of students who enjoy French and cultural activities related to the language.
The French Club meets once or twice monthly in order to experience the culture and civilization of France and other French speaking countries outside the classroom, and to provide an opportunity for socialization to students with similar interests.

The students hold theme "tastings" of French food (cheeses, desserts, etc.), meet with other language clubs to experience their particular cuisines, view French films, dine in a French restaurant, sing, plan fund-raising activities, support the French National Honor Society, and organize publications. Activities in any particular year depend upon student interest and enthusiasm as this is a student-led club whose officers and members have most of the input.
Advisor Contact:

FRESHMAN CLASS

The Freshman Class raises money for activities held during the junior and senior year (proms and class activities). While class officers are elected, the goal is to strive for total class involvement.
Advisor Contact: Bert Giovine **(bgiovine@mhrd.org)**

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the largest business Career and Technical Student Organization in the world. FBLA's mission is to inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. Students can test and showcase their business knowledge and skills through competitive events at the regional and state level.

Membership is open to students who are currently enrolled in or have completed any of the following Business courses: AP Business with Personal Finance, Academy Business Strategies, Business Management, College Accounting 1H/2H, Entrepreneurship, Esports Experience, Introduction to Business, Investment Strategies, Marketing, Microsoft Professional, Personal Finance, Social Media Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing.
Advisor Contact: Lauren Jackson **(ljackson@mhrd.org)**

GAMES CLUB

The Games Club was started by the students and is for the students. The club meets twice a month in Room 252. We have a wide variety of board games, from social deduction games to strategy games. If you like playing board games or want to learn more about board games and try new board games this is the club for you.
Advisor Contact: Nick Maloupis **(nmaloupis@mhrd.org)**

GERMAN CLUB

Students in the German Club expand and enrich their formal German studies and experiences through a variety of planned in-school and community activities such as the traditional Octoberfest, film presentations, sharing of student travel experiences, field trips, sampling of German cuisine in German restaurants, and letter exchanges with students in German speaking countries.
Any student grades 9-12 interested in German studies and culture may participate in this club.
Advisor Contact:

GIRL UP CLUB

Girl Up is working toward a world where girls have equal value, access, and opportunities to reach their fullest potential. Girl Up Club members make a difference in the lives of girls around the world, empowering their communities near and far. Girl Up provides a platform and guides girls along their journey from leader to changemaker with specialized programming in organizing, advocacy, fundraising, and communications. Our programming exposes girl leaders to issues at the intersection of gender equality and sports, STEM, storytelling, and more – we position girls to be leaders across industries where women are underrepresented.
Advisor Contact: Jacqueline Quinones **(jquinones@mhrd.org)**

HILLTOPPER

Hilltopper, the school paper, is published 3-4 times a year. It provides all students the opportunity to express editorial views, comment on world and local events, and create feature articles.

Primarily, the Hilltopper seeks to educate students on the state of the world, to inform them on important local events, and foremost, report the happenings within the school. For the staff, the objective is to learn, through practical application, how to prepare and edit copy, layout a paper, take pictures, and distribute it appropriately.
Advisor Contact: Tracey Petrosino **(tpetrosino@mhrd.org**) and Angela Salisbury **(asalisbury@mhrd.org)**

HAPPINESS, OPPORTUNITIES, PROSPERITY, for EVERYONE (H.O.P.E.)

H.O.P.E is an acronym that stands for Happiness, Opportunities, Prosperity, for Everyone. H.O.P.E provides true community service experience for those individuals who seek to improve their local and Global Communities. H.O.P.E. members take part in trips to soup kitchens, fundraisers, clean up days in parks or around our school, and local community. H.O.P.E. members raise funds for organizations such as Matheny Hospital and School; local students with illness or crises; Cookies for Kids' Cancer, participating as volunteers in the CGI Marathon at Rutgers. We participate in local marches against hunger, raising funds for soup kitchens. HOPE Club members work with Local Share to glean fruits and vegetables and donate them to Morris Hills Families during the holidays.

Some of the primary focuses of the H.O.P.E Club include The HOPE Garden which includes opportunities for GT Gardening and regular before and after school meetings to plan, build, plant and harvest our sustainable garden. All Foods are donated to the Rockaway Food Closet, benefiting our local food community!

A second focus is the opportunity to work as a tutor with Morris Hills ELL Students to support their success in school. Tutors meet weekly with our ELL Students after school to provide homework, study and project support.

The HOPE Club Charity Art Show is held annually. The club researches charities and runs an Art Show with the support of MH Faculty and students. Proceeds are donated to the charity chosen. The HOPE Club creates Holiday Boxes full of gifts for the most underprivileged communities in the world. We fill boxes with fun items which are given to children who may never have received a present before!

HOPE offers opportunities for leaders, those interested in community service, gardeners, cooks/bakers, students interested in teaching, event planners, fundraising experts, and many other things. Our Website is: http://mhhopeclub.wixsite.com/hope Take a look at all the fun and amazing opportunities we offer!
Advisor Contact: Tracy Hornby **(thornby@mhrd.org)** and Peter Adams **(padams@mhrd.org)**

INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club is a Rotary Club sponsored organization of young people whose purpose is to provide opportunities for students to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. This is primarily accomplished through working with The Gift of Life Foundation, a group dedicated to providing funding for children's organ transplants worldwide. To be eligible for membership, a student must possess good character and leadership potential.

The Interact Club will plan at least two projects each year, one to serve the school or community and one to advance international understanding. An active member picks up practical experience, discovers new interests and at times, shares the "good feeling" that goes with serving others.
Advisor Contact: Kara Hilla and Stephanie Vesper **(khilla@mhrd.org)** and **(svesper@mhrd.org)**

INDIAN CULTURE CLUB

The Indian Culture Club is a vibrant and inclusive group that meets monthly to celebrate and share the rich traditions of Indian culture with the school community. Throughout the year, we host a variety of events, including a lively Diwali dinner and dancing celebration, a fun and relaxed movie night where students can sip chai and enjoy delicious chaat, and an energetic outdoor Holi festival filled with music, laughter, and colorful powder. Students also have the opportunity to perform classical, folk, and Bollywood-style dances to highlight the diversity of Indian performance arts at a variety of school events. ***Advisor contact:***

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB

The International Relations club gives students an opportunity to further their learning about the geopolitical state of the world and offers a way to hone some skills related specifically to the field of international relations, but also many other fields beyond high school: public-speaking, research, writing, collaboration, negotiation, problem-solving, creativity, diplomacy, and leadership. Students will get the chance to build connections with people of different cultures and diversify their viewpoints**.**

Advisor contact:

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY TROUPE 1736

This organization is an honor society for those involved in the Theatrical Arts. A student can earn membership by participating in at least two Morris Hills productions throughout the year and accumulating 10 points through participation in theater-related activities (community theatre, professional theatre, or ITS events). Throughout the year, ITS hosts statewide competitions, social gatherings, and events that center on understanding the theater in its many different forms. Its goal is to build a strong community of student artists, promote excellence in theater, and encourage leadership, creativity, and collaboration both onstage and behind the scenes.

Advisor Contact: Harry Fahrer **(hfahrer@mhrd.org)**

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band is an ensemble of musicians that learn and perform the various styles of music that are considered jazz: swing, blues, latin, funk, rock, and ballads. Traditional jazz band instruments include: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, rhythm section (drums/percussion, piano, guitar, and bass), and other instruments can be included at the discretion of the director. Individuals learn proper ensemble and solo performance techniques. Auditions are sometimes a prerequisite for participation according to the following schedule:

November – audition information given

December – auditions; rehearsals begin after school once a week

January through June – weekly rehearsals, performances at all band concerts and the occasional school event, occasional participation in local high school jazz band competitions/festivals

Advisor Contact: Richard Hartsuiker **(rhartsuiker@mhrd.org)**

JUNIOR CLASS

The Junior Class sponsors fundraisers and community service events. The fundraisers are to cover some of the costs of the Junior Prom, as well as sending funds towards Senior Class expenses. The Junior Prom will be held in May. Elected officers as well as interested class members are encouraged to participate in all activities.

Advisor Contact: Kaitlyn Penkalski **(kpenkalski@mhrd.org),** Kara Hilla **(khilla@mhrd.org)** and Maria Dalton **(mdalton@mhrd.org)**

JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA (JSA)

The Junior State of America is the largest student-run high school organization in America. It is filled with members that are interested in politics, government, debate, the law, and education. What is so special about JSA is that students organize every aspect of it, from the school chapter level to national administration. Junior State members also take part in three exciting overnight conventions: Spring State, Congress, and Fall State. Junior State conventions allow for an exchange of ideas through student participation in debates, thought tasks, problem solving, and open forum discussions.

Advisor Contact: Lindsey Bischer **(lbischer@mhrd.org)**

KEY CLUB

The Key Club is a service organization for high school students who work to develop initiative, leadership, and good citizenship skills in its members by organizing activities to benefit the community. The Key Club is sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club, which is composed of leading business and professional people of the community. Key Club International is the largest service organization of its kind with nearly 150,000 service projects that provide more than 12 million hours of service a year.

Advisor Contact: Elizabeth Maloupis **(emaloupis@mhrd.org)**

KNIGHT WRITERS

Knight Writers is the literary magazine published each spring by a diligent staff of students at Morris Hills. The club meets regularly in the beginning of the year to establish a community, ideas, direction, and staff responsibilities for the year. Meetings will be held at least once a month during the winter and pick up in frequency for publication in the spring. The club is open to any students regardless of their writing or editorial experience. Interested in joining? Attend the informational meeting at the beginning of the year or e-mail the club advisor.

All students currently attending Morris Hills, including staff members, are encouraged to submit original writing, artwork, and/or photography for publication. For more information about submissions, join the Knight Writers Submissions Google Classroom. Code information can be found outside of room 220.

Advisor Contact: Andrew Diaz **(adiaz@mhrd.org)**

LEO CLUB

The LEO Club is a service organization that stands for Leadership, Excellence and Opportunity. This organization allows students to get actively involved in community service activities. The club is sponsored by the Lions Club of Rockaway Township. It has been involved in fundraising hundreds of dollars each year for various charities and community groups. Our largest fundraiser is working along with the Lions Club to help raise money for the blind and sight impaired, including participation in the Special Olympics and its annual Pennies for Puppies fundraiser.

Advisor Contact: Dawn Sysyn **(dsysyn@mhrd.org)**

MARCHING BAND

The Morris Hills "Scarlet Knights" Marching Band strives to provide an atmosphere to which all students can belong. It is a place where students learn values and standards, while depending on one another in their pursuit of excellence. Students learn about responsibility, doing their fair share, and working toward a common goal. They learn to value people, respect their peers, and not make judgments on the superficial. Future life lessons and values are instilled as a means for both personal and musical growth through the marching band activity.

This particular ensemble is one of the most accomplished marching bands of any in the state of New Jersey, as they have been awarded multiple championships over the decades, and have received many awards in recognition of their *Music*, *Visual*, *Effect*, *Color Guard*, and *Percussion* performances. The members of the Scarlet Knights Marching Band have also participated in unique and diverse performance opportunities, including participating in front of 115.3 million people as part of the Super Bowl XLVIII Halftime Show with Bruno Mars and Red Hot Chili Peppers, as well as filming a commercial for MTV!

The “season” for marching band is considered from August through November, with competitions ending in late October/early November and football games extending (potentially) further into

November or December based on playoff games. There are preliminary rehearsals that occur in late spring as well.
Advisor Contact: Richard Hartsuiker **(rhartsuiker@mhrd.org)**

MATH CLUB

The Math Club is a student driven club that meets after school to complete and discuss fun, challenging math problems. They also organize participation in mathematical competitions both in electronic and paper form. Meetings are once to twice a month.
Advisor Contact: Amy Skutnik **(askutnik@mhrd.org)**

MATHEMATICS HONOR SOCIETY

Juniors who are currently taking or who have completed pre-calculus and have maintained a 95.0 average in math classes and an overall average of 85.0 for their high school career are eligible for membership in the Morris Hills High School Mathematics Honor Society. The honor society's goal is to recognize outstanding mathematics achievement. Students complete an application in January which is then verified by their counselor. Students in this organization are required to participate in a peer-tutoring program.
Advisor Contact: Amy Skutnik **(askutnik@mhrd.org)**

MEDICAL CLUB

The Medical Club is open to all students that are interested in the medical field. As a member, you will learn about healthcare occupations and the skills needed for careers in medicine and neuroscience. During our meetings, our officers present fun activities and the attendees engage in discussions on current topics in the medical field. We meet twice a month, but also hold fundraisers for senior centers and hospitals.
Advisor Contact: Dana Schwartz **(dschwartz@mhrd.org)**

MH PRIDE

It is the Mission of the MH Pride to educate people about identity, to promote a safe and equal school environment where no student feels disenfranchised. We work to increase people's awareness of the impact of stereotypes and prejudice. MH Pride seeks to develop a school environment where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community. MH Pride promotes equality and acceptance for everyone. We are committed to respecting each other's views and opinions. We respect and embrace diversity and difference. It is the goal of the MH Pride to ensure a safe and accepting environment for all.

The MH Pride meets after school weekly. We promote and participate in community service activities. The MH Pride, has at times partnered with Starbucks to sponsor an "Arts Day" which promotes visual, and performance arts. We partner with ERASE to participate in activities such as movies, International Night and "Mix it up Day". The MH Pride celebrates holidays such as "Milk and Cookies for Harvey Milk" Day. We participate in "A Day of Silence". The MH Pride has worked with the library to identify and improve literary resources for all students. ***Advisor Contact:*** Jenna Miller **(jmiller@mhrd.org)**

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

The Morris Hills Mock Trial Team participates in a statewide competition each year sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. Students work as a team to "try" a criminal or civil case, representing both the prosecution/plaintiff and the defense. The New Jersey State Bar Foundation prepares background information for a new case each year based on fictional characters and events.

Students play the parts of attorneys, witnesses, and jury members and use modified trial procedures. Students compete against teams from other schools during the county and statewide competitions, and their performances are evaluated by practicing lawyers and judges. Students also have the opportunity to work with practicing lawyers during the preparation process.
Advisor Contact: Tiffany Doltz **(tdoltz@mhrd.org)**

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

Juniors and Seniors who have maintained a 80.0 average or higher in art classes for two years (Or at least one year prior and currently enrolled in an art class) are eligible for membership in the National Art Honor Society. All students who apply to join must submit transcripts to be verified by the sponsoring teacher.. This average is not weighted, it is the actual average, and must be maintained in all art courses taken. Students who are inducted as members must continue to participate in the art department offerings. To be inducted, members are also responsible for completing service hours creating artwork for the school or the community. Members to be inducted must also pay dues yearly, and graduating seniors receive a multi-colored cord and tassel for graduation.

This organization raises funds to keep the charter active, to donate to various service projects throughout the school, and to give awards to students at graduation. The students in National Art Honor Society often collaborate with other service clubs in helping with art and community services.
Advisor Contact: Nicholas Livigne **(nlivigne@mhrd.org)**

NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

This originations' purpose is to recognize high school students for their academic achievement in the subject of English. The objective of Sigma Tau Delta is to encourage interest in both literacy and writing as well as promote exemplary character among members. The National English Honor Society also focuses on fostering literacy throughout all disciplines.
Advisor Contact: Nicole Sanchez **(nsanchez@mhrd.org)**

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

National Honor Society recognizes students who exhibit exceptional leadership, scholarship, service, and character. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 93.0 or greater by the second marking period of their junior year in order to be nominated for membership. Students with a qualifying GPA will receive a formal letter inviting them to apply for membership. Applications are evaluated anonymously by a committee of faculty members. Successful candidates submit applications that demonstrate their active involvement in school and community activities as well as a strong commitment to community service. Students' discipline records and teacher recommendations are taken into consideration. Members are required to participate in a group service project in addition to completing a minimum of 20 hours of individual community service. They must maintain a minimum 93.0 GPA and must continue to demonstrate high standards of leadership, service and character. Members are also required to participate in fundraisers and to serve as peer tutors for the Morris Hills community.
Advisor Contact: Yvonne Doyle **(ydoyle@mhrd.org)**

NEW JERSEY FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (NJFEA)

Do you want to be a teacher? Join NJFEA! The Future Educators Association is a national organization connected with the professional organization, Phi Delta Kappa.
Members of NJFEA will:
·Plan events that focus on helping teachers, students, libraries and schools in the community
· Have the opportunity to become an officer
· Get a free membership to Go Teach, the official National FEA magazine

· Learn about careers in teaching through guest presenters
· Participate at NJFEA conferences and programs
· Meet peers who aspire to become teachers
· Participate in statewide competitions & service projects
· Stay connected to important state and national issues on teaching
· Be recognized for academic achievements through the FEA Honor Society
· Learn about college scholarships for future teachers
· Be eligible for the NJFEA Outstanding Achievement Award
· Share the pride of teaching through NJFEA chapter service projects, events, & activities

Advisor Contact: Dale Godleski **(dgodleski@mhrd.org)**

NOVEL PERSPECTIVES

Novel Perspectives is a student-driven book club that meets once a month. At our meetings, we discuss literature that gives voice to writers that may not be often heard in the classroom. Students participate in the selection of books and the discussions are frequently also led by students. The Novel Perspectives book club serves as a way to increase community dialogue with marginalized communities that are not widely represented in the curriculum.

Advisor Contact: Nicole Sanchez **(nsanchez@mhrd.org)**

PEER TUTORING

Peer tutoring provides assistance to those students who exhibit difficulties in one or more academic courses. Students in need of assistance are referred by teachers, guidance counselors, and parents.

Peer tutoring provides structure and remediation and strives to give students further opportunity to pass course work. Peer tutors are involved because of their academic ability and desire to assist others.

Advisor Contact: Brenda Gupta **(bgupta@mhrd.org)**

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Photography is much more than just having a camera and taking pictures. Students in this club have the opportunity to hone their skills by understanding what makes a good photograph, from composition to artistic expression. Members of the club will learn how to use their camera's manual settings. A variety of photography skills and themes are investigated through the year with on-sight photo-shoot guided experiences. Pictures are critiqued and printed for the club display case. All levels of experience are welcome. All Morris Hills students are encouraged to explore this exciting side of the visual arts.

Advisor Contact:

PIT ORCHESTRA

The members of the Morris Hills Pit Orchestra collaborate with our theatre program to bring live musical productions to life. This ensemble performs the live score for the Spring Musical, supporting student actors, singers, and dancers in fully staged performances. Students gain valuable experience in pit performance, including following a conductor, coordinating with stage action, and working as part of a production team.

Rehearsals are scheduled in coordination with the musical production calendar and intensify as performances approach. Students must be available for all required rehearsals and performances during the show run.

Advisor Contact: Brett Izsa **(bizsa@mhrd.org)**

PROGRAMMING CLUB

This technologically-advanced club of the future strives to teach all the wonders of programming. Prior experience is not required, so anyone with a desire to learn may join. Mentors are available in Visual Basic, C, Java, Pyton, and HTML/Javascript languages. Seasoned programmers are also welcome as this club provides them with a helpful and supportive environment vital to the programming process. The club offers lectures and regularly assigned projects. Everyone is strongly encouraged to join as long as they want to learn programming!
Advisor Contact: Amy Skutnik **(askutnik@mhrd.org)**

PROJECT LEAD

Project LEAD stands for Leadership, Education, Action, and Development. Project LEAD is a service organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for students at Morris Hills. We are looking for students who demonstrate a willingness to serve the Morris Hills community in a positive way. We are responsible for organizing the activities for Freshman Orientation and Minute to Win It.

Additionally, we volunteer at Morris Hills' guidance and administrative events. Project Leaders are considered to be the leaders in the school and in the community. We are reliable, positive, and friendly to all.

The goals of the club are to create an atmosphere in school for learning and for social and physical development; to meet the freshman the summer before coming to Morris Hills and attempt to make the adjustment to high school easier; and to run quality activities in an attempt to promote a positive school atmosphere.

In order to become a member of Project LEAD, you must be nominated by a teacher.

The faculty recommends students for Project LEAD based on the following criteria:

1. willing to serve the Morris Hills community in a positive way.
2. someone who displays a healthy attitude towards school.
3. reliable.
4. positive and friendly.
5. can work independently.
6. a LEADER!

The students are selected after writing a one-page essay and being interviewed by a panel of current Project LEADers.
Advisor Contact: Doris Lembo **(dlembo@mhrd.org)**

SCHOOL MUSICAL

A full-length production of a Broadway Musical is presented during the second half of the year. Actors, singers, and dancers audition for solo, featured, and chorus roles. Musicians audition for orchestral parts. All students are encouraged to join one or more of the following crews: Set Construction, Set Painting, Stage, Costumes, Make-up, Lighting, Sound, Publicity, and House. The musical is open to the entire Morris Hills student body. Commitment and teamwork are needed to accomplish this enormous undertaking.
Advisor Contact: Nicole Sanchez **(nsanchez@mhrd.org)**

SCHOOL PLAY

A production of a full-length nonmusical drama or comedy is presented in the first half of the year.

Students interested in acting will audition for available roles. Students interested in working behind the scenes are encouraged to join one or more of the following crews: Set Construction, Stage Management, Costumes, Make-up, Lighting, Sound, Publicity, and House. From the first audition to the last performance, through an educational lens, students will acquire basic, intermediate, and advanced techniques and skills related to the theatrical role(s) they have undertaken. No experience needed.
Advisor Contact: Harry Fahrer **(hfahrer@mhrd.org)**

SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY

The Science Honor Society is comprised of seniors who have taken a science course each year with at least two being at the honors or AP level. Seniors must also achieve a minimum unweighted cumulative G.P.A. of 90 in all science courses (required and electives). Members must also pursue a science-related major in college. Juniors may apply for admission in May. The Science Honor Society members volunteer at science and engineering outreach events.
Advisor Contact: Jen McGrath **(jmcgrath@mhrd.org)**

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Science Olympiad is a nationally organized science based competition. Science Olympiad members will compete in a series of annual competitions held off-campus throughout NJ at which teams of fifteen students from schools across the state compete against each other in various scientifically based challenges and events. The regional competition is in January, and the state competition is in March.
Advisor Contact: Stefana Niemo **(sniemo@mhrd.org)** and Allyson Moreno **(amoreno@mhrd.org)**

SENIOR CLASS

The Senior Class officers, under the direction of the advisors, are responsible for ensuring a successful senior year for their classmates. This includes being responsible for making decisions involving their classmates and acting as positive role models.

A general objective of the class is to ensure a successful completion of the major projects of the Senior Class including the Mr. Morris Hills Pageant, Senior Awards Assembly, the Senior Prom, Senior Breakfast and Graduation.

Students are encouraged to become involved in decision-making directly related to senior activities either by running for office or by becoming members of committees, such as the Prom Committee.
Advisor Contact: Amy Skutnik, Dana Schwartz and Meghan Burgin **(askutnik@mhrd.org), (dschwartz@mhrd.org),** and **(mburgind@mhrd.org)**

SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Ski and Snowboard Club is open to all students at Morris Hills High School. Students are welcome to purchase a season pass to Pennsylvania's Camelback Mountain through our club and participate regardless of skill level. Participants will also have the opportunity to take lessons and rent equipment as additional package options. The club takes five trips to Camelback Mountain, where there are a variety of trails, offering a great opportunity to have fun and enjoy a lifelong activity with friends and peers.
Advisor Contact: Marcia Ghetti **(mghetti@mhrd.org)** and Jihanne Radzieski **(jradzieski@mhrd.org)**

SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY

The Social Studies Honor Society is comprised of Senior's who have achieved a minimum cumulative

G.P.A. of 90 in all Social Studies courses (required and electives) as well as an overall minimum G.P.A. of an 85. Members must also have integrity, character, and a service before self philosophy. The Social Studies Honor Society participates in numerous community events and fundraisers throughout the year which promote civics, community service, and the various fields within the Social Studies Department.
Advisor Contact: Lauren Sherburne **(lsherburne@mhrd.org)**

SOPHOMORE CLASS

The Sophomore Class officers work hard as leaders of the class to motivate others in various fundraising activities and to promote a sense of class spirit at pep rallies, in recognition of student achievement, and at any class activity.

Fundraising is necessary in order to have an adequate treasury for such activities as the Junior and Senior Proms, the Senior Gift, and other expenses associated with graduation. These officers are responsible for the organization of the fundraisers, the publicity of the fundraiser, and completing all tasks necessary to make the fundraiser successful.

The Sophomore Class officers are responsible to organize and attend all class meetings. These meetings should be held on a monthly basis at a time that would accommodate all Sophomore Class officers and the Sophomore Class advisor.
Advisor Contact: Stephanie Vesper **(svesper@mhrd.org)**

SPANISH CLUB

Join the Spanish Club as we prepare for and celebrate el Día de los muertos, el Día de los tres reyes, and el Cinco de mayo. Join us for the multi-cultural dinner, churro sales, music and fun. Learn more about other cultures and practice your Spanish during our language and culture exchanges.
Advisor Contact:

SPORTS MEDICINE CLUB

The Sports Medicine Club is an activity intended to allow students to explore and promote interest in sports-medicine careers. The many fascinating and varied career paths are explored by way of discussions, speakers, and field trips. Students are also taught basic athletic training techniques and assist the athletic trainer with daily responsibilities. In order to participate in the Sports Medicine Club, you must be a senior and enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Program.
Advisor Contact: Mark Hilla **(mhilla@mhrd.org)**

STRING THEORY (KNIT & CROCHET CLUB)

Do you know how to knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? String Theory meets after school about once a month. We work on building skills, sharing our knowledge, completing projects for friends and family, and making charitable donations.
Advisor Contact: Amy Skutnik **(askutnik@mhrd.org)**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

The SGA is a student-centered organization with the dual purpose of fostering school spirits and planning school events and acting as a liaison between the school's student body and administration.

The SGA has four Executive Officer positions elected by the student body – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All Class Officers from each of the four grade levels within Morris Hills serve as members of the SGA Legislative Body. Any student in the school is also welcome to join the club as

a general member.
Advisor Contact: Stefana Niemo **(sniemo@mhrd.org)** and Ally Moreno **(amoreno@mhrd.org)**

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The members of the Morris Hills Regional Symphony and Chamber Orchestras perform regularly throughout the school year and within the community. These ensembles study and perform your favorite orchestral classics, film scores, and modern music. All of our music ensembles have the opportunity to travel and perform, and regularly represent the school district at events.
Rehearsals are held once a week, in the evening. Students must also be available to perform with the ensembles.
Advisor Contact: Brett Izsa **(bizsa@mhrd.org)**

TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (TSA)

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is the national organization for technology education students.It consists of high school, intermediate and elementary students who are currently enrolled in or have completed technology education courses.
Purpose – TSA promotes students to "grow through achievement" through co-curricular and extracurricular activities that make a student's education and training more meaningful. TSA provides the opportunity to:
1) experiment and learn new skills one might otherwise never experience;
2) be involved in projects for oneself, one's chapter, one's school and community;
3) meet and work with leaders from industry and commerce who can provide career information;
4) lead others to follow and to make decisions
Advisor Contact:

TEEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (TLC)

T.L.C. is a leadership component of the MHRD Gifted & Talented program. Our purpose is to support healthy behavior and promote the kind of decision-making that results in healthy habits. Teen Leaders discuss important issues facing teens during lively seminars, research and distribute information to peers and students
in the sending districts, and prepare various types of presentations for our school community. Throughout the year, participants develop communication and leadership skills. Applications for T.L.C. can be obtained from Mrs. Gentile in Guidance or Ms. Miller in 227. An interview is required.
Advisor Contact: Nicole Gentile **(ngentile@mhrd.org)** and Jenna Miller **(jmiller@mhrd.org)**

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Application for membership is considered on the basis of five points of distinction: scholarship, character, cooperation, leadership, and service. The academic requirements for membership are: a total number of 10 credits in music coursework, a cumulative grade point average of 85.0 in all subjects, and a cumulative grade point average of 95.0 in music coursework. Character emphasizes a devotion to high ideals and recognizes no barriers between people of diverse backgrounds. Cooperation teaches friendliness and the true spirit of getting along with others.

Leadership guides everyone to greater undertakings. Service encourages assistance and kindness to others. All candidates must exhibit dedication to the art of music through service in their school as performers in band, choir, or orchestra, through distinction as members of musical performance honors groups, or through bringing music into the lives of others through their service as volunteers in musical experiences in their communities. Students are expected to complete at least 20 hours of music-related service each year and are required to be enrolled in a curricular music class during their year of membership.

Advisor Contact: Michelle Uhler **(muhler@mhrd.org)**

WINTER GUARD

Energetic students perform a marching/dance routine to recorded music on a prepared gym floor covering. The students develop dance and coordination skills through the use of colorguard equipment such as the rifle, saber and flag. All students are welcome. Practices are twice a week in the evenings and on Saturdays while performances are at local high school competitions on Saturdays. Winter Guard season is November through April. No experience is necessary. A physical with approval from the nurse's office is required for participation. The cost to participate depends on the creative requirements of the intended season and the fundraising efforts of the students, however, the cost is approximately $200 per participant.
Advisor Contact: Ally Moreno **(amoreno@mhrd.org)**

WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETIES

The World Languages Department sponsors the French, Spanish and German National Honor Societies which are organizations that honor outstanding academic performance in the French, Spanish and German languages. In order to apply for these honor societies, a student must be a Junior or Senior in Level 3H or higher
who has maintained a 90.0 or above average throughout his or her high school study of the language. Students must continue their study of the language and maintain a 90.0 or above average in order to maintain membership. Scholarships and awards are available through the national organizations (AATF, AATS and AATG) which sponsor the honor societies.
Advisor Contact: Eugene Melvin **(emelvin@mhrd.org)**

The World Languages Department also sponsors the ESL Honor Society which honors outstanding academic performance in English as a Second Language. In order to be selected to join the honor society, students must maintain an average of 85.0 or above during two consecutive marking periods in their first or second year of the program. Students must maintain an 85.0 or above in ESL Beginner, ESL Beginner Composition, ESL Intermediate/Advanced, and ESL Composition.
Advisor Contact:

YEARBOOK

Join the *Torch* Yearbook staff and become a member of an award-winning student publication! Students undertake the responsibilities of managing sections of the book, choosing photographs that are appropriate for the sections, and participating actively in the sales promotions, ads campaigns, and yearbook distributions. Students also use the most current computer techniques to produce a camera-ready yearbook. Even though there is a yearbook class that students can take for credit, the yearbook club is still the active force behind producing the yearbook.

All activities involved in the yearbook club focus on the construction of the yearbook. Taking pictures, drawing layouts, cropping photographs, writing and typing copy, selling advertisements and yearbooks are all activities that the club members undertake. The physical goal is to produce a high quality yearbook that arrives in June before graduation. Materials must be prepared on time each year to meet a series of deadlines that spans from September to April. Any pictures for publication *must meet yearbook specifications. See yearbook adviser for those specifications.*
Advisor Contact: Mark Digennaro **(mjdigennaro@mhrd.org)** and Megan Burgin **(mburgin@mhrd.org)**

NOTE TO THE STUDENT

Co-curricular activities are considered a vital and integral component of the Morris Hills Educational Program. You are encouraged to join and become actively involved in one or more of these activities. They can be a means by which you should realize further personal growth and educational enrichment.

This handbook contains a description of the clubs and activities offered at Morris Hills. Hopefully, you will use it as a reference to assist you in selecting those co-curricular areas you wish to join.