

WEST ALLEGHENY HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

2024-2025



BENEFITS OF CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES AT WEST ALLEGHENY HIGH SCHOOL

- After school clubs and activities at West Allegheny High School are meant to help students build connections with other students and staff who share similar interests. These clubs and activities allow students to gain leadership experience, build confidence, and begin shaping a resume that can be used for their future plans.
- While many clubs and activities start meetings at the beginning of the year, most welcome new members at any time throughout the year so students are encouraged to explore and communicate with club leaders and advisors about how to join.
- Most after school clubs and activities do not require an overwhelming time commitment. Please consider joining one of the clubs or activities offered. For more information, watch for posted fliers, listen for announcements about club meetings, or email the club advisor(s) listed.

REASONS TO GET INVOLVED



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOURSELF

LEARN WHAT YOU LIKE AND HOW
YOU INTERACT IN DIVERSE GROUPS



LEARN HOW TO WORK WITH A TEAM

BUILD CONNECTIONS BY PUTTING
YOURSELF IN SITUATIONS WHERE YOU
CAN HEAR OTHERS' PERSPECTIVES
AND SHARE YOUR OWN



DEVELOP SOFT SKILLS

“SOFT” SKILLS SUCH COMMUNICATION,
PROBLEM SOLVING, DEPENDABILITY,
FLEXIBILITY, ETC. ARE HIGHLY VALUED

MORE REASONS TO GET INVOLVED



GET A BREAK FROM ACADEMICS

GIVING YOUR MIND A BREAK IS NECESSARY AND BENEFICIAL AS ARE CONNECTIONS WITH YOUR PEERS

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

GIVING BACK CAN BE THE MOST REWARDING PART OF GETTING INVOLVED

EXPAND YOUR RESUME

PARTICIPATING IN (OR BETTER YET LEADING) A CLUB OR ACTIVITY SHOWS THAT YOU'RE HARDWORKING AND CAN HANDLE MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

There are 17 clubs and activities offered to the students of West Allegheny High School in the 2024-2025 school year.

To go directly to the slide for a specific activity click on the name of the activity in the box to the right.

To return to this page from the main activity slide click on the name of the activity in the slide header.

CLICK ON THE NAME OF A CLUB OR ACTIVITY LISTED TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE INFORMATION SLIDE FOR THAT ORGANIZATION

[ART CLUB](#)

[SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB](#)

[BOOK CLUB](#)

[SPEECH AND DEBATE](#)

[CHESS CLUB](#)

[SPRING MUSICAL THEATRE PRODCUTION](#)

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[GARDEN CLUB](#)

[SIA \(STUDENTS IN ACTION\)](#)

[GSA](#)

[VARSITY iLEAD](#)

[MINI-THON](#)

[WORKOUT AND EXERCISE CLUB](#)
(formerly the Pgh Marathon Club)

[MODEL UNITED NATIONS/](#)
[MODEL AFRICAN UNION/](#)
[MODEL EUROPEAN UNION](#)

ART CLUB



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- DESCRIPTION: Open to any student interested in art. Main activity is preparation for the student art show at the end of April with the opportunity for other artistic endeavors throughout the year.
- ADVISORS: Mr. Mike Short, mshort@westasd.org
Ms. Leah Shuck, lshuck@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Rooms CL-3 and CL-4
- MEETS: Once a month at the beginning of the year - more frequently January-April to prep for the Art Show

Find the West Allegheny Art Club on
Social Media:

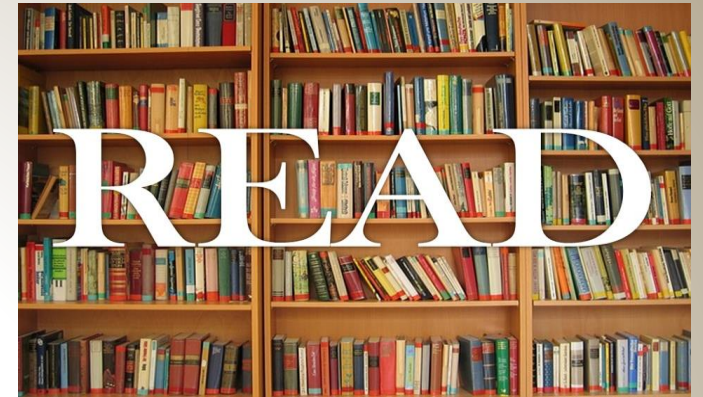
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/westAartclub>

Instagram [@westa_artclub](https://www.instagram.com/westa_artclub)



BOOK CLUB



- **ACTIVITIES:** Open to all students, the goals of the Book Club are to promote a positive reading culture at the high school, give students an opportunity to connect across grade levels with other students interested in reading, and provide students with time/access to explore their reading interests.
- **ADVISOR:** Mrs. Jenn Jones, jjones@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Media Center
- **MEETS:** After school – specific date(s) to be determined based on student availability

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CHESS CLUB



- ACTIVITIES: Students interested in playing Chess will play games to practice and improve their skills.
- ADVISOR: Mrs. Jenn Jones, jjones@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Media Center
- MEETS: To be determined based on student interest

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FALL PRODUCTION



- **ACTIVITIES:** Students may audition to participate as a member of the cast of a play or small-scale musical to be performed in the fall. An information meeting is held shortly after the beginning of each school year. The Fall 2024 production will be the musical, “Little Shop of Horrors.” Performances will be November 7, 9, and 10. If you did not have a chance to audition this year, please try next year!
- **ADVISOR:** Mr. Matt McBurney, Producer, mmcburney@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Auditorium
- **MEETS:** Auditions held in September with the play performed in late October or early November.



Students performing scenes from the 2020 Fall Play, *Reunited Shorts* - “an evening of theatre comprised of six eclectic, award-winning short plays about reunions.”

The 2024 Fall Musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, will be performed on Thursday, November 7 🎭 Saturday, November 9 🎭 Sunday, November 10.

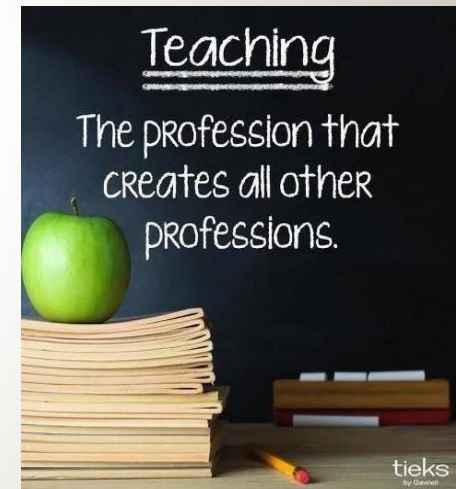


FUTURE EDUCATORS



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- ACTIVITIES: Students interested in becoming teachers or working with children will participate in fun activities related to becoming educators.
- ADVISOR: Ms. Courtney Hayes, chayes@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Room B-121
- MEETS: To be determined based on student interest.



FUTURE EDUCATORS RECOGNIZES SOME OF WEST ALLEGHENY'S BEST TEACHERS



GARDEN CLUB



- ACTIVITIES: For any student who is interested in...
 - ✿ Learning to grow a variety of plants
 - ✿ Beautifying our campus and community
 - ✿ Supporting our community gardens
 - ✿ A hobby that reduces stress and allows one to get to back to nature

This club centers around our greenhouse, which is located in the outdoor classroom.

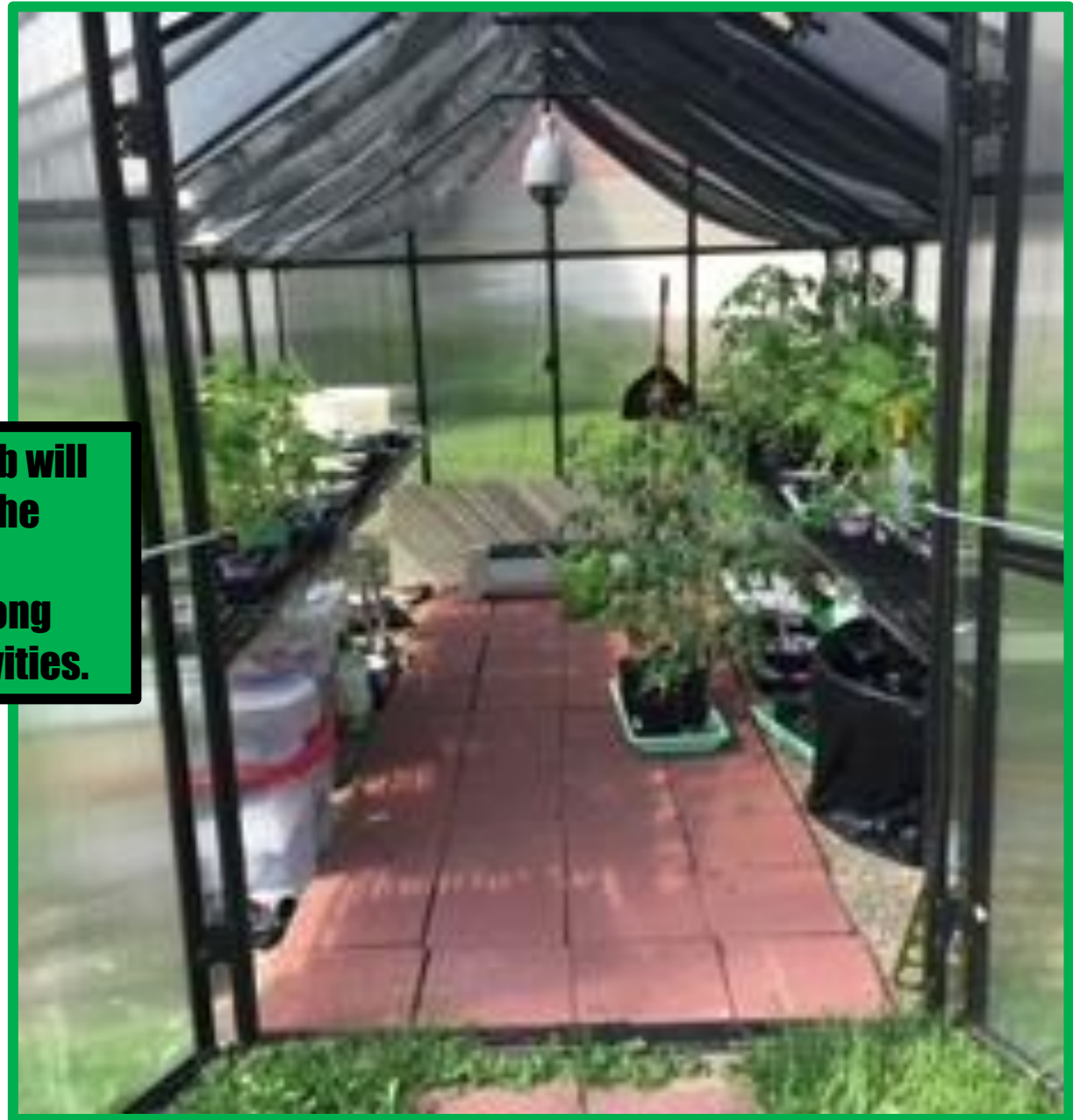
- ADVISOR: Mrs. Amy Schweinsberg, aschweinsberg@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Room B-204
- MEETS: After school – specific date(s) to be determined based on student availability

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The Garden Club will help maintain the high school's greenhouse along with other activities.



GSA



- **ACTIVITIES:** A student lead group that provides a safe meeting place for LGBTQIA+ and allied youth to support each other, socialize, build a community and organize around issues impacting them in their school and community.
- **ADVISORS:** Ms. Leah Shuck, lshuck@westasd.org
Mrs. Sophia Mooney, smooney@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Room CL-3
- **MEETS:** Approximately once a month after school



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GSA SUPPORTS MANY FORMS OF EXPRESSION

Are you an LGBTQIA+ youth or want to know how to support someone who is?

Click the link below for LGBTQIA+ Youth Resources in Allegheny County:

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/LGBTQ/LGBTQ-Youth.aspx>



MINI-THON



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- **ACTIVITIES:** Mini-THON is a program that involves K-12 students in Pennsylvania and other states working together to raise money for Four Diamonds, a charity that supports families of children with cancer. The program is based on Penn State University's annual 46-hour dance marathon, THON. If you are interested in being a part of WA Mini-THON, please fill out the application located on your class of canvas page. Feel free to reach out to Mrs. Pegher, Ms. Duch, or Mr. Puglia with any questions!
- **ADVISORS:** Mrs. Amanda Pegher, apegher@westasd.org
Ms. Rebecca Duch, rduch@westasd.org
Mr. Alan Puglia, apuglia@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Media Center
- **MEETS:** Approximately twice a month after school to plan. WA Mini-Thon will be held March 28.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

MODEL AFRICAN UNION

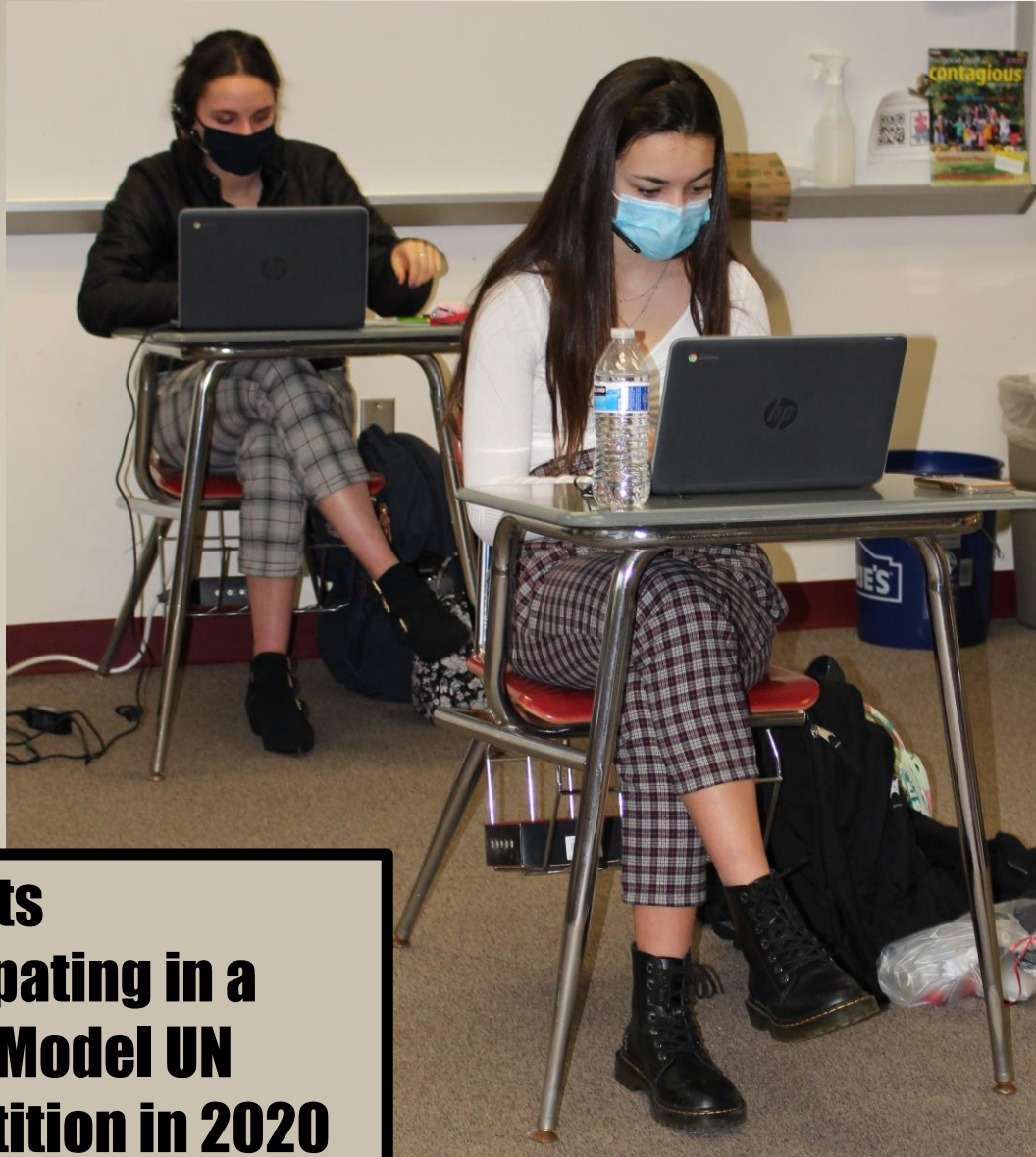
MODEL EUROPEAN UNION



- **ACTIVITIES:** Work in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Chapter of World Affairs as well as local universities to foster an understanding of a Model United Nations, Model African Union, Model European Union, and international relations.
- **ADVISORS:** Mr. Chris Bielecki, cbielecki@westasd.org
Mr. Scott Meehan, smeehan@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** To be determined based on number of students participating.
- **MEETS:** To be determined based on student interest. Competitions scheduled 2-3 times per year.



SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP



**Students
participating in a
virtual Model UN
competition in 2020**

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations where students play the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country.

Model European Union allows students to simulate the roles of presidents and prime ministers, and engage in intense negotiations over conflicting issues about the EU.

During a Model African Union conference, you have the opportunity to represent one of the 54 member states of the African Union, while engaging into interesting debates on various social, political and economic aspects of policy making in Africa.

SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB



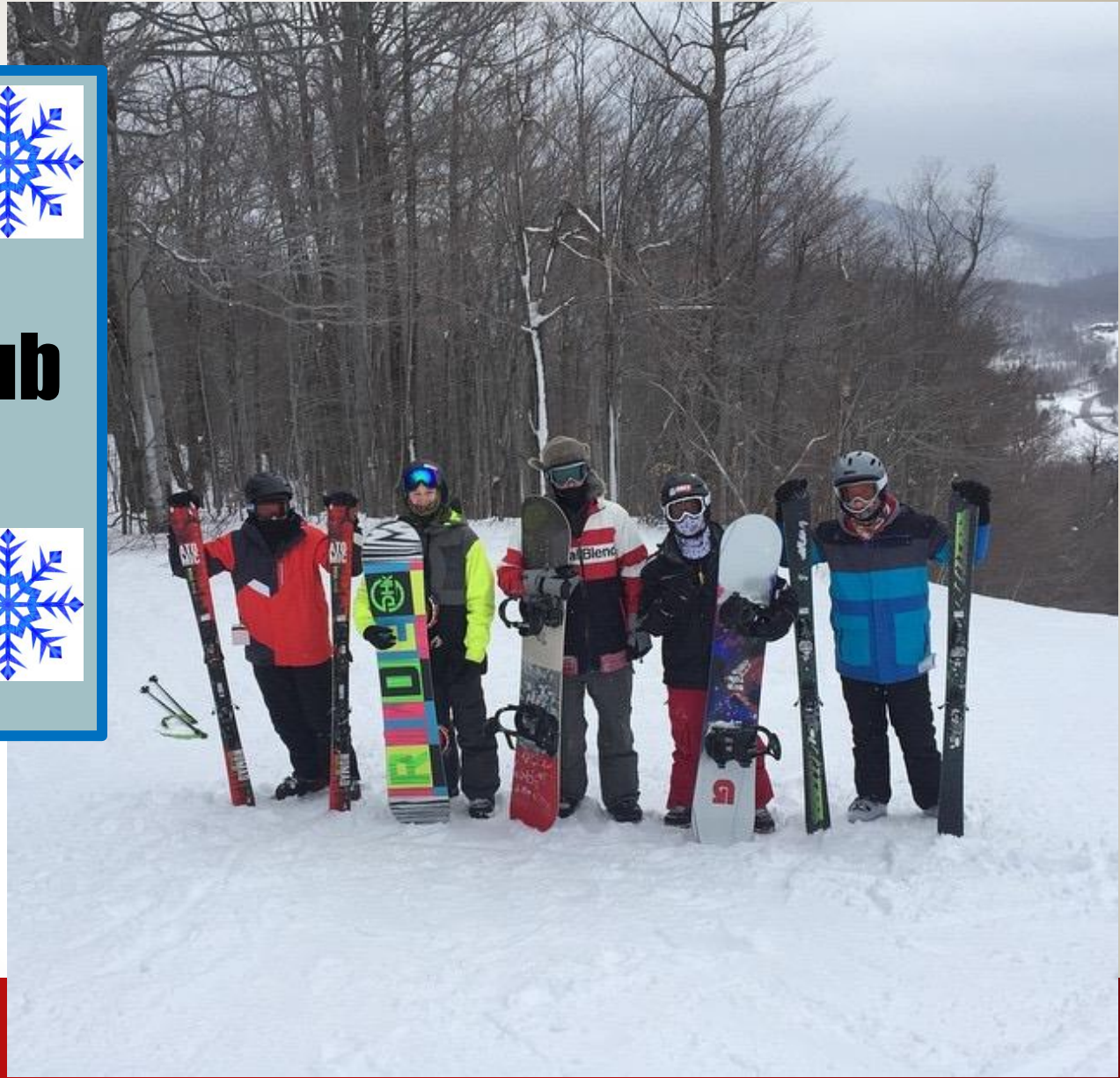
- ACTIVITIES: Ski and snowboard trips to various local resorts including Seven Springs, Hidden Valley, etc. Club members will have the opportunity to participate in a bigger trip (Park City, Utah – pending approval) this winter.
- ADVISORS: Mr. Mike Short, mshort@westasd.org
Mr. Scott Meehan, smeehan@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Auditorium, buses meet in front of the school.
- MEETS: After school on Fridays and during the day on some weekends.



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**Members of the
Ski and Snowboard Club
ready to take on the
mountain**



SPEECH AND DEBATE



- **ACTIVITIES:** Students interested in drama, prose, poetry, oratory, government and/or debate are welcome to join the team. Team members compete in tournaments sponsored by the Pittsburgh District of the National Speech & Debate Association and PA HS Speech League.
- **ADVISORS:** Mr. TJ Fox, tfox@westasd.org
Mr. James Hamilton, jhamilton@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** To be determined
- **MEETS:** Team members will meet once or twice a week after school to prepare for events. Tournaments are mostly held on Saturdays starting in late October or early November.

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PAST SPEECH AND DEBATE AWARD RECIPIENTS



SPRING MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

- **ACTIVITIES:** Students may participate as a member of the cast, tech crew or pit orchestra. Cast members are assigned roles from singing and movement auditions. Lead roles are selected by additional singing and acting “callback” auditions. Tech Crew is actively involved with set building and painting, lighting, sound, rigging and on-stage logistics. Pit orchestra is selected by auditions on the music from the musical to be performed. Listen for announcements about the information meeting.
- **ADVISOR:** Mr. Matt McBurney, Producer, mmcburney@westasd.org
Mr. Tom Snyder, Assistant Producer, tsnyder@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Auditorium
- **MEETS:** Auditions will be held in early January. Set building will begin in early February. The shows of the 2024 WA Musical are currently scheduled to be held in March.



SCENES FROM THE 2021 SPRING MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION



Seussical THE MUSICAL



STAGE CREW



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- **ACTIVITIES:** All interested students in grades 9-12 are welcome to be a member of the WA Stage Crew as much as he or she is interested and available throughout the year. Stage Crew members learn how to provide 'production support' for events of all kinds held in the auditorium----concerts, ceremonies, guest speakers, drama productions, musicals, dance class showcases, and for outside groups renting the facility. To provide that support, students will have opportunities to receive training in stage lighting, sound reinforcement, video, stage rigging and other behind the scenes needs for each event. Students can also choose be part of the tech crew for the play and/or musical.
- **ADVISOR:** Ms. Anna Goss, Stage Manager, agoss@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Auditorium
- **MEETS:** Once per month after school in person. Meetings, training and events as scheduled throughout the year.

Stage Crew is an important part of school productions



STAND TOGETHER

- **ACTIVITIES:** Stand Together is a school based, peer-to-peer, behavioral health, anti-stigma program. Students must submit an application in early September to be considered for membership. Students chosen to be a part of the Stand Together program are required to participate in a yearly two-day training to learn how to effectively promote the message of the program. Members then brainstorm ideas and develop activities to educate the general student population about mental health and substance abuse. If you did not have a chance to apply this year, please try next year!
- **ADVISORS:** Ms. Erica Cicero, ecicero@westasd.org
Mrs. Rachel Ermine, ermine@wesatasd.org
Mrs. Sara Ferko, sferko@westasd.org
Mrs. Meredith Gillo, mgillo@westasd.org
Mrs. Amanda Pegher, apegher@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** To be determined based on each year's projects
- **MEETS:** Approximately twice per month after school

#standtogether

Past events for Stand Together: Members visited Donaldson Elementary to mentor 5th grade students and educate them about mental health and wellness. Members also partnered with GSA and other students for the Positive Paint Project and presented to other local chapters about their yearly projects.



SIA STUDENTS IN ACTION



- ACTIVITIES: This group works on various service projects throughout the year to benefit both the entire district and the community of West Allegheny. Students are selected at the beginning of the school year through an application and interview process. If you did not have a chance to apply this year, please try next year!
- ADVISORS: Mrs. Kateri Meinert, kmeinert@westasd.org
Mrs. Amy Krek, akrek@westasd.org
- LOCATION: Room C-124
- MEETS: Various times throughout the school day, after school and on weekends.

STUDENTS IN ACTION HELPS IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Past SIA projects have included:

- A district wide recycling program which helped to increase school wide recycling by up to 50%



- A blood drive which assisted in saving the lives of 108 individuals
- West A & Co., a space where students in need are able to access clothing and hygiene products

VARSITY iLEAD

- **ACTIVITIES:** Students will have opportunities to design and implement programs that promote leadership experiences for themselves and their peers. These experiences may include connecting students with mentors and adult leaders, practical teaching and training based on leadership principles and values, providing hands-on leadership opportunities at the high school and at West Allegheny Middle School (WAMS), creating a collaborative environment in which high school students are encouraged to design and implement the experiences for peers, and promoting safety and a culture of positivity.
- **ADVISOR:** Mr. Tim Gaab, timgaab@gmail.com
- **LOCATION:** Auditorium
- **MEETS:** To be determined
- **SIGN UP INFORMATION COMING SOON**



Varsity iLead allows students to collaborate in leadership roles



WORKOUT AND EXERCISE CLUB

FORMERLY THE PGH MARATHON CLUB

- **ACTIVITIES:** Students will have opportunities to work out and engage in activities such as walking, jogging, weightlifting, using cardio machines, and participating in fun games and competitions.
- **ADVISOR:** Mr. Jim D'Amico, jdamico@westasd.org
- **LOCATION:** Fitness Center
- **MEETS:** Twice per month – most likely the first and third Monday based on student availability



SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

