

Gateway High School Clubs & Activities Handbook 2022-2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Band
 - Marching Band
 - Colorguard
 - Winterguard
 - Winter Percussion
 - Drama Club
 - Stage Crew
 - Musical
 - Jazz Band

- Black Student Union
- Chick Fil A Leader Academy
- Chess Club

- Choir
 - Amulets
 - Talisman

- Class Councils
 - Senior Class Council (2023)
 - Junior Class Council (2024)

- Gator Strings
- Interact
- Math Club
- Mock Trial
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Prom Committee
- Robotics
- Science Club
- Student Government Association (SGA)
- Yearbook Committee

TO ALL STUDENTS OF GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL:

This handbook was developed to provide you with important information about the various co-curricular and extracurricular clubs and organizations available for you to join at Gateway High School.

There are a wide variety of clubs and organizations at Gateway High School. We feel confident that you will find an activity that you will enjoy during your time at the high school. Your participation in extracurricular activities should help to make this school year an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Justin G. Stephans
Principal

Ms. Sarah Kielar and Mr. Joseph Rosi
Assistant Principals

BAND OPPORTUNITIES

The foundation of the music education experience at Gateway High School is established in the seated ensemble courses. These ensembles rehearse all year during the school day. It is in this setting that music principles and fundamentals are taught, practiced, and developed. It is for this reason that participation in all other aspects of the band program is contingent upon the curricular study of music in one of these ensembles.

As band students at Gateway High School, students enroll in one of the band courses listed below. Each course is designed to cater to the individual needs of the students and is, therefore, based on ability.

- ❖ Wind Ensemble
- ❖ Symphonic Band
- ❖ Percussion Ensemble

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Percussion Ensemble

Membership in one of the concert ensembles is dependent upon an audition in the spring. Placement will be determined by the student's individual musical ability and overall performance history. These ensembles perform in at least two concerts each year and occasionally participate in the PMEA Adjudication Festivals. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the PMEA District and Honors events, Solo and Ensemble contests, and private study. Ensemble placement auditions occur in the spring of the year. These auditions place students, including incoming freshmen, in an ensemble for the fall semester. Students are placed in the appropriate band according to their educational needs. The Director will audition all students.

Marching Band

The Gateway Marching Band, which incorporates the Color Guard, is the largest performing group as it combines all band members from the Band Program. The band performs at all home and away football games, various contests and occasional guest appearances.

This ensemble is the most visible performing group in the high school. The Marching Band is an extracurricular activity open to any student in grades 9-12. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band program, only students currently enrolled in a band class are eligible to participate **with the exception of the Color Guard**. Since the Marching Band enters competitive events, all students must meet the required Gateway High School grade point average in order to participate. The details of these requirements are outlined in the Student Handbook.

Color Guard (as part of the Marching Band)

The term "color guard" has been handed down from the era of military bands, originally referring to those who presented and "guarded" the American and military flags – the "colors". Today, the term refers to the Marching Band members who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work with dancing and marching.

Auditions for the Color Guard are held in the late spring and membership is open to all students in grades 9-12. Audition requirements include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals. The color guard is open to all students; students need not be enrolled in a band class to participate. Since it falls under the auspices of the band program, students participating in the Color Guard are

expected to participate in all band activities, to help in fundraisers, and to follow all applicable rules and regulations contained in this handbook.

Winter Color Guard

The Winter Color Guard is an extension of the Color Guard program involved with the Marching Band. All members of the Winter Guard must have participated in the Color Guard of the Marching Band. Auditions are held in early November of each year, and the Winter Guard performs throughout the months of January, February, and March. Past performances have included participation in WGI Regionals in Chesterton, Indiana and Dayton, Ohio, as well as participation in the World Championships in Dayton.

Winter Percussion

The Winter Percussion Ensemble is an extension of the Percussion section of the Marching Band. Other members of the band are permitted to audition for the Winter Percussion. Membership in the Winter Percussion is restricted to only those musicians who participate in the Marching Band. Auditions are held in early November of each year, and the Winter Percussion Ensemble performs throughout the months of January, February, and March. Past performances have included participation in the WGI Regional contests in Dayton, Ohio and Coatesville, PA.

The purposes of the co-curricular choral organizations are to explore supplementary repertory, to expand and extend classroom instruction, and to offer additional performance experiences.

Jazz Band

Membership in the Band Program is required for anyone interested in auditioning for the Jazz Band, with possible exceptions of piano, bass, and guitar. Instrumentation includes alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass, drums, and auxiliary percussion. At this time it requires students to attend after-school rehearsals.

DRAMA CLUB

The Gateway High School Drama club are the members and performers that put on the fall/winter play and spring musical. Members of the drama club meet only during rehearsal season for their productions. Production schedules vary depending on the year and the specific production being performed. Some students may need to audition for roles in the play and/or musical.

STAGE CREW

Membership is open to all students in Grades 9 through 12. The major activities of the Stage Crew are to provide technical assistance to school personnel when the theater is being used, to attend training sessions when scheduled, in order to learn the various elements of the lighting and sound system in the theater through producing the best technical performance possible. Training sessions are held after school.

Members of the Stage Crew will need to be available from time to time in the evenings and on weekends. For activities that are not school related, stage crew members will be paid for their work.

MUSICAL

All GHS students are eligible to audition for the spring musical. Roles are available for singers, dancers, and actors but all students are required to do a full audition including singing, dancing, and some acting. Musical productions vary each year and range from classic musicals to new children's shows and Disney favorites. Auditions for the spring musical usually take place between November and January. Students interested in auditioning for a role in the spring musical should contact Mr. Hoeltje.

BLACK STUDENT UNION

The Black Student Union (BSU) at Gateway was organized for the purpose of focusing on the richness of our school's ethnic diversity. It gives students of diverse backgrounds a voice on campus, offering open dialogue and interaction within our school community. The BSU advocates for the needs of all of our students and in particular, is geared to recognizing, empowering, and teaching about the African American experience. Club activities include, but are not limited to guest lectures, group discussions, social gatherings and Black History Month Celebrations.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club is back after a one year hiatus. Chess Club is open to all students no matter their abilities. Students that do not know how to play are welcomed and quickly taught the nuances of chess. The Chess Club is intramural however many years we have competed in the Pittsburgh Chess league against other High Schools.

CHICK-FIL-A LEADER ACADEMY

Make Impact Through Action In Your Local Community!-

Get engaged in serving your community alongside other students at your school through Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. Develop your leadership skills while also enjoying these membership perks:

- Make new friends
- Learn how to fundraise
- Lead service projects
- Gain volunteer/service hours

Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is an application/acceptance only club/activity. Students must apply and be accepted in order to participate. Attendance is a must or students will be dismissed from CFLA.

Applications are only accepted in September for Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. CFALA meets once a month during pd 6. Students must be able to miss this class once a month to participate in CFALA.

CFALA applications are open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. Students who have previously participated in CFALA are not eligible to apply.

CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

Amulets

Prerequisite: Audition - Sophomore, junior, and senior female students, who are enrolled in chorus for the following year for credit, are eligible to audition. Students are selected by the instructor based on Tone, Intonation, Musicality, Projection, Sight Reading and Stage Presence.

Amulets rehearse before or after school and perform traditional and contemporary popular compositions. Costume attire is the student's responsibility. Performance at all Choral Concerts is an obligation.

Talisman

Prerequisite: Audition - Sophomore, junior, and senior male students, who are enrolled in chorus for the following year for credit, are eligible to audition. Students are selected by the instructor based on Tone, Intonation, Musicality, Projection, Sight Reading, Stage Presence.

Talisman rehearses after school and performs traditional and contemporary popular compositions. Costume attire is the student's responsibility. Performance at all Choral Concerts is an obligation.

CLASS COUNCILS

Junior Class Council

Membership in the Junior Class Council is open to eleventh grade students having a 2.5 cumulative GPA (officers 3.0), teacher recommendations, student petitions, and an interest in the planning of activities for the class. Students must apply for membership in the Spring of their sophomore year. Activities include the Homecoming Bonfire, Prom Fashion Show, and Junior Class Sweat-Pants. One of the major class council functions is to encourage class and school pride.

Class Officers for 2021-2022 school year will be held in the fall.

Senior Class Council

Membership in the Senior Class Council is open to twelfth grade students who have a sincere interest in benefiting the class and a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. An officer of class council must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and be involved in only one other major activity. Students apply for membership in the spring of their junior year. Members are required to serve on several committees during the year and participate in all activities. Senior Class Council prides itself on organizing activities to build positive school spirit and a sense of community service. By sponsoring numerous blood drives through the Central Blood Bank, Senior Class Council has earned scholarship money for seniors yearly. Although activities vary from year to year, some activities planned for the 2021-2022 year are the Homecoming Bonfire, Blood Drives, and the Senior Dinner Dance.

Class council provides opportunities for its members to do the following:

- To be positive, creative, and productive leaders

- To build school spirit and a cohesive atmosphere in the senior class that may last long after graduation
- To become productive members of the community by encouraging pride in our school and community by participating in Gateway High School activities.

Class Officers for 2021-2022 school year will be held in the fall:

Required Grade Point Average Chart

Grade	11th	12th
Class Council Member	2.5	2.5
Class Officer	3.0	3.0

Elections will be held in the fall based upon the *previous* semester(s) cumulative grade point average.

Example: to qualify to run for senior class officer, a student must have a 3.0 cumulative average. based upon five (5) semesters. A 3.0 for the junior year only would disqualify the student.

GATOR STRINGS

Gateway High School has an after school ensemble which is an extension of orchestra. The structure of this club has changed throughout the years, but mainly has been used as another performance outlet for our orchestra students. This group will also be involved in community service.

INTERACT CLUB

The Gateway Interact Club is a community-service based club sponsored by the Monroeville Rotary that serves the local communities of Monroeville and Pitcairn, and also contributes to several national and international organizations.

Each year the membership of Interact has been growing. All students in Grades 9 – 12 are welcome. The club serves as the Pitcairn Food Pantry, typically twice a month, sponsors an annual Coffee-For-A-Change event to help South American farmers, a JAMNESTY Concert to benefit Amnesty International, and an annual walk for Autism Speaks each June to raise money for autism research. These are just a few events that the Interact Club sponsors. If you are interested, come to a meeting and get involved. Remember, be there or be square!

MATH CLUB

Membership is open to all students taking mathematics. Practice sessions and problem review sessions will be held prior to the following events:

1. Pennsylvania Math League
2. American Mathematics Contest

All students will participate in at least one of the above named events. Other events may include:

1. Calcu-Solve Math Bowl
2. Equations Tournaments
3. Indiana University of PA Math Competition

These events require that students qualify by standards arranged.

All members participating in the above leagues and/or events may be asked to provide tutoring to students who are experiencing difficulty in mathematics. Tutoring sessions will not be scheduled for more than one period per week per student. Every attempt will be made to arrange tutoring during study halls.

MOCK TRIAL

The Mock Trial Team offers the opportunity for students to become familiar with the subtle intricacies of civil trial and litigation procedures. Students are given a set of case materials with evidence, affidavits, case descriptions and civil legal procedures with which they may use to prepare for formal competition against regional teams across Allegheny County. Students take with them a thorough understanding of litigation procedure and forensic psychology, with which they may find value in any public speaking forum. Students are expected to participate in semi-daily practice sessions with other team members. Lawyer advisors will periodically be present to help coach the students through the competition.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

\National Honor Society recognizes student achievement in scholarship, community service, leadership, and character.

Beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year, the requirements for acceptance into the Gateway High School Chapter of the National Honor Society will be as follows:

- Achieving a 3.75 or higher cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the first semester of their junior/senior year
- Conducting a minimum of 20 hours of community service
- Evidence of leadership activities in a club, organization, team, or class
- Achieving a Proficient or Advanced level on all Keystone Exams
- No significant disciplinary issues

A prospective member must display proper character traits such as integrity, positive attitude, cooperation, and ethical behavior. Activities of National Honor Society include peer tutoring, and participation in school and community service projects, as initiators or in conjunction with other student organizations. National Honor Society affords recognition to scholastic excellence. It is a national organization of high esteem and places members in a select group of students nationwide.

PROM COMMITTEE

The Prom Committee is completely responsible for the planning that goes into the prom. The committee must select a fundraiser to assist participants in reducing their prom ticket sales price. Subcommittees will oversee all the details of prom including the theme, name, DJ, venue, catering, and decorations, and much much more.

ROBOTICS TEAM

The main goal of the Gateway Robotics Team is competition in the annual FIRST competitive robotics event. The team also strives to interact within one professional mentor, and with other area teams, to gain practical skills and hands-on experience in the field of modern robotics.

Activities planned for the school year include team meetings, community service projects, and workshops covering robot programming and build. We will also attend Kickoff events for the FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition. Each team will also compete in a regional event. Last season our FTC team competed against 18 other teams from the area and neighboring states. FRC competed against 44 other teams from eight states and Canada.

For more information contact Sean McMahon (smcmahon@gatewayk12.org). Team meetings and building sessions are held after school. We also hold optional workshop events on certain Saturdays. New team officers will be voted into office by the end of September, 2021.

SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club is a broad-spectrum organization, which welcomes all students in the high school. One of the primary objectives of the organization is to enhance scientific understanding and foster an appreciation of science. Science is not a subject; it is a much diversified collection of knowledge, understanding, and inquiry, which is becoming a necessity as we approach the 21st century.

Science Club is the instrument for students to explore their diverse interests. In addition to scientific endeavors, Science Club provides many opportunities for social interaction. In addition to general meetings, students may assemble after school to investigate and develop interests in the many fields of science, as well as prepare for competitions such as The Science Olympiad and Science Bowl.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

The purpose of the S.G.A. is to serve as a communication link between the students, faculty, administration and Board of Education in order to:

- Increase student participation in the educational process
- Act as a forum for student opinion, interest, and recommendations
- Increase student involvement in school operations
- Teach and practice principles of leadership
- Honor active participants in the school community
- Represent students on the Gateway Board of Education

Students in Grades 9 through 12 are eligible for membership in the S.G.A by obtaining a petition in the library. They file their petitions and act as members who represent the student body. Officers of the S.G.A. are then selected by elected members of the organization and by representatives of all other school organizations. Elections are held in the spring.

Some of the major activities of the S.G.A. are:

- Sponsoring the Homecoming Activities, Mardi Gras Dance, Mini-Thon, Charity Fundraisers, Student Forums, Leadership Workshops, Student Representatives - Gateway Board of Education Committees, as well as participation in District, State, and National Student Government Activities.

Throughout the year, members have an opportunity to learn, develop, and use their leadership skills while becoming involved in the various school projects.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The yearbook committee is open to students grades 9th - 12th. This is a student-led publication. Students create the book for their classmates. This club requires a great deal of responsibility, independence, a proactive attitude and sense of creative freedom. The committee must work together as a team to produce a yearbook that will exemplify the school year in its best form.

As a staff member, you will be expected to:

- Work as a team to complete all sections of the yearbook.
- Write articles/captions and take photos for the yearbook; meet with advisors, administrators, students, and/or coaches to get background information or interviews.
- Work with community leaders and parents.
- Meet deadlines and be responsible for completing your pages, taking photographs, editing, etc.
- Come to meetings on time and be prepared to work.
- Understand that part of your responsibilities will be to attend extracurricular activities as a representative of the yearbook on a regular basis.
- Expect to utilize your creativity and style. This is a publication club with the objective of serving the school community.

Meetings are every Monday at 2:30 pm in Room 2222.