

# **STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITES**



**2017-2018**

## **AL'S ANGELS**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Dee Hychko

**Club description:** This club will partner with the Westport chapter of Al's Angels. Al's Angels was founded in 2004 by Al DiGuido, CEO and founder of Zeta Interactive, a full-service interactive marketing company based in New York City. Al has been long recognized as one of the direct response industry's premier innovators and a pioneer in e-mail communications. He has more than 20 years of marketing, sales, management, and operations expertise.

For years Al served as a board member for numerous charities. Having seen the good work that these organizations accomplished, Al decided to dedicate even more of his time to helping children and families in need. He founded Al's Angels with the mission of providing moments of joy and comfort to families that are challenged by childhood cancer, rare blood diseases, AIDS, domestic violence and financial hardship. Through hard work, an amazing group of volunteers, and tremendous generosity, today Al's Angels is able to help thousands of children in the tri-state area. Now thru an intimate partnership with the Catholic Health Association of India; the work of Al's Angels is providing children in dire need of vital and lifesaving medical treatment with hope and support.

## **ANIME CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Tori Wagner

**Club description:** Anime Club is an organization in which members watch, discuss, and enjoy what is known as "Anime", as well as the culture surrounding it. Anime is a style of animation originating in Japan which is distinguished by artistic graphics and a variety of characters in several genres of plots often including aspects of fantasy. Settings may be anywhere in the world and in several time periods. Often anime takes place in Japan and is often a good sample of the culture there. Additionally, light analysis accompanies our viewing in which we examine motive and details of the anime. Plot and character development are also key parts as their parts are often essential to understanding the sometimes intricate parts of the anime. Anime is more of a kind of cultural art-form than anything, which we find to be astoundingly entertaining as well as intriguing.

## **ANIMAL RIGHTS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Chrissy Kaszeneck

**Club description:** This club is dedicated to advocating for animal rights by minimizing harm caused to animals. The Animal Rights Club helps support animal rights by increasing awareness and education about the importance of adopting and rescuing animals. We also share information about how animals are all around good for people, provide community service opportunities and help coordinate adoption and fundraising events with local animal shelters.

## **ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Eamon Griffin

**Club description:** The goal of this club is to encourage the Staples community to become more active in sports in a fashion similar to the NFL's Play 60 which encourage kids to be active for 60 minutes a day in order to help reverse the trend of childhood obesity. The club will organize various sporting events, fundraisers, and sports equipment drives to benefit sports teams in lesser fortunate areas. Main events include a flag-football game in the fall, a basketball game in the winter and a kickball game in the spring.

## **BARBEQUE CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Matt Bohn

**Club description:** The barbeque club is designed to allow students to both socialize and learn new recipes for the grill. The Barbeque Club has also provided great grilled food to spectators during sporting events. Profits raised benefit the Homes for Our Troops Foundation.  
<https://www.hfotusa.org/>

## **BEST BUDDIES:**

**Advisors:** Mrs. Deborah Gallon/Ms. Marla Kerwin

**Club description:** Best Buddies is the Staples Chapter of an international organization which matches students in a one-to-one friendship with a student with developmental disabilities. Since 1995, Best Buddies High Schools has paired students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in one-to-one friendships with high school students. In the past, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have not had the opportunity to have friends outside of their own special education classroom. By introducing Best Buddies into public and private high schools, participants are crossing the invisible line that too often separates those with disabilities from those without. Best Buddies High Schools also offers students a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills. With the support of school faculty and Best Buddies staff, students lead and direct the chapters in their schools.

## **BOXES OF HOPE**

**Advisor:** Ms. Kelly Zrenda

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to give back to the community with the simple use of boxes. The boxes would be placed at different locations to collect various donations. The club will coordinate with local churches, temples and businesses in order to secure support. During club meetings, students will collaborate to determine what type of targeted drive to organize, where the boxes will be placed and the best avenues to promote the collections. Some of the many causes that the club may support may be supplies for the Humane Society, and school supplies for needy schools.

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cathy Schager

**Club description:** This club is meant to dispel and counter many anti-Muslim sentiments by informing students about the Muslim community. The club will host a series of speakers from various Muslim communities in order to accomplish this goal. The club will help students to broaden their view concerning Muslims and other Middle Easterners through a series of talks and interactive sessions with Muslims and others of Middle Eastern descent.

## **BUILDERS BEYOND BORDERS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Matt Bohn

**Club description:** Students interested in making a difference locally and abroad and connecting with like-minded students are invited to join Builders Beyond Borders (B3), a nonprofit organization that engages Fairfield County high school students in leadership training through local and global community service projects. This club will serve to publicize the benefits and mission of B3. The 25-year-old organization represents more than 20 local high schools. During school break, students travel to a developing nation in order to help a community in need. Teams live and work alongside their host community to develop, repair, or build a new facility that will transform lives. We build sustainable facilities that address the struggles of the community, be it a school, aqueduct, or medical clinic. The work is varied and physical, from setting block to digging trenches, but, as in all aspects of the program, students will be supplied with all the knowledge and tools they need to succeed.

## **CATCH A LIFT**

**Advisor:** Ms. Liubov Ulianova

**Club Description:** This club will fund raise in order to support the national Catch a Lift program. Founded in memory of Army Cpl. Chris Coffland, Catch A Lift Fund (CAL) enables post 9/11 combat wounded Veterans to regain and maintain their physical and mental health by providing granted gym memberships, fitness programs or in-home gym equipment, anywhere in the United States.

In addition, CAL's M.A.P.S. Program ensures success by tracking progress and offers motivation, accountability and peer support through small squads of Veterans who heal together Vet to Vet. CAL Veterans are not only losing weight and moving away from obesity, but also eliminating the need for multiple prescription medications and finding their "new self". CAL Veterans are thriving, reintegrating, healing and saving each other's lives through newly established comradery; filling the void left after military service.

## **CHILDREN OF THE SAHARA; STAPLES CHAPTER**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Cari Moore

**Club description:** The Children of the Sahara Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity whose mission is to improve the lives of the nomadic children living in the environs of the Sahara Desert while having minimal impact on the culture and heritage of the nomads. We, the founders of Sahara Children, come from diverse backgrounds and experience and firmly believe that we can benefit the nomadic children through our professional and personal relationships and subject-matter expertise.

Sahara Children's mission is to support the advancement of the children of the Sahara Desert through the promotion of local human development efforts through the following activities:

- association and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental entities that provide programs and projects designed to benefit nomadic children, including projects for education and basic life skills, along with initiatives that improve the livelihood and opportunities of the children;
- fund-raising (through art, cultural, and sponsorship events) to support such programs and projects;
- share information on the culture and heritage of the nomads to encourage understanding and raise awareness.
- Sahara Children is a non-religious and non-partisan organization.

## **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS; STAPLES CHAPTER**

**Advisor:** Mr. Paul Zajec

**Club description:** The Circle of Friends (COF) is a Fairfield County non-profit organization which provides a wide array of innovative programming promoting a greater awareness and understanding of both the unique needs and the unique gifts of individuals with special needs while encouraging respect and empathy for those facing difficult challenges. The special needs children and families benefit from weekly home visits and monthly recreational group programming. For the volunteers, COF aims to create an environment that will nurture and inspire their volunteer experience with meaning, purpose and self-value; a sense of connection to and responsibility for the greater community. The Staples Chapter holds monthly meetings to facilitate volunteer participation in COF, share programming ideas and fundraise.

## **CLUB CARVER**

**Advisor:** Ms. Nell-Ayn Lynch

**Club description:** Founded in 1938, Carver is the largest private provider of after school and summer programs in Norwalk, CT. Carver's Youth Development Program (YDP) is conducted after school for more than 800 students in the Carver Community Center, in Norwalk's four middle and two comprehensive high schools, and in Side by Side Charter School. YDP offers Hands-on, Project-Based Academic Enrichment (e.g., Literacy, Math and STEM Education); Tutoring & Homework; Health & Wellness programs; SAT, PSAT and SBAC Prep; Paid Internships; and College tours. Carver conducts a K-5 after school program at the Carver Community Center called CASPER that offers intensive project-based hands-on learning in science, literacy and math. Club members will volunteer to work at the Carver Center and a concert will be organized and held at the end of the year to benefit the Carver Center.

## **CLUB CONNECT**

**Advisor:** Drew Coyne

**Club description:** Staples alumni and members of the Westport community will give club members the unique and enlightening experience of learning about different perspectives regarding the journey through high school, college and beyond. Speakers will range from high school/college graduates to well respected members of the Westport community. This club will also provide valuable access to networking.

## **CLUB GREEN**

**Advisor:** Mr. Michael Aitkenhead

**Club description:** The mission of Club Green is to spread environmental awareness both within Staples and throughout the Westport community. Club Green has participated in recycling drives and has sold reusable water bottles and mugs. They helped organize the Green Competition in Westport and have acquired countless Clean Energy sign-ups in Westport to earn solar panel systems for the school. They conducted Earth Week activities at Staples to celebrate Earth Day, and they organized Eco Fest '09, a community concert to raise environmental awareness. Club Green also works closely with numerous environmental groups in the Westport Community on a number of projects. Future new projects will include a composting program at the school and the development of a community 'edible' garden at Staples. If you have any interest in environmental issues and want to take action--JOIN CLUB GREEN!!

## **CODING CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Clare Woodman

**Club description:** This club will assist students in learning the theory and practice of computer coding, and help them to apply these skills in computer science competitions, Membership in the club does not require any previous coding experience The club will be structured using the on-line resources found at <https://hackclub.com/> A goal of this club is to enter competitive coding contests such as Calling all Innovators; <https://studentcompetitions.com/competitions/nokias-calling-all-innovators>, and Paradigm Challenge; <https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/scholarships/166420-paradigm-challenge>

## **CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE**

**Advisor:** Ms. Carrie Mascaro

**Club description:** This club will work to include all musicians to form independent ensembles, quartets, quintets and groups that will meet, select their own repertoire and rehearse. During the year, concerts will be held and donations collected will go to a music-related charity. This club will be devoted to raise money to provide all students an equal opportunity to pursue and enjoy music.

## **CREATIVE ARTS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Ann Neary

**Club description:** The club will serve as a creative and welcoming outlet for many art forms including but not limited to sculpture and other fine arts. Art exhibitions will raise money for the victims of recent natural disasters by selling student work.

## **CULINARY ARTS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cecily Gans

**Club description:** When pleasant aromas waft down the hallways and out into the courtyard, you know Culinary Club is in session. An enthusiastic, energetic and certainly eclectic group, we cook up a storm every Thursday afternoon. With a passion for taste, presentation and, of course – eating, every member contributes to each decadent and delightful, palate-pleasing recipe.

## **DEBATE CLUB**

**Advisor:**, Mr. John Bengston

**Club description:** The Debate Team offers students the opportunity to explore controversial, topical, and interesting issues while gaining valuable experience in public speaking, forming and defending arguments, and competing against other schools' debate teams. The club meets weekly to read sources, compare research, and begin preparing arguments. The only requirement for membership in the club is commitment.

## **EDUCATION FOR HOPE**

**Advisor:** Mr. Joseph Barahona

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to assist in the teaching of the English language to students in underprivileged areas in the community, through conversation and conventional teaching practices. The hope is that through a better mastery of the English language, the opportunities available to them for a better life will be greatly expanded.

## **ENGINEERING CLUB**

**Advisors:** Dr. Humphrey Wong

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to prepare for and compete in engineering competitions, and to become familiar with engineering-related projects. The competition this year will center around the Sikorsky STEM Challenge. A team of Sikorsky Innovations engineers working with Connecticut Corsair have designed a challenge for a group of selected local high schools in Connecticut. The students and teachers/coaches will have an opportunity to meet the engineers who have designed the challenge and work closely with them in developing their possible solutions. There will be a launch of the Challenge in September at Connecticut Corsair at Chester Airport.

The Sikorsky STEM Challenge is helping to promote Sikorsky to future local engineering students, promoting STEM education in the state of Connecticut, giving engineering staff mentoring opportunities and reinforcing the commitment to out of the box creative thinking. Sikorsky is partnering with Connecticut Corsair to develop the STEM Challenge this year.



## F4U-4 Corsair Restoration Project

Connecticut Corsair is dedicated to the restoration to flight of Connecticut's State Aircraft, the F4U-4 Corsair, while promoting and utilizing state-of-the-art technology.

The F4U-4 is a single-engine, single-seat, low-wing(inverted gull wings) monoplane, designed as a carrier-based and land-based fighter or fighter-bomber. It is equipped for operation as a long-range fighter when carrying droppable fuel tanks, or as a fighter bomber when carrying either one or two bombs. A Vought-Sikorsky airframe, powered by a Pratt &Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp engine, and pulled with a Hamilton Standard hydraulic propeller, give the F4U Corsair the distinction of being built completely by one company (UTC) in one state (Connecticut).

## FASHION FOR A CAUSE CLUB

**Advisor:** Ms. Jennifer Mitteness

**Club description:** The Staples Fashion Club is aligned with the FIDM Fashion Club, a national high school club program sponsored by Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, a fashion college headquartered in Los Angeles. There are over 800 FIDM Fashion Clubs in high schools across the country. Each club has a president and official officers as well as at least 10 club members. Clubs meet regularly to talk about fashion and plan activities such as fundraisers and fashion shows, volunteer outreach, and DIYs. Students will be exposed to sewing, style, drawing and merchandising of fashion.

## FICTION READING AND WRITING CLUB

**Advisor:** Mr. Reilly Lynch

**Club description:** Students will read and discuss various works of fiction, and then using what was discussed, students will write their own fictional pieces which are inspired by their reading. Students will participate in NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month. This is a writing event where the challenge is to complete an entire novel in just 30 days. For one month, you get to lock away your inner editor, let your imagination take over, and just create! That means participants begin writing November 1 and must finish by midnight, November 30. The word-count goal for the adult program is 50,000 words, but the Young Writers Program (YWP) allows 17-and-under participants to set reasonable, yet challenging, individual word-count goals. In 2013, over 300,000 adults participated through our main site, and nearly 90,000 young writers participated through the YWP.

## **FIGURE SKATING CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Alison Best

**Club description:** The goal of the club is to spread awareness of figure skating and collaborating with local groups to bring figure skating to students in order to experience the joys of figure skating. The club will encourage skaters to continue their skating throughout high school, eventually bridging into college. Continual participation of this sort will increase awareness of the sport and enrich lives of skaters by combining their love of skating with a school activity.

## **FILIPINO CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Paul Zajec

**Club description:** The goal of the club is to focus on assisting the impoverished children of the Philippines. The club will organize various fundraisers throughout the year to assist these children. The club is also dedicated to expose students to the Philippine culture.

## **FLASH ANIMATION CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Colin Neenan

**Club description:** Adobe Flash Player is the standard for delivering high-impact, rich Web content. Designs, animation, and application user interfaces are deployed immediately across all browsers and platforms, attracting and engaging users with a rich Web experience Club members will learn the basics of Adobe Flash, along with other animating skills. Students with more experience can attend and assist more novice students in the skills necessary to use the program.

## **FULL COURT PEACE**

**Advisor:** Colin Devine

**Club description:** This club will support the Full Court Peace organization (<http://fullcourtpeace.org/>) run by New Canaan High School's basketball coach, Mike Evans. Mike played basketball at Hamilton College from 2001 to 2005, setting current shooting records for most three-pointers in a game (9) and highest career three-point percentage (43%), before going on to play semi-professional basketball in Europe. Originally from Weston, CT, Mike scored 1,000 career points in just two seasons and was an All-State selection in 2001. Full Court Peace pairs high school clubs with community centers in disadvantaged areas. The clubs work on short and long-term projects to refurbish the community centers' basketball courts, to raise money for youth leagues and clinics, and to support the growth of its basketball program.

FCP organizes year-round basketball leagues and camps for boys and girls in grades 4-8 from a diverse array of socioeconomic statuses, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. FCPs' curriculum –

was developed at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Kennedy School of Government employs team basketball as a means of increasing communication, understanding and camaraderie among these youth. FCP are currently focused locally in Fairfield County, CT, where the income gap is at its widest nationally. Once players enter high school, they can lead or join their high school's Full Court Peace Club. FCP high school clubs are paired with community centers located in areas of blight, which the players work directly with to bolster the community centers' basketball programs both financially and organizationally. FCP organizes year-round basketball leagues and camps for boys and girls in grades 4-8 from a diverse array of socioeconomic statuses, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. The curriculum employs team basketball as a means of increasing communication, understanding and camaraderie among these youth. FCP is currently focused locally in Fairfield County, CT, where the income gap is at its widest nationally.

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Horacio Ballesteros

**Club description:** Members will meet to discuss current foreign affairs. Members will bring interesting articles and sources to share. Members will be able to broaden their understanding of current world affairs in an enjoyable collaborative environment.

## **FRENCH CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Olivier Blanchardon

**Club description:** The club gives interested students the opportunity to enjoy and support French culture and language. Some activities that member have done are watching French films, preparing and tasting French cuisine, preparing to host French exchange students, fundraising events, peer tutoring, and trips to French restaurants, art museums, and plays.

## **GAME JAM CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Clare Woodman

**Club description:** A Game Jam is a competition where many teams compete to create a new video game based on a theme given a time constraint anywhere between 20 minutes and 48 hours! A team consists of anyone with game making ability; programmers, artists, animators and musicians to name but a few. The club sets out to compete which requires collaboration, creativity and technical knowledge.

## **GENDER SEXUALITIES ALLIANCE**

**Advisor:** Mr. Chris Fray

**Club description:** Gender Sexualities Alliance Network is a national youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gender Sexualities Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources through peer support, leadership development, and training. GSA Network supports young people in starting, strengthening, and sustaining GSAs and builds the capacity of GSAs to:

1. create safe environments in schools for students to support each other and learn about homophobia, transphobia, and other oppressions,
2. educate the school community about homophobia, transphobia, gender identity, and sexual orientation issues, and
3. fight discrimination, harassment, and violence in schools.

The Gender Sexualities Alliance provides a safe environment for students to discuss issues related to sexual orientation both within and without the Staples community. Each year, the students organize events to commemorate Ally Day as well as the Day of Silence. Students also share a bus with area GSAs to attend the annual True Colors Conference for Sexual Minority Youth. The Gender Sexualities Alliance serves both a support function as well as a social function, with the GSA meeting with area GSAs for meetings, movies, picnics and other events.

## **GERMAN CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Liubov Ulianova

**Club description:** The German Club at Staples High School is available to students as an extension to the classroom experience whereby students get together to socialize, plan club activities, share culinary specialties, look up and sometimes attend cultural events in the state and surrounding areas, watch World Language films together and befriend and invite our exchange students to local activities.

## **GIRLS LEARN INTERNATIONAL**

**Advisor:** Ms. Heather Wirkus

**Club description:** The GLI Program supports the empowerment of U.S. students as they discover that through their own creative initiatives, dedication, and passionate leadership, they can create real solutions that address the obstacles facing girls and women in the U.S. and around the world. Student-to-student, and student-to-parent, GLI is building a movement of informed advocates for universal girls' education and a new generation of leaders and activists for social change. (<http://girlslearn.org/>)

## **GIRLS WHO CODE**

**Advisor:** Ms. Clare Woodman

**Club description:** The primary purpose of this club is to assist in closing the gender gap in technology by fostering more female students to utilize the computer sciences to positively impact their community in and join the sisterhood of supportive users. The club will work on a Computer Science Impact Project where computer science will be used to solve problems relevant to the club and the community at large. Members will learn the Core4 computer science concepts that form the basis of all computer programming languages, while fostering teamwork and leadership skills.

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Carla Eichler

**Club description:** The purpose of his club is to not only provide a creative outlet for students interested in graphic design, but also to support local organizations with graphic design needs. The purpose is to allow students to logo and digital skills while at the same time meeting the design needs of clients.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:**

**Advisors:** Mrs. Bethann Camillo and Mrs. Barbara Robbins

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to both fundraise and conduct building projects in conjunction with Habitats for Humanity, and more specifically with Habitat's Youth United program. Youth United is a program focused on giving youth from different backgrounds, faiths and organizations the opportunity to work together to sponsor and build a house with Habitat of Coastal Fairfield County, (CFC). The goal of Youth United is to target groups of young, enthusiastic volunteers to build homes, develop leadership skills, engage in positive service activities and experience the joy of helping others. This program gives young people the opportunity to invest directly in their communities and in community service. Habitat CFC provides age appropriate activities to our community's youth, ages 5-22, to get involved in our mission to provide decent, affordable homes for families in Fairfield County.

## **HELPING HANDS TUTORS**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cathy Schager

**Club description:** Students will tutor younger students at the cardinal Sheehan Center in Bridgeport from 5:30-7:00 each day. Students must have a parent transport them to and from this activity. Students will also have the ability to assist in other parts of the Center with music, sports and other activities.

## **HENNA FOR HOPE**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Heather Colletti-Houde

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to raise money for the AIF, American Indian Foundation, which works to assist the underprivileged population of India in areas such as education, public health and gender inequalities. The mission of AIF is to disrupt poverty and catalyze social and economic change in India. AIF's vision is to

- Contribute to building an India where all people can gain access to affordable education, health care and livelihood opportunities, and where all Indians can realize their full potential.
- Engage, inform, and inspire those passionate about India by building a trusted bridge and secure channel for philanthropic funding from the United States and other regions across the world, and its effective investment in the most innovative and scalable projects in India

## **HOLIDAY HELPERS**

**Club Advisor:** Ms. Jessica Levy

**Club description:** This Club is a student-lead program which corresponds with the Westport PTA program. The purpose of the club is to work with the Westport Department of Human Services on the town-wide Giving Program for the needy families of Westport.

## **HOPE FOR LIFE**

**Advisor:** Ms. Jessica Levy

**Club Description:** The vision for Malta House began in 1995 when Michael O'Rourke learned that there was "no room at the inn" for many homeless pregnant women and their newborns. These vulnerable young families often found themselves on the street or living in sub-standard conditions. Malta House was conceived not only to offer food and shelter, but also to give hope for the future. After two years, a great deal of hard work and many miracles, Malta House opened its doors as a work of the Order of Malta in Connecticut. The Order of Malta is a lay religious order of the Catholic Church that has served the sick and the poor for almost 1,000 years. Many members of the Order in Connecticut devote substantial time, treasure and talent in serving homeless families in our community through Malta House. Today the mission of Malta House benefits from financial support and volunteer efforts from a much broader community of caring supporters. We welcome your help in providing a hope for life as the Malta House family continues to grow. Club members will attend the Malta House and will babysit for the children of the adult mother residents while the residents attend meetings.

## **HUMANE TO HUMANITY**

**Advisor:** Ms. Caroline Henry

**Club description:** This club will work with existing humanitarian-based charities to raise both awareness and funds for their cause, such as lack of clean water, war-relief causes, and lack of educational opportunities.

## **INKLINGS**

**Advisor:** Ms. Mary Elizabeth Fulco

**Club description:** Inklings is Staples High School's award-winning, nationally recognized scholastic newspaper. The staff publishes eight issues a year, including the September Back-to-School issue, the April Fools Issue and at graduation the Senior Supplement. Those interested in working for the paper can apply in the spring for an editorial position, can come to monthly writer's meeting to get a story from the staff, or take Writing for Publication with Mr. Rexford and start writing for the paper and learning the ins and outs of media and the field of journalism.

## **INTERACT CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Liubov Ulianova

**Club description:** Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Find out how serious leadership can be seriously fun. Each year, Interact clubs complete at least one community service project and at least one project that further international understanding and goodwill. Interact's five primary avenues of service include the following: community, international, school, environmental, and fundraising. Interactors develop a worldwide network of friendships through exchanges with local and overseas clubs. Along the way, Interactors develop their leadership skills and initiative while meeting new friends.

## **ISRAELI CULTURE CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Fran Sinay

**Club description:** the purpose of this club is to educate and share with others, the rich culture of the State of Israel and raise funds for charities that benefit the people of Israel.

## **ITALIAN CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Louisa D'Amore

**Club description:** The Italian Club meets to explore Italian culture and language through films, food and conversation. With the help and guidance of the club officers, we teach each other about the language and customs of Italy. In addition, the club will develop a partnership with Centro La Tenda a community center in Naples, Italy) to help support at risk children in the neighborhoods adjacent to this school. Students will develop international friendships with students in this school by having pen pals, sending videos, chatting via Skype, etc. The club comes together on a monthly basis. All Staples students are welcome to join!

## **JOSHUA'S HEART CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cecily Gans

**Club description:** **Joshua's Heart Foundation** was founded by a four and a half year-old boy by the name of Joshua Williams. His little heart conceived a passion for helping those who struggle daily to put food on the table and make ends meet. And so a vision was born to stomp out hunger in poor and underprivileged communities, and to help those with debilitating diseases that hinder their ability to provide for themselves. With one in six Americans facing hunger, there is plenty of work to be done. The Club supports the national Joshua's Heart Foundation which is a hard-working and committed team that relies on the generosity of the American people to make a change. Our volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission, and their support is priceless to the Foundation. But with so much to be done, we are always looking for more helping hands. The primary objective of this foundation is to stomp out hunger. Joshua's Heart Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization empowers people to improve their quality of life. We achieve our mission by providing items of basic necessity, such as food and other grocery products, to those in need. We also engage and educate communities about ways to fight hunger and poverty and commit to our vision of a world without these insecurities.

## **JUNIOR STATESMEN OF AMERICA**

**Advisors:** Mr. Brendon Giolitto, Mr. Sam Goldberg

**Club description:** The Junior Statesmen of America is the largest student-run high school nonpartisan political organization in the United States. JSA is essentially a political awareness club where students run their own meetings, debate topics of political interest, and provide opportunities for students to develop and sharpen their public speaking skills. Every aspect of the chapter is organized by its student officers and members. The Staples chapter is part of the Northeast State of JSA, which sponsors several conferences each year that allow students from many different schools the chance to debate and discuss important issues and listen to interesting keynote speakers. All students in the club are expected to be active participants throughout the year--Democracy is not a spectator sport!



## **KEY CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Horacio Ballesteros

**Club description:** Key Club is a community service club. Its members help to assist many non-profit organizations, as well as the local community. Every member is a volunteer, and his or her goal is to accumulate 30 hours of community service during each school year. This commitment is rewarded with 1/4 of a credit per 30 hours of service.

## **KOOL TO BE KIND**

**Advisor:** Ms. Elaine Daignault; Westport Youth Services Coordinator

**Club description:** The goal of this club is to raise awareness about bullying and being kind to other students, by promoting a “kindness campaign” and to sponsor school-wide anti-bullying efforts. Kool to be Kind is an empathy-based, anti-bullying program in which Staples High School students are trained to lead interactive, experiential lessons for third graders about empathy, kindness, and effective responses to bullying situations.

## **K-POP CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Caroline Henry

**Club description:** K-pop (abbreviation of **Korean pop**; Hangul: 케이팝) is a music genre originating in South Korea that is characterized by a wide variety of audiovisual elements. Although it includes all genres of "popular music" within South Korea, the term is often used in a narrower sense to describe a modern form of South Korean pop music drawing inspiration on a range of styles and genres incorporated from the rest of the world such as Western pop music, rock, experimental, jazz, gospel, Latin, hip hop, R&B, reggae, electronic dance, folk, country and classical on top of its uniquely traditional Korean music roots. This club will meet to listen to and discuss various songs of this genre. In addition, the club will learn about Korean culture, and will begin to explore elements of the Korean language.

## **LATIN CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Perry Tavenner

**Club description:** The purpose of the Latin Club will be to promote the language and to participate in fun activities that will give students a better understanding of the language. This club compliments the students' involvement in the Latin language, Roman history, and ancient culture. Students will plan for the Connecticut State Latin Day

## LEARNING THROUGH LIGHTHOUSE

Advisor: Mrs. Ann Neary

**Club description:** The City of Bridgeport “Lighthouse Program” is an innovative school/community program sponsored by the City of Bridgeport through its Department of Youth Services, School Department and nonprofit community. It receives local state and federal funding, and is also supported by parent fees. The Lighthouse Program brings together community sponsorship in twenty-four Bridgeport schools to provide a safe and supportive after school environment to over 2800 students on a daily basis. The program operates Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:00pm, and provides cultural, educational and recreation activities. The Lighthouse Program will assist students with homework (45 minutes mandatory) at the Cesar Batalla Elementary School. The club will also organize book drives and other fund raising activities to assist the school. Students are required to have parents transport them to and from this activity.

## LULU’S LUCK PETS

Advisor: Paul Zajec

**Club description:** Our goal is to support dog rescue organizations in need of assistance. This club will conduct fundraisers to donate funds to dog rescue agencies as well as to the Connecticut Humane Society. Funds will also be raised to assist the funding of dogs in need of medical procedures. We will also try to raise awareness about the many benefits of adoption as well as promote opportunities for adoption in our community.

## LYNSEY ADDARIO ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM HONOR SOCIETY

(A chapter of the National English Honor Society)

Advisor: Mrs. Julie Heller

**Activity description:** Membership is open to high school students and select faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability in such areas as literary analysis, media studies, composition, linguistic study, and creative writing, and who meet the requirements of membership as set forth in the National English Honor Society Constitution, Article X as outlined below.

Students become members through induction at the high school in which they are enrolled. Each student pays a one-time induction fee of \$10.00. This fee covers national registration (which includes a membership certificate) and makes the member eligible for full Society benefits.

Through involvement with their chapters, students are given opportunities to advance the study of language and literature, to develop skills in creative and analytical writing and to meet others dedicated to the discipline of English.

## **NEHS Constitution, Article X: Membership**

**Section I.** Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed on a student. Selection for membership is by a Faculty Advisory Council and is based both on academic accomplishment in English and English-related courses, as well as on overall academic accomplishment. For the purposes of identifying “English,” individual schools may use any courses that use the “English” designation on report cards or in fulfilling “English” requirements.

**Section II.** Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate high standards, including the maintenance of grades, in English. Failure to do so will result in removal from membership.

**Section III.** There are three types of membership: active, alumni, and honorary:

- A. Active members are high school students and remain active members while they maintain the required GPA and until graduation, at which time they become alumni members.
- B. Alumni members, in accordance with school policy, may be invited to participate in chapter events, but have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.
- C. Honorary membership may be awarded, by consent of the Faculty Advisory Council, to school officials, principals, teachers, adults and students whose achievements in English or NEHS-related activities merit special recognition. Chapters may induct up to four honorary members per year, and are responsible for induction fees for honorary members. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

**Section IV.** Any NEHS member who transfers to another school and brings a letter of verification from the former principal or Chapter Advisor to the new school NEHS Chapter Advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school’s chapter.

**Section V.** Membership may not be determined, in any way, on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical (dis)ability.

**Section VI.** Acceptance into NEHS membership does not confer automatic acceptance into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

## **M.A.P. (MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROJECTS)**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Heather Wirkus

**Club description:** Our goal will be to hold meetings to discuss mental health issues and the stigmas associated with it, how to help friends or others that may be suffering from mental health illnesses or issues, and have various projects during the year for fundraising for mental health organizations and raising awareness.

## **MAKE A WISH CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Lauren Mattera

**Club description:** The goals of the club are to raise money for the Make a Wish Connecticut branch and to raise awareness of the goal of the national Make a Wish Foundation. Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors and supporters advance the Make-A-Wish® vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. In the United States and its territories. The make a Wish Foundation believes a wish experience can be a game-changer. This one belief guides the Foundation and inspires its members to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids that they serve.

## **MATH TEAM**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Sydney Brown, Mr. Andrew Hill

**Club description:** The county meets are held at the Wilton HS on the first Wednesday of October, November, December, January, February and March. The state competition is held in April at a HS to be determined. All interested are encouraged to come. There are 6 members of the A team and the B team has no limit. A team is chosen by a mock meet or run-off using problems from previous meets in the correct category. At present the team needs sophomores and freshmen as the state requirements limit the number of seniors and juniors on the team.

## **MID-FAIRFIELD AIDS PROJECT**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Holly Sulzycki

**Club description:** This club will support raising efforts for MFAP. MFAP (<http://www.mfap.org/>) began in 1987 as an AIDS Service Organization and has evolved into a comprehensive provider that serves many diverse populations. We address a myriad of needs that plague very low income men women and children. Last year MFAP directly helped 150 people living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. They provided an array of prevention and related services to 200 more clients in the Fairfield County area. MFAP supported clients with over \$300,000 in direct financial aid. This was done by paying for, rents, utilities, food, car repairs, clothing, warm coats, medicines, medical and dental care, counseling sessions, transportation and other bare necessities. MFAP's goal is to locate people who are lacking the bare necessities crucial for a successful and happy life. We then help them get their needs met and help them to rebuild their lives. They have a number of programs to facilitate that process including the operation of "Moore Place", a ten room transitional living program where previously homeless individuals rebuild their lives. MFAP provides rent subsidies for 20 individuals and families. They work with the community to end homelessness and provide case management to ensure that our clients receive the proper and quality of care and support and are treated with dignity and respect. MFAP has nine staff members that are dedicated to the clients that they serve.

## **MINDFULNESS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Maureen Cadden

**Club description:** This club will focus on techniques and strategies to assist students in reducing stress and anxiety.

## **MOCK TRIAL CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Ann Neary

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to teach the students of Staples High School trial advocacy, and more importantly to develop the club member's skills in crafting and delivering an argument, questioning a witness, effective methods of persuasion and public speaking. The aim of the club is to reach out to students who have an interest in law and trial proceedings with the final goal to be holding a "mock trial". The club will be involved in teaching students about the various components of a mock trial and eventually use those skills in a mock trial competition against other schools with a mock trial club. This club will allow students to learn more about the law and explore the elements of legal proceedings.

## **MODEL UN CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Tom Brown

**Club description:** Club meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 2:15 in Room 2005. The purpose of the club is to research and experience the debates and situations that happen in the United Nations and gain more of knowledge of global politics. The group's goal is attend at least one Model UN meeting in the NY/Boston area each year.

## **MU ALPHA THETA MATHEMATICS HONOR SOCIETY**

**Advisor:** Ms. Dana Dolyak

**Activity description:** Mu Alpha Theta is the National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society. Mu Alpha Theta was formed in 1957 at the University of Oklahoma. The group is dedicated to inspiring keen interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject, and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school and two-year college students. The organization of mathematics clubs serves over 112,000 student members in more than 2300 schools in the United States and 20 foreign countries. Offering more than \$300,000 in scholarships, grants, awards, and prizes yearly, we would love to support your math club and talented math students. The national requirements for individual membership in a local chapter are as follows. These are the minimum requirements; chapters may elect to have stricter standards but not lower ones. Students are encouraged to participate in Mu Alpha Theta club meetings and activities, even if they do not qualify as members.

High school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed the equivalent of two years of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra and/or geometry, and in addition have completed or are enrolled in a third year of college preparatory mathematics are eligible for membership, providing their mathematical work was done with distinction. On the 4-point grading scale, this shall mean at least a 3.0 Math grade point average.

## **MULTICOPTER/DRONE CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Scott Lee

**Club description:** Students will be introduced to the application and operation of multi-rotors as well as an opportunity to learn and demonstrate engineering and piloting skills. Drones and other multi-copters are becoming increasingly more common and this club will welcome anyone from novice through advanced hobbyists. Students who are already familiar with drones will be able to teach newer members safe drone operation. Some of the club objectives are to experiment, trouble-shoot and test drones of all types in a safe environment, as well as build new drones. The engineering-intensive task of building new drones incorporates many invaluable skills such as programming, soldering and troubleshooting, all while being fun and enjoying the company of fellow enthusiasts. From aerial photography to FPV racing drones, the club will be inclusive of the interests of all drone enthusiasts.

## **NEED 4 NUTRITION**

**Advisors:** Mr. CJ Shamas

Club Description: Need 4 Nutrition's primary goal is to provide nutrition based knowledge and resources to people receiving assistance from food pantries and other organizations such as Person to Person and the Family and Children's Agency. The members of the club will create healthy and balanced recipes, containing food items commonly provided by these assistance programs. By developing these convenient recipes, we can help to educate people about nutrition, and help guide them to make health conscious choices. Additionally, the club will hold "healthy" food drives to help provide food options that are not always available to the organizations mentioned above.

## **NEXT STEP VOLUNTEERING**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Nell-Ayn Lynch

**Club description:** The club will choose a non-profit organization and work toward supporting that organization in exchange for education and training by the organization

## **NORWALK GRASSROOTS TENNIS & EDUCATION CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Perry Tavenner

**Club description:** Students will support the nonprofit Norwalk Grassroots Tennis Club. No previous tennis experience is needed. Students will provide mentoring, tutoring and coaching as well as participate in fund raising for NGT. Norwalk Grassroots Tennis was started in 1995 by a group of enthusiastic tennis players who wanted to give those less fortunate than themselves an opportunity to learn the game. Led from the beginning by Art Goldblatt, the Norwalk Housing Authority Project provided funding to NGT from their Drug Elimination program which was designed to help keep the underprivileged youth of Norwalk off the streets. In 2002, the government cut the Drug Elimination Fund and NGT had to rely on the support of charity funding. NGT has been able to do this successfully and continue to build and improve the program year after year. NGT is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to improving the lives of youths from broad socio-economic and cultural backgrounds with programs based on the ideals of tennis legend Arthur Ashe. It is part of the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network of 620 chapters with 350,000 participants founded in 1969 by Ashe, Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder as the National Junior Tennis League

## **OPERATION CARE PACKAGE**

**Advisor:** Mr. Drew Coyne

**Club description:** The objective of this club is to raise funds to assemble and ship care packages filled with snacks, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation addressed to U.S. Service Members deployed in hostile regions around the world.

## **OUTDOOR CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Ally Krubski

**Club description:** The principal goal of this club is to increase love and respect for the outdoors. This goal will be promoted through outdoor activities including, but not limited to, backpacking; camping; hiking; high altitude trekking; rock climbing; bouldering; kayaking; caving; snowshoeing and endeavors such as trail maintenance and conservation programs. We welcome anyone who is interested in the outdoors - no prior outdoor experience necessary!

## **PHOEBE'S PHRIENDS:**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Kelly Shamas

**Club Description:** Phoebe's Phriends is a non-profit 501c(3) corporation with a mission to find a cure for pediatric cancer. We will focus specifically on osteosarcoma (a rare bone cancer) and Pediatric Leukemia. We will also work to raise awareness about pediatric cancer, one of the most underfunded areas in all of cancer research. The goal of the club is to volunteer at any Phoebe-sponsored events and to examine new fundraising opportunities to benefit pediatric cancer.

## **PINK AID CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Will Jones

**Club description:** Staples Pink Aid's mission is to help underserved local women survive breast cancer treatment with support and dignity, to provide screening to women in financial need, and to empower breast cancer survivors to heal by helping and inspiring others. The club would partner with Westport Pink Aid (<http://pinkaid.org/pa/overview-mission/>) to support programs that provide services including free breast cancer screening and help covering non-medical expenses such as food cards, household bills, wigs, recovery garments and transportation for patients undergoing treatment. When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, she needs a lot more than medical help. She needs rides to and from treatments, babysitting, grocery delivery, medical navigation, wigs, recovery garments and so much more.

With a staggeringly high rate of occurrence, there are countless women that cannot afford to go through treatment with the proper care and dignity. Many also need free mammograms to help with early detection. There are several organizations that compassionately assist women in need that are diagnosed with breast cancer... but of course, they are in great need of funding.

While it is critical that we all continue to contribute to breast cancer research initiatives, Pink Aid is a grant-based organization that funds the efforts of organizations that provide this type of compassionate care... currently locally and ultimately beyond.

Pink Aid offers a welcome opportunity to join together to make a real difference in the lives of many women and their families, within and around our communities.

Founded in 2010, Pink Aid was granted 501C3 status in 2015. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## **PROGRAMMING CLUB**

**Advisor:** Dr. Flavio Tinoco

**Club description:** The purpose of the club is to educate and further promote interests in programming, which is a skill that will be essential in many fields. The club will learn about



programming languages and will work together on projects and real-world applications. This will be a fun way to explore and increase interest in programming.

## **RESHAPING REALITY** <http://www.reshapingreality.org/>

**Advisor:** Mr. Nick Mariconda

**Club description:** Reshaping Reality is an organization created in order to educate middle and high-school aged children in the dangers of dieting and disordered eating, and promotes healthy and confident relationships with food and body image. The club at Staples High school will help educate high school students in the significance of body image disturbance and give them a passion for making changes in a young society. It will provide a safe place for personal discussion and an inspirational environment for intimate growth. It will assist high school students in becoming compassionate and caring, and will assist in improving public speaking skills.

## **RHO KAPPA NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY**

<http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/departments/social-studies/rho-kappa>

**Advisor:** Mrs. Jeanne Stevens

**Activity description:** Staples High School is proud to hold a charter for the Saugatuck Chapter of Rho Kappa. The first group was inducted on May 20th, 2015. The members of this group participate in a minimum of 10 service hours, which promote the social studies in our school and local community. Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization that recognizes excellence in the field of Social Studies. Rho Kappa provides national recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. Through its sponsorship of Rho Kappa, National Council for the Social Studies hopes to encourage an interest in, understanding of, and appreciation for the social studies. At Staples High School, Rho Kappa is open to *qualified* seniors only. Candidates for membership should:

1. have been in attendance at the school in which the chapter resides for the equivalent of one semester prior to being considered (If a special circumstances merit, the high school administration may waive this requirement, providing a letter of explanation to the National Advisory Council).

2. have completed two core courses in the field of social studies and be prepared to complete at least three core courses. The minimum GPA for these courses is an unweighted 3.00 or the numerical equivalent.

3. have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.00 or the numerical equivalent (Individual chapters may choose to increase the GPA requirements for their chapter but may not decrease them).

## **ROOTS OF BOLANS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Jeffrey Doornweerd

**Club description:** This club will augment the charity of the same name. The club is dedicated to raise funds to support purchase of materials and assist in the operation of schools in Anitgua. The charity is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization founded by a variety of Americans who through a combination of sports and education were able to move out of Antigua. Last year, Roots of Bolans was able to establish the first playground at a school, as well as bringing twenty bikes to Anitgua. The club will work with the Staples Girls' Track Team to raise funds, organize material and equipment drives and recycle some of the school's unused materials. The club will also organize a used sneaker drive through he track team and other sports teams to send to Anigua.

**SAILING CLUB** <http://www.staplessailing.com/>

**Advisor:** Mr. Jim Goodrich

**Club Description** Regular season sailing competition comes from other public and private high schools in the area. Post- season competition is organized at both regional and national levels and all events follow the rules established by the United States Sailing Association. The Staples program is operated out of Cedar Point Yacht Club in Westport. High school sailing is a two-season sport. Competition is scheduled during both the fall and spring months. During the season, sailing club members meet and practice two to three times a week in addition to scheduled races. Co-ed competitive sailing on double-handed club 420s.

### ***Fall Season***

- Primarily developmental – boat handling, boat speed, racing fundamentals
- Preliminary team selection for spring season
- Run as a club sport
- 3 hour practices – 2x/week – after school – occasional weekend
- 6 to 8 weeks in the fall – early September through late October
- Limited regatta racing opportunities – formal and informal

### ***Spring Season***

- Run as Varsity team sport – focus on team racing

- Evaluations and Team Selections during first week of season
- 3 hour practices – 4x/week – after school – occasional weekend
- 8 to 10 weeks in spring – Late March through the end of May
- Weekly Regattas – after school – occasional weekend – home and away

Competes against both public and private schools sailing teams. Sailing hosted by Cedar Point Yacht Club (CPYC) on Saugatuck Island in Westport. Additional dry land training may be conducted at Staples High

## **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

**Advisor:** Ms. Karen Thompson

**Club description:** The purpose of the club is to prepare students for the state-level competition in March. The program is often likened to an “academic track meet” in which team members participate in 23 events across the entire spectrum of sciences. This club aims to inspire a love of science within the Staples community and promote cooperation as members study and prepare for competition. Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. These goals are achieved by participating in Science Olympiad tournaments and non-competitive events, incorporating Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum and attending teacher training institutes. In grades 6-12, Science Olympiad functions much like a football or soccer team, requiring preparation, commitment, coaching and practice throughout the year. Each school-based team is allowed to bring 15 students who cross-train for a variety of events in their skill set, but some school clubs have more than 75 members, allowing for an apprentice and mentoring system. This club is designed to allow students to participate as members of a Staples Science Olympiad Team.

## **SERVICE LEAGUE OF BOYS (S.L.O.B.s) <http://shsslobs.com/>**

**Advisor:** Mr. Eamon Griffin

**Club description:** Service League of Boys is a parent-son community service organization. The mission of this organization is for parents and sons to initiate and promote educational and charitable endeavors that foster community responsibility as well as strengthen their parent-son relationship.

## **GENDER EQUALITY CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Smanatha Ginzberg

**Club description:** The goal of this club is to provide a forum to promote and discuss equal opportunities in employment, education, political, economic and social rights. In addition, members will fund-raise and volunteer for a number of social activism related charities and groups.

## **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Geno Heiter

**Club description:** Social Entrepreneurs will be a social entrepreneurship club dedicated to raising money for microgrants for students at the School of Agriculture for Family Independence in Malawi, Southeast Africa. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. One in three people in Malawi are threatened by hunger every day, and as a country that primarily relies on agriculture as a means of survival, monies for tools and farming supplies is vital for economic growth. The club's entrepreneurship efforts will focus on raising monies through recycling. We will start by increasing awareness in our Staples community as well as in the greater Westport area about the importance of recycling for a sustainable future. The club will sponsor talks, utilize social media and develop print and web-based materials. The club will also gain permission to place special recycling bins for bottle and cans throughout the high school and in locations around town. Students in Malawi will be required to submit brief proposals (written or spoken) specifying what they will use the money for and faculty from SAFI will identify those students who will receive funding. The number and amount of the micro grants will be determined by the club's yearly recycling efforts. [http://www.forceforgood.org/content/ffg/en/projects/school\\_of\\_agricultureforfamilyindependencesafi.html](http://www.forceforgood.org/content/ffg/en/projects/school_of_agricultureforfamilyindependencesafi.html).

## **SOUNDINGS/QED LITERARY MAGAZINE**

**Advisor:** Ms. Kim Herzog

**Club description:** Soundings is Staples' club to support our students' literary pursuits. We host several readings at the public library each year and Soundings sponsors the Selected Shorts @ Staples short-stories at the library each month. Our main goal is putting together the annual literary magazine which features the creative works of our peers assembling the profundity of our fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction in its pages.

## **SOUP CLUB**

**Advisor:** Olivier Blanchardon

**Club description:** The soup kitchen under the John Street Bridge in Bridgeport is always looking for volunteers during the winter months. Ann Marie Tarinelli might be gone, but local volunteers are making sure her legacy -- a monthly soup kitchen under the John Street Bridge -- continues to feed the less fortunate. Tarinelli, 75, died in January of 2013. Until then, she ventured from her Trumbull home to Bridgeport at least one Sunday a month bringing food -- much of which she cooked herself -- to the needy gathered under the bridge. They were among the rare hot meals many could rely upon. Since the death of Ms. Tarinelli, many other organizations have taken ownership of continuing this tradition. This club is dedicated to supporting the organizations that continue to distribute food to the needy under the John Street overpass.

## **ST. JUDE'S HEART AND SOUL CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Ally Krubski

**Club description:** Heart and Soul is a club in which you devote your heart and soul for those in need of caring. This club provides the opportunity for students to volunteer in particular areas of a local hospital. Students do not only benefit from this rewarding community service project, but they also get the experience and exclusive opportunity to work in an educational hospital setting. Patients need your help, so please put some heart and soul into their lives. The hospital that is supported by this club is St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Students will sponsor fund raising activities that benefit the hospital.

## **STAND UP TO CANCER; STAPLES CHAPTER** <http://www.standup2cancer.org/>

**Advisor:** Mr. Nick Mariconda

**Club description:** Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) is a groundbreaking initiative created to accelerate innovative cancer research that will get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives now. SU2C is bringing together the best and the brightest researchers and encouraging collaboration instead of competition among the entire cancer community. By galvanizing the entertainment industry, SU2C creates awareness and builds broad public support for this effort. SU2C's mission is to fund collaborative, translational cancer research to bring treatments from the bench to the bedside faster, and save lives now. Since Stand Up To Cancer was founded in May 2008, we have granted \$161 Million Dollars to ten Dream Teams of scientists and researchers, one international translational research team and 26 high-risk, high-reward Innovative Research Grants. 100% of public funds go directly into research grants. A portion of the funds that are raised from major donations and third-party fundraising go towards administrative expenses and overhead. The Staples Chapter of SU2C is dedicated to fundraising to support the efforts of the national SU2C initiative

## **STAPLES eSPORTS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Andrew Carroll

**Club description:** The objective of the eSports club is to train teams to compete in interscholastic video game competition. Schools throughout the FCIAC already have eSports teams and Staples will train and compete against these other clubs and other clubs outside of the league as well.

## **STAPLES INVESTMENT CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Tamara Weinberg

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to introduce young investors to the beginning principals of the stock market and responsible investing, as well as to educate students on how to value a company. Students will create realistic investing experiences that can be used for practical application.

## **STAPLES LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! (LCA) CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Justin Nadal

**Club description:** The Staples Lights, Camera, Action Club is an extension of the Media Lab video production program, and will give students far-reaching opportunities to produce film, news, and other video productions. Students will support each other in video production projects in order to ensure the best possible final product and to enhance the production of all club members

## **STAPLES POSSE FOUNDATION**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cathy Schager

**Club description:** Founded in 1989, Posse (<https://www.possefoundation.org/>) identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams—Posses—of 10 students. Posse partner colleges and universities award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. The Staples club will partner with the national Posse organization and will expand the influence of the organization to Fairfield county. The club will partner with the national organization to raise funds for promising students.

The Posse model works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development. As the United States becomes an increasingly multicultural society, Posse believes that the leaders of this new century should reflect the country's rich demographic mix and that the key to a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to

complex social problems. One of the primary aims of the Posse program is to train these leaders of tomorrow. The national Posse Organization has three goals:

1. To expand the pool from which top colleges and universities can recruit outstanding young leaders from diverse backgrounds.
2. To help these institutions build more interactive campus environments so that they can be more welcoming for people from all backgrounds.
3. To ensure that Posse Scholars persist in their academic studies and graduate so they can take on leadership positions in the workforce.

## **STAPLES PLAYERS**

**Advisor:** Mr. David Roth

**Meeting Time/Place:** Meets year round and almost every day

**Club description:** Staples Players is an extracurricular activity and an adjunct of the Theatre Department. It provides each student an opportunity to take part in and learn about all aspects of theatre. Drama exercises, techniques of acting and staging, technical work, administrative work, leadership, musicianship as well as actual roles in plays are experienced by participants in this program. The main stress is not placed on any particular area of theater but on student involvement with the program in general. Staples Players involves over 150 students as actors musicians and technicians in 2 main stage productions, 4-5 student directed studio productions and our annual one act play festival.

## **STAPLES STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS) JOURNAL**

**Advisor:** Ms. Karen Thompson

**Club description:** This club will provide a platform for students to foster their passion and interests in the STEM fields, and to promote a mutual interest for understanding of the complex and beautiful world around us. This club will be open to all students and students will be encouraged to submit a one to two page article of their choice, which will be published in a STEM Journal. This club will foster collaboration with the school newspaper "Inklings" and the Women in STEM Club.

## STAPLES TUITION GRANTS

**Advisor:** Ms. Victoria Capozzi

**Club description:** Since 1943, Staples Tuition Grants has helped ensure that no Staples High School graduate is denied a college education because of financial need. Staples Tuition Grants (STG) provides tuition assistance to Staples High School seniors and graduates in Westport, CT with demonstrated financial need, helping to close the gap between what their family can afford and the expected cost of tuition at the student's chosen college or trade school. STG was founded on the belief that all young adults should have the opportunity to continue their education beyond high school. The purpose of this club is to raise student awareness of how the STG can benefit students. <http://www.staplestuitiongrants.org/>

## STOCKS FOR SHELTER

**Advisor:** Dr. Flavio Tinoco

**Club description:** The club will have a mock portfolio of stocks online. For the first two months, club members will be expected to find people willing to donate funds to the club at the conclusion of the school year, similar to a walkathon. The donors will be asked to donate to the cause based on how well club members investments have done during the school year. Donations will then be made to Safe Child-Africa. Safe Child Africa is a UK registered charity<sup>[1]</sup> that works with and through Nigerian partners to protect and uphold child rights in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. It was founded by Gary Foxcroft in 2005. Safe Child Africa is based in Manchester, England.

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY

**Advisor:** Mrs. Jamie Pacuk

**Club description:** The Student Assembly is the students' arm of governance at Staples High School. The SA meets twice a month to discuss school policies. The consensus reached at our meetings is represented through two SA representatives who sit on the Collaborative Team. The Student Assembly is comprised of ten student representatives from each grade and directed by five elected officials. The SA is committed to collecting the student voice and conveying it to the faculty and administration in a timely and effective manner.



## **STUDENTS FIGHTING HUNGER**

**Advisor:** Mr. David Willick

**Club description:** This club will do all that it can to alleviate the suffering of hungry people around the world. The club will accomplish this through education, activism and fundraising events. The goals will be addressed both in the Staples community and the larger community of Westport. This club will focus on both local and international issues caused by suffering from hunger and starvation

## **STUDENTS SUPPORTING SPECIAL ATHLETES**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Janet Zmary

**Club Description:** SSSA is comprised of a group of mainstream students who are interested in helping special needs students within the school and special needs members in the greater Westport community. The most consistent activity we participate in is playing unified sports. Club members compete with special needs students at Staples against other schools. We play soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and track and field in the spring. We practice during our meeting time for 5 - 6 weeks, and then compete in a tournament or at a meet. Athletic ability is not important. Helping others is! The club also does small fund raisers, volunteers at Special Olympics and various other activities.

## **STAPLES YEARBOOK**

**Advisor:** Mr. Dan Woog, Mrs. Liz Shaffer

**Activity description:** Club members write, photograph, design, edit, lay out, and handle thousands of important details for, Staples' gold medal award-winning yearbook.

## **SUPPORTING NICAPHOTO**

**Advisor:** Ms. Michele Morse

**Club description:** The mission of NicaPhoto is to empower disadvantaged children and their families living in the poorest barrios of Nicaragua, allowing them to reach their full potential, and in doing so, to break the cycle of extreme poverty. This is accomplished through a holistic manner involving educational support in the form of tutoring, art and enrichment to develop the creative spirit and critical thinking, as well as programs in health, nutrition and personal and community development. This club will work to support the international NicaPhoto charity. (<http://www.nicaphoto.org/>)

## **SURVIVORS TO THRIVERS**

**Advisor:** Mr. Chris Fray

**Club description:** Whether members of the group are currently going through something or have gone through something in the past, you to know that you do not have to go through this alone. This group is a place where you are able to feel safe and feel heard. Roughly 63,000 children (both boys and girl) are sexually abused every year. Our Mission in this group: lower that statistic and to speak out and let people know that they are not alone

## **TABLETOP AND BOARD GAME CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Andrew Carroll

**Club description:** This club is dedicated to playing a variety of board games, traditional and non-traditional. Playing board games is great for social interaction as well as exercising skills of strategy and critical thinking. The goal of the board game club is to introduce students to a genre of light strategy board games that appeals to all ages. These games will also help students develop social, developmental, and cognitive skills they will not build by watching TV or playing Halo. Board games involve making important decisions and taking actions, as opposed to rolling a die.

## **TEAM ASPCA**

**Advisor:** Drew Coyne

**Club description:** The club will conduct fund raising throughout the year to benefit the ASPCA. In addition, the club will conduct volunteer work with The Alliance In Limiting Strays, or T.A.I.L.S. The Mission of T.A.I.L.S. is to serve the community as a charitable organization that promotes spay/neutering of animals and provides financial support to humane organizations and individuals in pursuit of this goal. The organization is dedicated to vigorously promoting and educating the community about the importance of spay/neuter to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the killing of unwanted dogs, cats, and other animals. T.A.I.L.S. began by a group of animal shelter volunteers who got together and started brainstorming about how to really make an impact - on a broad scale - about ending dog and cat euthanasia. The answer that the group came up with? Form a group which specifically highlights the importance of spay/neutering - in other words: stop the flow of animals into the shelters. There wasn't a group in our area who did this - there were great no-kill shelters - but nobody to stand up, highlight the need and actually help fund what all of us knew was such a critical means to the end: spaying and neutering. And thus TAILS was born. Shortly after organizing, TAILS received a 501(c)3 (tax exempt) status in November 2001 and has been funding and promoting the spay/neuter of pet animals ever since. T.A.I.L.S. is an all-volunteer organization, based in Westport, CT, who tirelessly works towards the day we live in a "zero kill" world.

## **TEEN AWARENESS GROUP (TAG) [www.shstag.com](http://www.shstag.com)**

**Advisor:** Ed Milton/Elaine Daignault

**Club description:** TAG is a club consisting of an alliance of young people with diverse beliefs and opinions, designed to identify the various and potentially compromising situations many young people will face during their adolescent years. TAG members are dedicated to working together in an effort to realize the options available to teenagers, as they pertain to awareness and safety, and develop and promote prevention strategies which focus on social decision making.

## **TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY**

**Advisor:** Ms. Jessica Levy

**Club description:** The purpose of this club is to give back to the community by knitting blankets and hats in a fun social group for babies who are born prematurely at Norwalk Hospital.

## **TOQUET HALL**

**Advisor:** Mr. Kevin Godburn

**Club Description:** Toquet Hall opened in 1998 as a positive response to the need of Westport youth for a safe and fun place they could call their own. The mission of Toquet Hall is to meet the critical and emerging needs of teens in our community. Toquet Hall is a supervised drug/alcohol-free place where high school age youth can initiate and participate in social, cultural, recreational, and educational activities. Toquet Hall is governed by a partnership of high school students and adults. The shared values and goals of participants in Toquet Hall include: the building of trust between teens and adults, the growth of leadership skills, and the development of respect for oneself and others.

### **Teen Governing Board**

Toquet Hall is governed in part by a team of students from Westport public and private high schools as well as a few from our neighboring Weston High School. The Teen Governing Board (TGB) meets at least bimonthly and is responsible for event planning, fundraising and facility design as needed. Members are expected to abide by the Toquet Code of Conduct and by their own governing bylaws. The board is the “street team” for Toquet Hall and all active members get into Toquet events at no cost. It is a great, unique leadership opportunity for students. If interested, please contact Toquet Hall at [toquethall@hotmail.com](mailto:toquethall@hotmail.com)

## **TRI-M MUSIC HONORS SOCIETY**

**Advisor:** Mr. Nick Mariconda

**Club description:** The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for middle/junior high and high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership.

Through more than 5,500 chartered chapters, Tri-M has helped thousands of young people provide years of service through music in schools throughout the world. Tri-M is a program of the National Association for Music Education. To be eligible for membership, a student must maintain a B average in their music classes, a B average in all of their academic courses, be presently enrolled in a music course at their school, and be recommended for membership by their school's music faculty.

## **TURNING POINT CT**

**Advisor:** Ms. Jennifer Mitteness

**Club description:** Turning Point Ct is a locally based project created throughout the Connecticut Department of mental health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) in order to increase young peoples' engagement in mental health through technology. The Southwest Regional Mental health Board (SWRMHB) has been directing the project since its inception. The project is based on the website [TurningPointCT.org](http://TurningPointCT.org), which was developed by young people in Connecticut who are in recovery from mental health and substance abuse. Any young adult is able to connect with other people at [TurningPointCT.org](http://TurningPointCT.org) for an online peer support community. TurningPointCT's mission is to empower teens and young adults in their search for emotional and mental wellness. It has been successful in connecting, normalizing and validating the mental health needs of youth and young adults in Connecticut. For young people, it represents a place to see that you are not alone and as a source of answers to demystify the process of seeking help, a space to share your insights and a way to identify resources for recovery, wellness and social and clinical support. The club will be devoted to participating on the website as appropriate and suggesting improvements for the website. The club will also promote events in the Southwest Mental health Awareness Region that TurningPointCT advocates for, as well as increasing mental health awareness at Staples.

## **UNICEF CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Dana Gilland

**Club description:** UNICEF High School Clubs partner with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to educate, advocate, and fundraise—work that is vital to UNICEF’s ability to save children in 190 countries around the globe. The UNICEF High School Club program is a youth-led initiative that partners with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to educate, advocate, and fundraise on behalf of UNICEF's lifesaving work. A growing movement rooted in a belief that students have a vital role to play in helping the world’s children survive, the program supports UNICEF’s child survival work in more than 150 countries, and helps educate communities throughout the United States, giving students an opportunity to engage members of their families and communities on global humanitarian issues.

## **UNIFIED SPORTS-ELEMENTARY CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Jennifer Dayton

**Club description:** The Unified Sports-Elementary Club is a recreational club where Staples students partner with Special Olympics Athletes at Long Lots elementary school come together to play on the same team in a variety of sports. Unified Sports promotes social inclusion by partnering Staples students with Special Olympics Athletes. By having people with and without intellectual disabilities competing on the same team, friendships and understanding are quickly fostered among teammates and competitors.

## **ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Tom Brown:

**Club description:** Ultimate Frisbee was developed in 1968 by a group of students at Columbia H.S. in Maplewood, NJ. Although Ultimate resembles many traditional sports in its athletic requirements, it is unlike most sports due to its focus on self-officiating, even at the highest levels of competition. This concept, called Spirit of the Game, is integrated into the basic philosophy of the sport, written into the rules, and practiced at all levels of the game from local leagues to the World Games.

Combining the non-stop movement and athletic endurance of soccer with the aerial passing skills of football, a game of Ultimate is played by two teams with a flying disc or Frisbee™ on a field with end zones, similar to football. The object of the game is to score by catching a pass in the opponent’s end zone. A player must stop running while in possession of the disc, but may pivot and pass to any of the other receivers on the field. Ultimate is a transition game in which players move quickly from offense to defense on turnovers that occur with a dropped pass, an interception, a pass out of bounds, or when a player is caught holding the disc for more than ten seconds. Ultimate is governed by Spirit of the Game™, a tradition of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play on the players rather than referees. Ultimate is played in more than 80 countries by an estimated 7 million of men and women, girls and boys. The international governing body, WFDF, represents 59 member associations in 56 countries.

## **WAKEMAN TOWN FARM CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Cecily Gans

**Club description:** This club is designed to get students from all grades to participate in working at Westport's Wakeman Town Farm. The Wakeman Town Farm Sustainability Center is an organic demonstration homestead open to the public. The Farm is a model facility created to educate the community with local healthy food production, responsible land stewardship, sustainable practices and community service orientation. Activities include educational workshops, student internships, hosting after school environmental clubs, children's summer camp programs, growing fruits and vegetables, animal husbandry, providing a farm stand and CSA pickup location. There will also be discussions of sustainable farming solutions, not only in Westport, but on a global scale.

## **WESTPORT POLICE YOUTH COLLABORATIVE**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Elaine Daignault ( [elained@westportct.gov](mailto:elained@westportct.gov))

**Club description:** Young people are invited to interact with police in a non-enforcement capacity. The group sponsors events such as "Dodge a Cop". Dodge-a-Cop is one of many Westport Police-Youth Collaborative (WPYC) events where young people are invited to interact with police in a non-enforcement capacity. From "Cop Shops" to volleyball and informal gatherings, the WPYC strives to find ways to promote positive interactions between kids and cops.

## **WOMEN'S ENTREPRENURIAL CLUB**

**Advisor:** Ms. Natalie Odierna

**Club description:** The purpose of the club is to highlight opportunities for young women as entrepreneurs and to foster creative thinking to create new business ideas by exposing the club to entrepreneurs in a variety of areas. The club will recruit women entrepreneurs in the community to speak at club meetings. Trips to various businesses will be planned and carried out to get a first-hand look at business operations. The club will also explore starting various businesses and conducting an entrepreneurial fair.

## **WRECKERS CHARITY CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mrs. Cathy Carlson

**Club Description:** The overall goal of this club is to perform random acts of kindness, whether it's collecting school supplies for children in less fortunate districts, constructing care packages for US troops, visiting the elderly or merely raking leaves for an infirmed neighbor. The overall goal is to "pay it forward"

## **WRECKERS IN TUNE** (<http://www.wreckersintune.com/>)

**Advisor:** Ms. Carrie Mascaro

**Club description:** Staples High School prides itself in its variety of after school activities. Of these 100+ clubs, Wreckers In Tune stands out above the rest as one of the fast-growing and most popular Staples has to offer. The club is centered around the idea of gathering the musically gifted students and applying that talent by performing to give back to the local community. Composed of nearly 100 multifaceted students from all walks of music and life, Wreckers In Tune strives to make every performance its best.

Our club's efforts are directed towards giving back to the community that has given us so much—nursing homes, Toquet Hall, or anywhere in between. We cover any and all genres. From classical to contemporary and rock to ragtime, we have it all.

We typically perform on Thursday evenings. Custom dates/times for performances are available upon request. Performances are usually 45-60 minutes in length. Although there are nearly 100 participants in the club, we bring only 10-15 members per show to ensure premier cohesion without an overwhelming number of acts. If you need a custom length of time, or a custom amount of performers—either less or more—please let us

At Staples High School, the athletic mascot is the “Wrecker,” a construction worker. When founding the club, we decided we were going to function the same as any other team, building camaraderie and working toward a mutual goal. Thus, our team name, like all others from Staples, is the Wreckers. The “In Tune” part of our name came from what we do: play music. Moreover, just as we are In Tune to our music, we are also In Tune to our community. That's Wreckers In Tune.

- See more at: <http://www.wreckersintune.com/about-us/#sthash.V1TX80F.dpuf>

## **YOGA CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Jeff Doornweerd

**Club description:** The goal of the Yoga Club will be to offer interested students an opportunity to relieve stress or simply to try something new through the practice of yoga. The club meetings will include video yoga lessons, relaxation activities, meditation and discussion of the practice of yoga.

## **YOUNG DEMOCRATS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Chris Fray

**Club description:** This is a student run political action club which support democratic causes and candidates on the local, state and national level. Activities include discussion democratic perspectives on politics, participating in campaigns, and meeting with local political candidates to hear about the issues they fight for.

## **YOUNG POLITICIAN'S LEAGUE (YPL)**

**Advisors:** Ms. Cathy Schaefer, Mr. Dan Heaphy

**Club description:** The overall purpose of this club is to make Staples students more politically educated, informed and astute. For each meeting a designated club member will choose their five biggest political news stories and recount them to the club members in an objective fashion. After the presentation of the story, one student each will present both a liberal minded and a conservative minded point of view of the event .The club will also have a goal of promoting understanding opposite points of view through political discourse.

## **YOUNG REPUBLICANS CLUB**

**Advisor:** Mr. Dave Rollison

**Club description:** The Young Republicans Club is defined as a group of high school students who gather together sharing an affinity for all or most of the ideals and/or actions of the GOP. The purposes of the club are to:

2. increase the popularity of the GOP throughout the school and local area through community service, leadership and political activism.
3. promote awareness about political issues, parties, and decisions, especially during times of election.
4. provide a unique interaction between members to promote the exchange of ideas, values, and friendship among similarly minded peers.