

2020-2021



# White Plains Middle School

## **Afterschool Activities Guide**

## Table of Contents

Welcome Letter from Principal _____	Page 2
Highlands Eligibility Process _____	Page 3
Running Afterschool Activities Remotely _____	Page 4
• Schoology Course	
• Zoom Expectations	
• Updates	
• Attendance	
White Plains Middle Afterschool Activities _____	Page 5 -11
• General Information – Page 5	
• Yearlong Club and Activities – Pages 5-7	
• Fall Club and Activities – Pages 7-8	
• Winter Club and Activities – Pages 8-9	
• Spring Club and Activities – Pages 10-11	
An Equal Opportunity Employer Disclaimer _____	Page 12

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Since extracurricular activities are an important part of the middle school experience, we offer a vast array of activities to our students. The cocurricular/after-school activities are a true extension of the school day offering students an opportunity to explore different areas of interest, to build relationships with other students, and to develop school spirit and to have fun.

Our success over the years has, in large part, hinged on the support of parents. Our parents have always encouraged participation, provided extra transportation when needed, attended, and applauded at every opportunity.

All clubs and activities will run remotely this year. Students will be able to access all clubs through Schoology courses. Up to date club information and Schoology course codes can be found on our Highlands webpage.

This guide lists the after-school activities available to your child during the 2020-2021 school year. You should use this guide to assist your child in his/her selection of activities and in schedule planning. You will also be able to find many of the schedules for the activities posted on the Highlands school website.

The Middle School staff recognizes the value of after-school activities and appreciates your involvement and support. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or comments about our after-school programs.

Sincerely,

Ernest Spatafore

# Highlands Eligibility Process

## Student Responsibilities

- Students with grades above 70 are fully **Eligible** for interscholastic sports, clubs, and activities
- Students with grades of 70 to 65 or are failing one course with a grade of 64 or lower are on **Probation** and...
  - o must sign an *Eligibility Contract* along with parent and coach/advisor to participate in clubs/sports.
  - o are off the *Eligibility Contract* if passing all classes with above a 70 at next report period.
  - o remain on the *Eligibility Contract* if grades are still between 70 to 65/failing one course at the next report period (if still participating in clubs/sports). A new contract must be signed with each new club or sport a student starts while on Probation.
- Students who are failing two or more courses with grades of 64 and below are **Ineligible** to participate in interscholastic sports and/or clubs and activities. Students who are **Ineligible** may...
  - o start or continue with a sport or a club and practice/attend meetings **if** the student:
    - signs the *Eligibility Contract* with their parent/guardian and coach/advisor
    - adheres to all aspects of the *Eligibility Contract* (or be removed from team/club)
    - submits weekly *WPMS Eligibility Progress Reports* to coach/advisor
  - o **Please Note** - Ineligible students are not permitted to participate in games/performances/competitions unless an appeal has been heard and granted
    - A written appeal must come from the coach/advisor and guidance counselor
    - The Eligibility Committee will meet and render a decision
    - if granted the student may compete in games/performances but must remain on the *Eligibility Contract* and *Eligibility Progress Report*
    - If denied the student continues with the Ineligible status above
    - Student's status is reviewed at the next 5-week report period

## Coach's and Advisor's Responsibilities

1. Review report each 5-week period and check each team/club members' status (Student's status adjusts each 5-week period)
2. Determine if a student is either: Eligible, on Probation, or Ineligible
3. Advise student of their situation and make necessary adjustments (remove from team/put on appropriate contract)
4. Collect contracts, arrange for appeals, collect, and review progress reports and restrict, if necessary, students who are not meeting the above stated requirements
5. Coaches need to collect contracts and progress reports and make available for parent and/or team teacher meetings (ex. Team 7A or Team 8D)
6. Coaches must submit copies of fully completed Contracts to Brent Brown, Eligibility Coordinator at Highlands. Mr. Brown will distribute the Contracts to the student's appropriate Assistant Principal.

# Running Afterschool Activities Remotely

## **Schoology Course**

- Join the Schoology Course for your club where you can find:
  - Important information
  - Updates & Announcements
  - Microsoft Form for Attendance
  - Zoom link / Schoology Conference directions
  - Schedule of Meeting Dates

## **Zoom Expectations**

- Cameras should be on during the meeting to increase engagement.
- Participate using the silent reactions (emojis), chat, raising their hand or unmuting themselves.
- Stay in the Zoom meeting during the set club times.

## **Updates**

- Regularly check Schoology for updates and announcements.
- Check the Student Bulletin for updates.
- Listen to the morning announcements.

## **Attendance**

- Fill out the attendance form at all club meetings.

# **WHITE PLAINS MIDDLE SCHOOL** **AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Activities are always open to students. Some activities are scheduled on a seasonal basis, but this is subject to change. Always check the White Plains Middle School website for specific schedules.

Fall: September through mid – November  
Winter: mid – November through mid – March  
Spring: mid – March through June

Students are asked to listen to the daily morning announcements, for updated information on afterschool activities.

## **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **“The Courier” (School Newspaper)**

Yearlong

Are you interested in the latest trends? Are you curious about what is going on in our local community? Become a part of history and join the longest running school newspaper in the country: The Courier! Whether you are a writer, reporter, artist, or photographer, (there is a spot for everyone!) The Courier needs you to help us gather the most exciting, important information to share with our Highlands community. Join Ms. Tschinkel to bring the latest news and trends to life by joining The Courier.

Publishing *The Courier* is a collaborative process. During our virtual meetings, writers, reporters, photographers, and artists will work together to gather information that they feel our community wants to know about. We will have time to interview members of the community, as well as writing and creating the articles. Our virtual meeting time is important, as we want all members of the club to have an opportunity to share their ideas and support the publishing process of The Courier.

### **Community Service Club**

Yearlong

Do you love the White Plains community and want to take steps to make sure it is the best possible place for people to live? Join the Community Service Club! Students will identify needs in the community and take action to make sure those needs are met. Students will take part in the implementation of these plans to make White Plains even better!

Meetings will be held over Zoom. We will begin with exploring the importance of community service. Students will then move onto identifying needs in the community. Due to the pandemic, there may be less "in person" community service events, but students will still be guiding fundraising and other events to meet needs in the community.

## **Earth Team** Yearlong

Earth Team is a student organization that brings Highlands students together to work on creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable environment. Students learn about environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, and species extinction and then put their knowledge into action by teaching others in our community how to live sustainably. Students work together to find ways to move Highlands and the White Plains community forward toward a greener, eco-friendly future. Students will work on taking care of our Earth right here on campus by cleaning up the courtyard, managing the school compost and special recycling programs and much more!

Earth Team will run remotely this year by focusing our efforts on educational and awareness campaigns. Students can engage in projects in which they learn more about an environmental issue and then create educational materials/activities that can be shared with the larger Highlands community through virtual platforms. For example, students can learn about a topic and then create videos to help spread awareness of environmental issues. Students can plan virtual activities for Earth Day and Earth Month in April. If it becomes possible to do so safely, students can enjoy the fresh air outside as they engage in cleaning up and maintaining the courtyard.

## **Jazz Band** Yearlong

Jazz Band is a separate ensemble from regular band classes. The band plays more contemporary music than the school bands, with a focus on jazz, rock, funk, swing, etc. We also learn about and engage in improvisation. Under normal circumstances we'd play 3-6 concerts in the school or community during the year.

We will be focusing more on improvisation, jazz articulation and style. We will be rehearsing once a week using different method books, scale studies and etudes. Our "performances" for the year will consist of recordings students will make on their own, then compiled by me into a final product.

[www.MrVeeder.com](http://www.MrVeeder.com)

## **Student Organization (S.O.)**

### **Yearlong**

The Student Organization (S.O.) at Highlands provides students with opportunities to learn from each other, engage and lead with the school community. The S.O. club allows students to share their passions and interests with other students while developing leadership and organizational skills. Students will be planning and leading school-wide events and activities at Highlands, such as the No Name-Calling Week. In addition, students will have the opportunity of becoming club officers and manage club financials.

Students will be part of the Student Organization (S.O.) Schoology course where important announcements, updates, and information will be posted regularly. Live meetings will take place on Zoom on announced Tuesdays. Students will participate in team building and leadership activities during the live meetings. Students will also engage with each other by using technology applications when necessary. The schedule of all upcoming meetings will be available on the Schoology course as well as on the Highlands Webpage.

## **“Visions” (WPMS Yearbook)**

### **Yearlong**

The “Visions” Yearbook Club is an opportunity to be a part of the creative process that allows students to leave a lasting memory for years to come. Participation is open to all WPMS Highlands students. This is a terrific opportunity for students to learn layout design, writing, photography, and marketing.

We will meet on Zoom to learn skills needed to use our online Walsworth platform. Subcommittees will be created and responsible for their goals and deadlines, which includes: Layout Designers, Editors, Photographers, Marketing, and Copywriters.

## **Digital Art Club**

### **Fall**

Do you love art and technology? In the Digital Art club students will learn the techniques to create art using iPads and computers. Students will experiment with new skills by creating and producing an original stop action movie. Students will also use apps to create digital drawings, paintings, photography editing skills.

We will meet on Zoom to learn new lessons in digital art through demonstrations and tutorials by using iPad apps to create our digital content.

## **Programming Club**

Fall

Welcome to Coding Club. In this club we will learn the basics (and advanced techniques) of coding computer programs using MINECRAFT! We will discover how to code and see the results of our programs. This club is for all students that enjoy computers and video games and have the curiosity to learn how things work!

We will be using the Minecraft for Education Application, available in Self-Service, to teach students the basics of coding.

## **Multicultural Cooking and Crafts Club**

Fall

Students engage in creating crafts from all around the world. Each craft has a thorough cultural lesson and experience. For this year, since we are not able to meet in person and create dishes, we will be taking various virtual visits to museums worldwide.

We will meet once a week via Zoom. I will have activities planned out for each day. We will visit different museum around the world and will create crafts related to the visits. I will provide students with supplies (when they come in person) if needed.

## **Roaring Reader's Book Club**

Fall

The Roaring Readers Book Club meets twice a month to discuss a popular book that we agree upon to read on our own time. Vibrant, informative, and interesting conversations will not only benefit student confidence in reading but big world ideas as well. We may work together to create video book trailers, advertisements for books and posters to encourage the school community to read more. All students are welcome to join. Books will be provided!

Students will have access to our Schoology Course to find important updates and information. We will be holding our live sessions over Zoom.

## **Fine Art Club**

Winter

Take your art skills to the next level in Fine Art Club. For beginner to advanced-level artists, we will have weekly art challenges and learn in-depth techniques to make exciting artwork. We will learn new skills and can pursue our own artistic interests.

We will begin the club with an optional share-out of art from members. Then we will have a weekly "challenge" or "activity" that will inspire students to learn and use new art skills. Then we will share and discuss our artwork at the end.

## **Guitar Club**

### **Winter**

The Guitar Club is an opportunity to learn everything "guitar"! We will explore techniques, styles, technology, effects, repair, maintenance, restringing, tuning, and songwriting. We will also learn the fundamentals of playing the acoustic and electric guitar including chords, scales, arpeggios, and single-string melodies utilizing strumming, picking, finger picking, and chicken-pickin! This year, we will play the guitar as a solo instrument as well as an accompanying instrument.

This year we are fully virtual. There will be two cameras set up so that musicians can see techniques from different angles. We will meet 1X/2X weekly depending on the number of students interested and their schedules. Zoom invites will be sent once we establish our roster for 2020-21. The club will begin in January...enough time to ask for a guitar for a holiday gift.

## **Talent Show**

### **Winter**

This year's Talent Show will be showcased in a new format, but we will continue to highlight the talented students at Highlands Middle School! The MCs really keep the energy of the show going with their comedic skits and audience participation. The rehearsals will take place after school with Mrs. Davila and Ms. Melendez. This year's Talent Show will take place the Friday before Spring Break. All students who would like to share their talents can join the Talent Show. If you would like to sing, you need to sign up on the "Singer Sign up" sheet. We hope you can share your talents with Highlands!

We will meet from 3 pm to 4 pm on "M" days from January through March. First, you will attend an interest meeting to determine which act you would like to showcase. You will work with Ms. Melendez to finalize your music. Students will practice with the teachers and others in their same category. For example, dancers, singers, MCs, etc. You will be expected to log into Zoom for each meeting. The teachers will work with students in groups and individually.

You will receive a "Talent Show Contract" and "Talent Show Expectations" handout after the interest meeting.

## **Art Club** Spring

This is a great place to explore your personal interests in art, exchange creative ideas, learn new techniques and meet friends with similar interests. In the past we have been asked to create costumes and designs for the school musical production. Creating art for people allows our community to see what talent our student artists have here at Highlands. It also shows our art club students that art making is important in all aspects of life and can really bring joy to everyone.

We will meet on Zoom to discuss, share and work on our art & crafts project ideas for the semester (independent and community projects).

## **Highlands Chess Club** Spring

Students will engage in the game of virtual chess. Students will be able to play each other in matches depending on their skill level. Students who would like the opportunity to learn chess can watch videos and engage in matches with those of their own beginner level.

We will be using ChessKid.com. This website allows me to set up a club and have students create their own accounts and join my club. I will be able to organize tournaments and even allow students who are learning the sport to play puzzles and watch tutorial videos.

## **Highlands Movie Club** Spring

The Highlands Movie Club provides an opportunity for students to be part of something fun, creative, and social while also building analytical skills to better understand film and the world. The Highlands Movie Club will watch and review movies of various genres (i.e. suspense, animation, drama, documentary, comedy, etc.), while also discussing the stories told through film, exploring themes, symbols, filmmaker's intentions, and building a rich list of cinematic terminology. In addition, the club will read and publish movie reviews (via school website, Schoology, and/or The Courier) with a student-created movie rating system.

The Highlands Movie Club will meet for live sessions on Zoom. SWANK will primarily be used to stream movies during club hours. Any important information, updates, and discussions will be posted in the club's Schoology course.

## **Highlands Teen Fit**

### **Spring**

The main idea is for students to start moving more. Students will run through a workout once a week. We will spend the first 15 minutes stretching, 10 minutes reviewing the workout, 30 minutes performing the workout and a 10-minute cool down. I will show students correct movement patterns for the workout. We will discuss healthy habits, including healthy food choices.

Students will join the Schoology course that will have a Zoom link. I will post workouts to the Schoology course, so students know ahead of time what the workout is. I will have students sign into the Zoom, I will explain the workout and show them the different movements and how they should be performed. I will run them through the warm-up, and they will complete the workout after. They can keep their camera on or turn it off. I will have each student write down their time or rounds depending on the workout. After the workout I will run them through a cool down virtually.

## **Relaxation and Mindfulness Club**

### **Spring**

The goal of the club is to provide a venue for students to come and give themselves some "me time" to focus on themselves and provide techniques/exercises to be the best they can be.

It will run on zoom and be broken into several parts, including self-reflection journal entries, meditation exercises and yoga/stretching activities.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

*The White Plains School District is an equal opportunity provider. In accordance with federal law, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, marital or familial status. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, White Plains School District, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains, NY 10605, or call 914-422-2352.*

*Un Empleador con Igualdad de Oportunidades*

*El Distrito Escolar de White Plains es un proveedor con igualdad de oportunidades. De acuerdo con la ley federal, esta institución está prohibida de discriminar en base a la raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, religión, edad, incapacidad, estado marital o familiar. Para presentar una queja de discriminación escriba al Asistente del Superintendente de Recursos Humanos, White Plains School District, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains, NY 10605 o llame al 914-422-2352.*