

Somerville High School

Extracurricular Activities

ACADEMIC TEAM



The SHS Academic Team offers students in grades 9 through 12 the opportunity to compete against 11 other Somerset County high schools. The matches consist of questions regarding regular high school curriculum; Math, Science, Literature, Social Studies, plus General Knowledge, Sports and Current Events. Teams of 4 students at the J.V. and Varsity levels will confer and then answer 26 questions in head-to-head competition against one other high school. The Academic Team season consists of nine matches beginning on the first Thursday in December and running on consecutive Thursday afternoons through late February. Students should expect to leave SHS at 3:00 p.m. and to return at approximately 5:30 p.m.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people working together to protect the human rights of others. AI works for: the release of prisoners of conscience- men, women, and children imprisoned for their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language, or religion, provided they neither used nor advocated violence; fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners; and an end to torture and execution in all cases. The AI high school program unites the efforts of students, faculty, and staff in high schools across the United States. The SHS chapter of AI meets twice a month and participates in various campaigns to promote student awareness of human rights violations. All eligible students are welcome.

ART CLUB



The Art Club is an opportunity for students who have an interest in the visual arts to gather in a social environment. Students engage in art production activities themselves, but also use their talents in service to the community and the Art Department. This club is open to all students with an interest in the visual arts.

BARBERSHOP/WOMEN'S QUARTET



Two quartets are auditioned in the fall of each year; a men's quartet and a women's quartet. These two groups rehearse independently a great deal. They prepare barbershop and pop style literature for school concerts and community events. Members must be enrolled in one of the three choir classes that meet during the school day: (Concert Choir, Chorale, or A Cappella Choir).

BOOK CLUB



Book club is open to students from grades 9-12 who are interested in reading for fun outside of the classroom. The students pick one to two books to read and once a month we meet to discuss them. The students use reading guide questions and media to discuss the books in a more informal setting than the classroom. We make sure to choose books from a variety of authors, genres, and formats to meet the needs of all the students who attend. At the end of the year, we volunteer at the Somerville and Branchburg Book Fairs hosted at Barnes and Noble.

BY KIDS FOR KIDS



By Kids For Kids is a charitable club created by SHS students and comprised of individuals who wish to improve the lives of children by taking part in fundraising and other activities that will benefit individuals, local, national and international charities. By Kids For Kids members also volunteer their time to participate in community activities such as local fairs, fundraisers and school events when there is a need for organized activities for children in attendance. By Kids For Kids meets with general members once a month and as needed for specific events. Organizations benefiting from the club's past efforts include: The Meghan Bradley Foundation, The Courier-News Wishbook, Agape House, Somerset Medical Center, and Alex's Lemonade Stand. All eligible students are welcome.

CHAMBER CHOIR



The Chamber Choir is an auditioned twenty-voice ensemble that rehearses after school once a week. This group performs at community events and school concerts. The choir also travels and competes. The fall is spent preparing for a busy caroling season. From January through March the students focus on pop/jazz music. April and May rehearsals are for learning challenging Spring Concert literature. Members must be enrolled in one of the three choir classes that meet during the school day.

CINEMATOGRAPHY/ANIME CLUB



The Cinematography Club focuses on a general familiarization and exploration of the many processes involved in producing and exhibiting motion pictures – whether in the form of a short film or epic. Part of the club's activities include learning different techniques of filmmaking, viewing and discussing films (short or motion picture, famous or not-so-famous), a visit to the American Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens, New York, various fundraisers and, as of 2001-2002 school year, working on various activities with BBTB, Branchburg's local television station. Students from all grades are welcome, as we are always looking for fresh ideas.

CLASS OFFICERS

FRESHMEN

The primary goal of the officers of the freshmen class is to participate in school activities and fundraisers. Officers are also charged with the responsibility of organizing class members for participation in various competitive activities throughout the year (Pep Rallies, Hall Decorating, etc.) Officers are elected in September. All freshmen are eligible to run for office.

SOPHOMORES

The primary goal of the officers of the sophomore class is to participate in school activities, hold a fundraiser, and perform a community service project. Class officers must be elected to their position by acquiring the majority of their class votes. All students in good standing are eligible. Meetings are held as needed to coordinate activities.

JUNIORS

The primary goal of the officers of the junior class is to participate in activities and fundraisers. The secondary goal is to help in the organization and planning of the Junior/Senior Prom. Each junior must be elected to his or her position. The winner of each of the four positions must receive a clear majority of votes cast. Officers meet once a month. Officers must assist the advisor to coordinate and distribute the junior fall and winter fundraisers, plan and organize all facets of the Junior/Senior Prom, and participate in Hall Decorating for Homecoming.

SENIORS

The primary goal of the officers of the senior class is to participate in activities and fundraisers. The secondary goal is to help in the organization and planning of the annual Senior Picnic. Each senior officer must be elected to his or her position and must receive a majority of the votes cast. Scheduled meetings include an organizational meeting in September and one in May to finalize plans for the picnic. Other meetings are held in conjunction with activities and fundraisers. The four elected officers must assist the advisor to coordinate and distribute the senior fall and spring fundraisers, plan and organize all facets of the annual Senior Picnic, and participate in Hall Decorating for Homecoming, Powder-Puff Football Game, and Donkey Basketball.

CULTURAL AWARENESS COUNCIL



The purpose of the Cultural Awareness Council is to promote tolerance and respect for our cultural, religious, and ethnic differences. America is becoming an increasingly diverse society. Unfortunately, the acceptance of diversity is often hampered by fears and misunderstanding that lead to divisions between various groups when people feel threatened by those whom they perceive as different. The Cultural Diversity Council seeks to understand the differences that separate us and to appreciate the contributions different members of society have to offer. Membership is open to all eligible students in grades 9-12. The council meets every Wednesday. Attendance at meetings, participation on at least one committee, and involvement in all major projects is required.

DNA CLUB



The DNA club offers students 9-12 the opportunity to perform research in modern molecular biology. While learning about DNA research tools, equipment and methods, the students will isolate and sequence genes. The information gathered during club activities, will be submitted for use in an international database called NCBI. The club meets weekly on Tuesday after school and is open to all Somerville High School enrolled students.

DRAMA CLUB



The Drama Club is open to all students who participate in the annual spring musical. This includes the actors, musicians, technicians, designers, artists, and set constructors. Involvement in the Drama Club may lead to membership in the Thespian Society.

F.R.E.E. (FRIENDS RESCUING our ENDANGERED ENVIRONMENT)



The F.R.E.E. Club promotes awareness in the school and community of pressing global and local environmental concerns. The club tries to improve environmental conditions by raising funds for various organizations and awareness groups. Members can expect to attend two monthly meetings and participate in activities designed to educate the community at large on pressing global issues.

F.I.R.S.T. ROBOTICS TEAM



The goal of the SHS Robotics Team is to allow students an opportunity to interact with professional engineers, scientists, and skilled tradesmen, and to gain insight into the skills and practical applications related to science, technology, and mechanical careers. The students and volunteer professionals design and build a large, complex robot, which is then taken into competitions on regional and national levels against other teams. The hope is that experience will expose the students to the fun and excitement of science and technology. All students are eligible for the team and selection to the team is based on involvement, commitment, and acceptable behavior standards. Meeting dates and times vary depending upon the time of year and mandated deadlines and schedules.

FRENCH CLUB



The purpose of the French Club is to foster an interest in the French language and the culture of France and other Francophone countries, both in school and in the community at large. Students are expected to interact with Spanish Club members in multicultural activities, such as holiday parties, picnics, and fundraisers. All students in good standing at Somerville High School are welcome.

GENESIS CLUB



The Genesis Club is a Bible book club for any student within the school environment who would like to extend their knowledge of the Bible as they would for any historical text. The club is open to any student who has interest in learning about the Bible. The club will aim to incorporate fun activities towards learning to make the teachings more comprehensible and tangible. Community service will also be incorporated into club activities.

GREEN DOT



The Green Dot Club teaches individuals how to be active bystanders, to react and prevent situations that have the potential for violence and proactively build a culture that does not tolerate violence. We work to reduce bullying, dating violence, and sexual violence. As a club, we make an effort to spread the messages and teachings of Green Dot throughout our school and the greater community. All students are welcome!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



The Habitat for Humanity club at Somerville High School gives students the ability to give back to their local community. Students get involved with the Raritan Valley Habitat Youth activities that they help create and run fundraisers for new houses to build. Usually a build site for students under 18 is available once a year to put finishing touches on a house (landscaping/painting etc).

INTERACT CLUB



The Interact Club is a community service and International action club that works with the Rotary Clubs of Branchburg and Somerville/Bridgewater. Our two major fundraisers are movie nights and bake sales. Some of the events we have done include: the Back Pack Program at Somerset County Food Bank, haunted high school, pancake breakfast, school supply drive for Nepal, toys for tots, gift wrapping, Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner, Holiday Happiness, nursing home visits, Relay for life, and Feed the hunger at RVCC.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE



Jazz Ensemble is the premier instrumental performance ensemble at SHS. This group is available to select instrumentation (saxophones, trombones, trumpets, guitar, bass, drums, piano) by audition only. The group meets only one evening per week; a serious commitment to learning a broad repertory of music is required. The Jazz Ensemble performs at concerts, competitions, and community events. If interest warrants, other groups can and have been formed, including a brass ensemble, saxophone quartet, clarinet choir, percussion ensemble, and winter color guard. Interest and availability will determine the viability of these and any other groups.

KEY CLUB



Key Club is a local, district, and international service organization open to all students. It is sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club, which is composed of the leading business and professional people of the community. The objective of the club is the development of initiative, leadership ability, and good citizenship practices.

MAKERSPACE CLUB



The Makerspace Club is a creative community work space where students can build and experiment with technology, arts and craft projects while sharing tools and ideas with other students. The Makerspace encourages teens to pursue hobbies, collaborate on school projects, and it is a place where design-based learning theory, taught in our STEM classes, comes to life. The club allows innovation and students engage in information-based spaces which allows them to explore, construct, and invent new things.

MARCHING BAND/COLOR GUARD



The SHS Marching Band has earned an admirable reputation as a leader in the marching music activity. This incredibly successful group performs at regional competitions, local parades, and at all football games during the fall. The band rehearses two evenings a week with games or competitions every fall weekend. The Marching Band is comprised of three sections: the winds, drumline, and color guard. Drumline and Color Guard auditions occur the spring prior to the fall season; further information on these auditions will be available at that time. It is highly recommended (but not required) that wind players and percussionists are enrolled in the appropriate band class. All members must attend band camp, held at Somerville High School in August. Schedules and further information will be available in late April.

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Mock Trial Competition is a national extracurricular activity sponsored by State Bar Associations whose purpose is to bring law to life for students through active preparation and participation in competitions. Each year, the National Bar Association with Local Bar Associations prepares either a civil or criminal scenario along with necessary documents and evidence to prove or disprove the “so called” guilt or innocence of the accused. From this information, participating school teams prepare both the Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense sides of the case (opening/ closing argument, direct and cross examination questions). The case is tried at a County Court House with real judges presiding as judges in the case.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



The Model United Nations program gives high school students the opportunity to take part in a three-day conference of debating and simulations with students from across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. During these three days, students participate in committees, general assembly sessions, and caucuses where they are able to sharpen debating and public speaking skills, and utilize research skills. Students develop self-confidence as they positively interact with other motivated students. All students may participate; however, in order to hold a leadership role, the student must have one-year prior participation.

THE MUSE LITERARY & ART MAGAZINE



The Muse is a forum for students to publish their creative writings and/or artwork. Students will collaborate to select, edit, and ultimately publish the collective body of student work. The staff will meet weekly. The Muse is printed and distributed once annually in June.

THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



The Somerville High School chapter of the NHS is a service organization that is governed by the rules and regulations of the national organization. Membership is open to juniors and seniors who have fulfilled the criteria required by the national guidelines. Students are selected who show proof of exhibiting the four standard characteristics of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Members are expected to volunteer their time each year for the Peer Tutoring program, as well as a number of service projects which may include Trick or Treating for the food bank, adopting a family for the holidays, hosting the Senior Citizens’ Prom, and mounting a Rent a Date dance for Valentine’s Day with proceeds going to the Make a Wish Foundation. In addition, dues and other monies earned are used to award NHS service scholarships each year.

PEER LEADERSHIP



This program is designed to assist freshmen in adjusting to their new high school environment. They receive support from senior students who undergo intensive training from the Princeton Center for Leadership Training in group dynamics and leadership techniques. Seniors and freshmen are involved in weekly group discussions about social and academic pressures, relationships with peers, parents, and faculty, and problems associated with drugs, alcohol, and personal relationships.

PEER2PEER



Peer2Peer is a student-created club that promotes inclusion through mentoring, social activities, and meaningful connections with all students. Along with attending monthly club meetings, students in Peer2Peer participate as Peer Mentors in the Life Skills classroom, attend after-school activities, take trips to community attractions, and facilitate various service opportunities throughout the school year. Peer2Peer members proudly act as school advocates, standing up for inclusion and participation of ALL peers in the school community.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



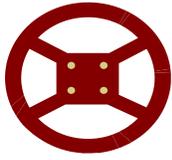
The Photography Club is offered to students who would like to further their interest and technique in picture taking. Having fun while gaining knowledge of composition, format, and camera techniques. Students may also participate in taking photographs at school events for our school's website, bulletin boards, and yearbook.

PIONEER YEARBOOK



The primary goal of the yearbook staff is to chronicle the events, activities, and students throughout the school year. The secondary goal is to expose students to the responsibilities that come with the yearbook, such as deadlines, layouts, photo spreads, and cover design. The yearbook staff is open to any student who wishes to participate in the creation of the book as long as they adhere to academic guidelines placed on co-curricular activities. The Pioneer staff meets approximately five days a week, whether it is prior to the start of the school day, in homeroom, or after school. The purpose of the Pioneer business staff is to market the yearbook. A special slide presentation, signs, and announcements promote the sale of the Pioneer. The second major goal is to sell advertising space in the book to parents and local business merchants. This club is open to all students. This activity requires students to be placed in a special mixed homeroom in order to conduct and plan activities throughout the year. The final activity is to coordinate the distribution of the yearbook to all grades.

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)



SADD is a school-based organization dedicated to addressing the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, drug use, and other destructive decisions and killers of young people. SADD's mission is to provide students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the serious issues young adults are facing today. Empowerment is the foundation of SADD. The idea of empowerment is to build students' confidence and ability to create changes and manage behavior in a way that results in healthy choices. SADD meets monthly.

Membership is open to all Somerville High School students who accept the following goals:

- To end underage drinking, drinking and driving, drug use, and other destructive behavior.
- To refuse to ride with a driver who had been drinking or using drugs.
- To help others do the same.

SKI AND SNOW BOARD CLUB



The purpose of the Ski and Snowboard Club is to provide students the opportunity to ski and/or snow board at local mountain resorts. Students will be provided with transportation to and from mountains along with a prepaid lift tickets. Five trips will be scheduled between January and February. Students will be required to attend meetings, return all necessary forms, and pay a fee for transportation and ski lift tickets.

SPANISH CLUB



Any student of Somerville High School who is in good standing is eligible to become a member of the Spanish Club. The purpose of the club is to foster an interest in Hispanic culture, language, and people, both in school and in the community at large. Students are expected to participate in community service activities, such as senior citizens' fiestas and Spanish holiday card writing to hospital patients. In addition, they are expected to interact with French Club members in multicultural activities, such as holiday parties, picnics, and fundraisers.

SPECTRUM ALLIANCE



Spectrum Alliance is dedicated to creating awareness and a safe space for all gender identities and sexual orientations. Our club meets twice per month. All are welcome!

STUDENT COUNCIL



The aim of the Student Council is to act as the effective contact between the administration, faculty, and students. The Council strives to foster the best interests of the school, to promote the general welfare of the students, to benefit the community and country, and to better international relations and understanding. Juniors, in good standing, who have served on the Council for one year, are eligible to run for the office of President. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors, in good standing, who have served on the Council for one year, are eligible to seek the office of Vice President. Other executive offices are open to students in good standing who have served one year on the Council. Members of the Council meet every two weeks, during school hours.

THEATRE ARTS



The Theatre Arts group is composed of those students who work on the sets for the spring musical. They construct the props and the scenery.

THESPIAN SOCIETY – TROUPE 659



Thespians Society is an international high school dramatics fraternity. Students who participate in the spring play may earn membership to this organization. Troupe members compete in state theatrical competitions.

VALKYRIE



The Valkyrie is the student-operated newspaper of Somerville High School. Its goal is to provide information for the student body. All students are eligible to participate on the newspaper staff. The paper offers editorial positions, staff writing, and photography positions, as well as positions in business and layout design. Staff meetings are held on an as needed basis based on publication and distribution deadlines. Editor meetings for assignments and layouts are also held.