

ANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL



Student Club Guide 2024-2025

Introducing Ancaster High School & Its Pride

At Ancaster High School, we're all about providing you with exciting and meaningful learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom. We cater to the diverse needs, interests, and abilities of all our students, making Ancaster a fantastic place to learn and grow.



a great time!

This guide is here to introduce you to the various clubs we offer at Ancaster. We've grouped them into four main categories: academic, altruism & social awareness, the arts, and athletics. Take a look through this guide to find clubs that spark your interest and sign up to become an active part of our school community. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, make new friends, and have

Our clubs are created and run based on what you, the students, are interested in. If you and your friends have an idea for a new club or activity, just talk to a staff member. We're excited to support your learning journey at Ancaster High and can't wait to see your talents shine in the classroom, on stage, on the field, and in the community!



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Academic Clubs


Debate Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. L. Provost	
Who we are / What we do	Join the Debate Club and sharpen your skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork. Engage in exciting debates where you'll argue for or against various topics, competing in fun tournaments with students from other schools. Whether you're looking to boost your confidence, improve your argumentation, or prepare for future career challenges, Debate Club offers the perfect platform to develop essential life skills in a supportive and competitive environment.	
Meeting Frequency	Fridays at Lunch in room 1017 Contact: lprovost@hwdsb.on.ca	


DECA

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. M. Toor	
Who we are / What we do	DECA is Canada's largest youth business organization where students compete both provincially and internationally in various marketing/general business competitions. DECA is application based and the process happens in May each year of the school year.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at Lunch (September to February) in room 1109W Contact: mtoor@hwdsb.on.ca	


Homework Club/Literacy OSSLT

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. H. Harris	
Who we are / What we do	The Homework Club provides academic support and study strategies, including time management. Students receive instruction on literacy/numeracy and test taking strategies. The club also addresses support for the Literacy Test (OSSLT Prep) prior to the test dates.	
Meeting Frequency	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at lunch in Room 2036 Contact: hharris@hwdsb.on.ca	


HOSA – Future Health Professionals

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. J. Crowe & Ms. P. Parker	
Who we are / What we do	The mission of HOSA Canada is to enable secondary and postsecondary students to become leaders in the healthcare industry by enabling future health professionals to acquire knowledge, skills training and leadership development through competition. Each year, we hold Canada’s largest health science competition for secondary and postsecondary students.	
Meeting Frequency	Wednesdays at lunch in room 1102W Contact: jacrowe@hwdsb.on.ca or pkiriako@hwdsb.on.ca	


Math Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. J. Hendriks	
Who we are / What we do	Dive into some interesting mathematical challenges & try to problem solve your way out of them.	
Meeting Frequency	Wednesdays at lunch in Room 2030 Contact: jhendrik@hwdsb.on.ca	

Peer Tutoring Club


Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. J. Murray	
Who we are / What we do	Peer Tutoring Club is all about students helping students to improve their academic skills.	
Meeting Frequency	Students can register to be (or find) a tutor by completing the registration survey. Find posters in Student Services and around the school to sign up! Meetings are arranged between the students involved. Contact: jwmurray@hwdsb.on.ca	

STEM Club


Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. J. Hendriks	
Who we are / What we do	Investigate concepts and complete projects related to Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at lunch in room 2030 Contact: jhendrik@hwdsb.on.ca	

Altruism, Awareness, & Social Clubs


Announcement Crew

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. G. Hillman	
Who we are / What we do	This student group delivers morning announcements prepared by staff over the school PA system. The crew updates the school about events, meetings, athletics, and all things Ancaster.	
Meeting Frequency	Every morning from 8am – 8:25am Contact: ghillman@hwdsb.on.ca	


Automotive Safety Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. C. Vezeau	
Who we are / What we do	This student group's purpose is to promote safe and responsible driving and engage in interactive activities including the driving simulator, and much more.	
Meeting Frequency	Thursdays at lunch in room 1093 Contact: cvezeau@hwdsb.on.ca	


Best Buddies

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. M. Andrews, Ms. J. Crowe and Ms. L. Kenney	
Who we are / What we do	Best Buddies is an internationally recognized organization that strives to build friendships between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Students often sign-up for one day a week and work/play/hangout with the class or individuals in the class.	
Meeting Frequency	Daily at lunch in Room 1021 Contact: mnandrew@hwdsb.on.ca or lkenney@hwdsb.on.ca	


Blood Drive Heroes

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. C. Vezeau	
Who we are / What we do	The Heroes of Ancaster gather 2-3 times per year to raise awareness of the need for life giving blood. Alongside raising awareness, we organize blood drives with the Canadian Blood Services of Ancaster to recruit new donors & encourage repeat donors. All are welcome, but you must be 17+ to donate blood to Canadian Blood Services.	
Meeting Frequency	Periodically throughout the year - listen for announcements. Contact: cvezeau@hwdsb.on.ca	


Dungeons & Dragons Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. G. Malcolm	
Who we are / What we do	The D&D Club is a group of likeminded individuals that have come to learn and love various worlds of fantasy and role-play through a variety of formats including television/movies, board/card games, and video games.	
Meeting Frequency	Fridays at lunch in the big Art Room 1078W (it is in the tunnel) Contact: gmalcolm@hwdsb.on.ca	


Eco Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms J. Crowe	
Who we are / What we do	This club leads eco-conscious events like campus clean-ups and Earth Week celebrations. We also work with HWDSB's Eco Youth Initiative which includes participating in Eco Summits and other board events. Club members can get voluteer hours and all are welcome!	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at lunch in Room 1025 Contact: jcrowe@hwdsb.on.ca	


Faith Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. C. Page	
Who we are / What we do	The faith club is a group of students who meet on Wed in a safe and relaxed environment to talk about and support each other in our beliefs. It is open to all and supports everyone in a positive way. We look for ways to offer support to our community with activities and planned events.	
Meeting Frequency	Wednesdays at lunch in Room 2027 Contact: cpage@hwdsb.on.ca	


Grad Committee

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. J. Turner	
Who we are / What we do	This committee meets to plan and run prom, semi-formal, and a grad brunch for the graduating students. Two senior students organize these events with staff advisors and their own sub-committees.	
Meeting Frequency	Meetings occur as needed - listen for announcements. Contact: jturner@hwsdb.on.ca	


Healthy Action Team

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. R. Sutaria	
Who we are / What we do	<p>With the mandate and support of public health, HAT is a group of highly motivated members dedicated to creating a Healthy School Environment from a holistic perspective that considers; the physical, physiological and emotional well-being of our peers to facilitate optimal academic success and student engagement. We plan and organize a variety of events designed to improve the overall emotional, mental, & physical well-being of all. This experience offers leadership opportunities and potential access to post-secondary scholarships.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Every other Thursday at lunch in room 1037 Contact: rsutaria@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	

Magic: The Gathering Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. S. Bentham	
Who we are / What we do	<p>A group of students meets to play <i>Magic: The Gathering</i>, a fantasy card game where players battle one another by casting spells, summing creatures, and using items depicted on cards drawn from their decks.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Thursdays at lunch in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) Contact: sbentham@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	


Med Life

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. C. Powles	
Who we are / What we do	<p>MEDLIFE is a nonprofit international organization that focuses on helping low-income communities in Latin America and Africa. In our chapter, we will be focusing on a variety of community-based activities to help those in need and raise awareness on health-related issues. We will also be supporting MEDLIFE initiatives and Service-Learning Trips that they run.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Wednesdays at lunch in room 2034 Contact: cpowles@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	

Muslim Students Association

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. E. McKaig	
Who we are / What we do	The Muslim Student Association (MSA) is one of Ancaster High's largest clubs with around 120 members. We host events bi-weekly gathering Muslim youth as well as the annual Iftar night and Eid party, welcoming students from all schools across Hamilton (with the support of the Muslim Association of Hamilton as well as McMaster's MSA).	
Meeting Frequency	Thursdays at lunch in Room 1079 Contact: emckaig@hwdsb.on.ca	


Positive Space

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. J. Murray and Ms. E. McKaig	
Who we are / What we do	Positive Space provides a safe and inclusive space for students to discuss the experiences of LGBTQ+ persons. The goal of this human rights group is to promote equity, understanding, and acceptance of all students within the Ancaster High community.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at lunch in Room 1037 Contact: jwmurray@hwdsb.on.ca	


The Royal Gazette

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. S. Bentham	
Who we are / What we do	<i>The Royal Gazette</i> is a student-run newspaper established in 2017. Student reporters, writers, and photographers have a forum for their work. Digital distribution of the Gazette occurs monthly.	
Meeting Frequency	Thursdays at lunch in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) Contact: sbentham@hwdsb.on.ca	

Sending Sunshine

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. J. Trojek	
Who we are / What we do	Sending Sunshine is a club in which AHS students create handwritten cards for senior citizens. The goal of Sending Sunshine is to uplift senior citizens and build a stronger bond between students and their community.	
Meeting Frequency	Every other Thursday at lunch in Room 1016 Contact: jtrojek@hwdsb.on.ca	

Student Council


Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. J. Turner and Mrs. N. Lapko	
Who we are / What we do	<p>Student Council is composed of a group of elected students including our co-Presidents, co-Vice Presidents, Grade Reps, Treasurer, Social Chairs, and more. These dynamic student leaders provide a platform to share their ideas with school administration and other staff to help improve Ancaster High. This group is socio-political, diverse and action oriented as it implements student suggestions to create lasting and impactful social change at AHS and in the community.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Mondays at lunch in Room 1037 Contacts: jturner@hwdsb.on.ca or nlapko@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	

Artistic & Creative Clubs


Visual Arts Coalition

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. G. Malcolm	
Who we are / What we do	<p>The VAC is a casual drop-in club for students who want a quiet space to create art. Whether you are a painter, sculptor, or just art-curious – we'd love to have you! The VAC also supports various school events like the musical with set/prop/costume design and creation.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Wednesdays at lunch in the big art room (1078W) Contact: gmalcolm@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	


AUD Squad

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. S. Panavas	
Who we are / What we do	<p>The Auditorium Squad is a group of students who have a passion for, and interest, in technological aspects of the theatre. The Aud Squad members work on the lights, sound board, and projector, and handle microphones, and tech equipment rentals. They work as part of musicals, talent shows, guest presenters, assemblies, and concerts.</p>	
Meeting Frequency	<p>Thursdays at lunch in the auditorium Contact: spanavas@hwdsb.on.ca</p>	


Chess Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. C. Page	
Who we are / What we do	We play chess.	
Meeting Frequency	Fridays at lunch in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) Contact: cpage@hwdsb.on.ca	


Concert Band

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. M. Wylie	
Who we are / What we do	We play a diverse selection of music and perform for a variety of events. Instruments include; flute, clarinet, alto sax, baritone sax, tenor sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, keyboard, percussion, string bass, electric bass and more.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays & Thursdays at 7am in the Music Room (2044) Contact: mwylie@hwdsb.on.ca	


Grade 9 Band

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. M. Wylie	
Who we are / What we do	Grade 9 band is a beginner band which meets Monday and Wednesday morning at 7am with additional sections as needed. All winds brass and percussion and bass guitars are welcome.	
Meeting Frequency	Mondays & Wednesdays at 7am in the Music Room (2044) Contact: mwylie@hwdsb.on.ca	


Jazz Band

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. M. Wylie	
Who we are / What we do	This band is comprised of drum kit, bass guitar, electric guitar, baritone sax, tenor sax, alto sax, trumpet and trombone. We play jazz standards and new jazz tunes as well as contemporary music. No jazz experience necessary.	
Meeting Frequency	Fridays at lunch in the Music Room (2044) Contact: mwylie@hwdsb.on.ca	


Improv Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. S. Panavas	
Who we are / What we do	Improv Club is equal parts fun and low commitment. Each week, a rag tag group of class clowns meet to play games and create comedy sketches. No experience needed, but a sense of humour is essential!	
Meeting Frequency	Thursdays at lunch in the Auditorium Contact: spanavas@hwdsb.on.ca	


(NTS) Drama Festival Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. R. Wade	
Who we are / What we do	Students will participate in the NTS Drama Festival – Ontario, a play competition featuring 12,000 students from across the province. Actors and stage crew will rehearse and perform a play that will compete against other schools in HWDSB. Students can win a variety of awards and scholarships. The top plays are selected for regional and then provincial competition rounds. Look for auditions in early November. Rehearsals are after school from January to March. The performance is at Westdale following March Break.	
Meeting Frequency	Begins in December meeting twice weekly (exact dates to be determined) Contact: rwade@hwdsb.on.ca	


Musical Theatre Cast and Crew

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. S. Panavas	
Who we are / What we do	Musical Theatre is a course at Ancaster High School which works to prepare a musical for a live theatre audience! To put on a musical, we require many extra hands to be part of our cast and crew. You can come join us with lights, sound, set design, dancing, singing, and so much more.	
Meeting Frequency	This group meets in Semester 2 and our schedule varies based on the show and its rehearsals. Contact: spanavas@hwdsb.on.ca	


Photography & Video Club

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. A. Sanders	
Who we are / What we do	A group of students who have a passion for Photography, Photoshop, and Videography. We take videos and photos for the yearbook and competitions.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at lunch in D1/Room 1065 Contact: ansander@hwdsb.on.ca	

Rock Band


Staff Advisor(s)	Mr. J. Vallance & Mr. J. D'Aguiar	
Who we are / What we do	If you like rock music come on out and jam with Mr. Vallance and Rock Band! A great opportunity to meet rock musicians in the school and discuss all things Rock N Roll! The group performs at various events throughout the year as well.	
Meeting Frequency	Thursdays at Lunch in the Music Room (2044) Contact: jvallanc@hwdsb.on.ca or jdaguila@hwdsb.on.ca	

Yearbook


Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. E. Logan	
Who we are / What we do	The Yearbook Club is a student-led initiative which creates an annual yearbook for all students. We invite all students to participate by submitting photos or joining the club. We are looking for co-editors, photographers, and designers. All grades are welcome. This is an excellent way to develop leadership and communication skills.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at Lunch in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) Contact: elogan@hwdsb.on.ca	

Athletic & Active Clubs

Ancaster Athletic Executive Council (AAC)

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. D. Adams, Mr. S. Gillen, Ms. E. Piccioni, Mrs. J. Schurer & Mr. M. Schurer	
Who we are / What we do	The AAC is focused on providing all students with unique leadership experiences that create a sense of community within the school. We offer intramurals, school-wide athletic events, fundraisers, and BBQs throughout the school year.	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays at lunch in room 1061 (Health room) Contact: daadams@hwdsb.on.ca or sgillen@hwdsb.on.ca or epiccioni@hwdsb.on.ca or JSCHURER@hwdsb.on.ca or mschurer@hwdsb.on.ca	

Dance Team

Staff Advisor(s)	Ms. L. Kenney, Ms. B. Surtel, and Ms. E. Logan	
Who we are / What we do	The AHS dance team is a dedicated group of students that audition to be a part of the team. The team does not allow drop-ins as it works on routines throughout the year. We provide a space where students build confidence and get their bodies moving. Our team is consistently working, learning, and performing student-led choreography, in a variety of styles. The team is looking to compete and perform at various events including Arts Nights, Football Games, Lunchtime shows, the Musical and more!	
Meeting Frequency	Tuesdays & Wednesdays at lunch in the Auditorium. Contact: lkenney@hwdsb.on.ca or bsurtel@hwdsb.on.ca or elogan@hwdsb.on.ca	

School Teams

Review the charts below to see which sports are offered at Ancaster High School. Announcements with signup or tryout information will be made prior to the season.

Note: there are several *grade 9 only teams*, as well as Junior (grade 9 &10 only), Senior (grade 11 & 12 only) and Varsity teams (all grades)

Fall Season Sports Teams

Sport:	Boys / Girls:	Grade 9:	Jr:	Sr:	Varsity:
Cross-Country	B & G	X	X	X	
Grade 9 Soccer	B & G	X			
Basketball	G		X	X	
Volleyball	B		X	X	
Field Hockey	G				X
Tennis	B & G		X	X	
Flag Football	G				X
Flag Football	B	X			
Football (tackle)	B				X
Baseball	B				X

Winter Season Sports Teams

Sport:	Boys / Girls:	Grade 9:	Jr:	Sr:	Varsity:
Hockey	B & G				X
Basketball	B		X	X	
Volleyball	G		X	X	
Water polo	B & G		X	X	
Swimming TBD	B & G	X	X	X	
Badminton	B & G	X	X	X	
Wrestling	B & G	X	X	X	X

Spring Season Sports Teams

Sport:	Boys / Girls:	Grade 9:	Jr:	Sr:	Varsity:
Track and Field	B & G	X	X	X	
Soccer	B & G				X
Slo-pitch	G				X
Cricket	B & G				X
Junior Football	B		X		
Junior Hockey	B		X		
COED Volleyball	B & G		X	X	
Ultimate Frisbee	B&G				X

Club Breakdown by Day

Monday		
Before School	Grade 9 Band	2044
Lunch	Homework/Literacy Student Council	2036 1037

Tuesday		
Before School	Concert Band	2044
Lunch	AAC Auto Safety Club Dance Team DECA Eco Club Photo/Video Club Positive Space STEM Club Yearbook	1061 1093 Aud 1109W 1025 1065 1037 2030 LLC

Wednesday		
Before School	Grade 9 Band	2044
Lunch	Dance Team Homework/Literacy HOSA Faith Club Math Club Med Life Visual Arts Coalition	Aud 2036 1102W2 027 2030 2034 1078W

Thursday		
Before School	Concert Band	2044
Lunch	Aud Squad Improv Club HAT Rock Band Royal Gazette Magic the Gathering MSA Sending Sunshine	Aud Aud 1037 2044 LLC LLC 1079 1016

Friday		
Before School		
Lunch	Chess Club D&D Debate Club Homework/Literacy Jazz Band	LLC 1078W 1017 2036 2044

Other Clubs		
Daily	Announcement Crew Best Buddies Peer Tutoring	
Special Schedule	Blood Drive Heroes Graduation Committee (NST) Drama Festival Musical Theatre (Semester 2)	