2026–2027 CLUBS & ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

MARANATHA
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CLUB DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Welcome

We are an influential school of collaborators, innovators, and explorers grounded in Christian faith, empowering co-creators of tomorrow. A well-rounded and balanced education includes opportunities to participate in extracurricular clubs, activities, and athletics, which will aid students in becoming Spirit-driven leaders, Curious Explorers, Impactful Innovators, Courageous Changemakers, Gracious Community Builders, and Empathic Problem Solvers.

If an advisor or coach is not available for a club, activity, or sport, MCA reserves the right to cancel or discontinue that activity.

NHS: NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Advisor: Mrs. Chloe Larson

Description: The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since 1921.

Requirements: Students in grades 10-12 wanting to participate in NHS must have a 3.5+ GPA, complete an application, and demonstrate excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Students in the society must participate in two NHS community service activities with a minimum of four hours of service time.

Schedule: candidates will be informed of their status in October and inducted on the second Monday in November. The society will meet every month to conduct meetings and schedule service projects.

Fees: $25.00. (Members will also need to purchase an NHS shirt designed by chapter leadership. This is mandatory.)

NJHS: NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Advisor: Mrs. Katie Laing and Mr. Allen Banks

Description: The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. The NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since 1929.

Requirements: Students in grades 6-9 who participate in the NJHS must have a 3.5+ GPA, complete an application, and demonstrate excellence in Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Students in the society must also participate in two NJHS community service activities with a minimum of four hours of service time.

Schedule: Candidates will be informed of their status in October and inducted in November. The society will meet every month to conduct meetings and schedule service projects.

Fees: $20.00 (Members will also have the option to purchase an NJHS shirt/sweater designed by chapter leadership)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Advisor: Mr. Eric Sherman and Mr. Jeff Thomas

Description: High School Student Council is an elected body of students in grades 9-12 who seek to support the vision of MCA by positively impacting campus life and student culture. They accomplish this through effective servant leadership, constructive input on school policies, and planning and executing of school social events and service outreaches.

Requirements: Students must complete an application within the published deadline. All candidates will be subject to the recommendations of upper school staff.

Schedule: The Student Council election takes place in the spring for the election of members who will serve in the following school year. A specific schedule for the application process and elections will be published in the spring.

Fees: $60 ($135 with retreat)

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

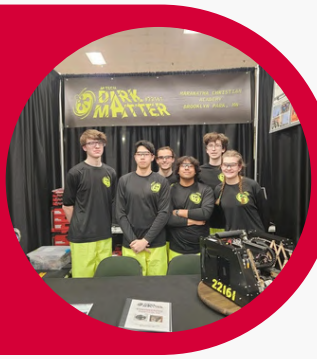
Advisor: Mr. Dane Wellens

Description: Middle School Student Council will consist of fifth and sixth-grade representatives and seventh and eighth-grade council members. The group will meet once/week during advisory. Meetings consist of prayer, leadership training, managing the vending machine, and event planning. Council member duties include serving in an office, setting up and selling for fundraisers, weekly checking the vending machine, organizing and participating in events, and being a leader and example for other students.

Requirements: Students must fill out a short answer application form and have it signed by their parents. They must have a GPA of 3.2 or above and no quarter grade failing. Middle School teachers will submit recommendations and students will vote on their grade's candidates. Important qualities for a student council member include a willingness to serve others, responsibility, organization, dependability, honesty, reliability, and a Christ-like attitude.

Schedule: A specific schedule for the application process will be published in the spring.

Fees: $50 ($150 with retreat)



FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Advisor: Mr. Ed Marvel & Mr. Ward Bennett

Description: It's way more than building robots. FIRST Tech Challenge teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. Guided by adult coaches and mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and teamwork. The robot control system is programmed using a variety of levels of Java. Teams design and build robots, design and market their team brand, and do community outreach to earn specific awards. Participants are eligible to apply for $80M+ in college scholarships.

Practice Starts: Tuesdays/Thursdays (6:00 pm – 8:30 pm) + Saturdays (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Season Duration: September – January, (February as well if teams qualify for State)

Location: Upper School STEM Lab

Student Maximum: 12

Cost: $500

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Advisor: Mr. Owen Marvel

Description: Friendly competition is at the heart of the Challenge, as teams of students engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. As part of the Challenge, teams also participate in a research project to identify and solve a relevant real-world problem.

Practice Starts: Mondays/Thursdays (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Season Duration: September – December (February as well if teams qualify for State)

Location: Upper School STEM Lab

Student Maximum: 24

Cost: $400

THESPIAN

Advisor: Mr. Wayne Matthews

Description: Thespian Club offers students an opportunity to explore theater through the performance of a theatrical production. Students may audition to play an on-stage role in the production or participate off-stage by quickly moving set pieces for the various settings in the production. The club will commence with a performance of the students' production which family and friends will be invited.

Requirements: 6th-12th grade (Due to the nature of rehearsals, attendance will be required)

Schedule: Wednesdays after school

Location: Room 209

Fee: No Fee

SIDELINE CHEER

Advisor: Allie Oliver & Jillene Nelson

Description: Let's go big red! Do you like to cheer and bring excitement and energy? Then Sideline Cheer is for you! From starting cheers and performing routines, to stunts, we are ready to pack the stable with all the fun and school spirit!

Practice: 1-3 times a week to prepare for stunts, cheers, and routines for events

Season Duration: November – March

Location: MCA Gym

Cost: $200

GAMING CLUB

Advisor: Mr. Gerritt VanOtterloo

Description: MCA Gaming Club is a place where students can come and enjoy their favorite games with their friends in an environment that is welcoming and relaxed. Students bring their own games/devices to enjoy, whether that be video games, board games, card games, etc.

Requirements: The only requirement for Gaming Club is that you are in fact focused on playing a game while in the club. This is not a social media or text message club. Open to grades 7-12.

Schedule: Wednesdays (3:15 pm -4:00 pm)

Location: Band Room 118

Fees: No fee

ART CLUB

Advisor: Mrs. Kari Nelson

Description: This is a student led group that gives students a chance to be hands-on with art. We create a variety of art projects based on student interests.

Requirements: None (open to grades 7-12)

Schedule: Offered during WIN Time once a month.

Fees: No fee

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Advisor: Mr. Eric Sherman

Description: Students eat lunch in Mr. Sherman's room as we build community and fellowship while we discuss and help each other navigate what it's like to be a Christian through stories and other experiences.

Requirements: 7th-8th grader

Schedule: Fridays during lunch

Location: Room 240

Fee: No fee

BLACK HISTORY STUDENT COMMITTEE

Advisor: Mr. Jeff Thomas & Mr. Jerry Oehler

Description: The Black History Student Committee (BHS Committee) is a group of students whose main focus will be to bring black history and black culture to MCA and the planning/production of events during the month of February.

Requirements: Students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to sign up. This group is open to students from every race and background. Students must be in good standing at MCA and must exhibit a Christ-like attitude daily to stay on the committee.

Schedule: Mondays (3:15 pm - 4:00 pm)

Location: The Learning Lane

Fees: No fee

DAILY BREAD

Advisor: Mrs. Kari Nelson

Description: Students gather in prayer, worship, testimonies, and build community and fellowship while we discuss and help each other navigate what it's like to be a Christian through stories and other experiences.

Requirements: 9th-12th grade

Schedule: Every day during lunch

Location: Room 238
Fee: None

Hispanic Heritage Club

Advisor: Mrs. Ingri Weidner

Description: Every culture has its own unique traditions, language, and people that were all created by God, he created everything with a purpose and for a purpose. Including the Latin culture. The hope is to help students understand this specific culture and the uniqueness behind it. The Hispanic Heritage Student Society is a student-led club about reuniting students back together. Joining this club has nothing to do with your heritage or race. It is focused on learning more about the unique Hispanic culture that God created.

Requirements: 9-12th grade

Schedule: Fridays during lunch
Fees: No fee

Running Club

Advisor: Mrs. Ingri Weidner

Description: A semester long run program that takes any starting level from first jog to a finished 5K on December 19th

Requirements: 7-12th grade

Schedule: Once a week at WIN Time (during the spring)

Fees: No fee

BADMINTON

Advisor: Mrs. Melanie Hurlbut

Description: Badminton Club is a fun space for students to stay active and meet new people while playing badminton.

Requirements: 7-12th grade

Schedule: Once a week at WIN Time (during the spring)

Fees: No fee

HIGH SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

Advisor: Mrs. Susan Eibes

Description: In book club we talk about what we are reading over lunch, like a book tasting. Many high school students have packed schedules and don't need one more book to read, but for those voracious readers out there with varying tastes in reading, we want to hear all about what they're reading! We suggest new reads to each other and meet monthly to talk all things books!

Requirements: 9th - 12th grade and a love of reading

Schedule: Thursday's During lunch

Location: Room 202

Fees: No fee

Chess Club

Advisor: Mr. Hayden Richards and Mr. Josh Moua

Description: Want to sharpen your mind, make new friends, and have fun doing it? Whether you've never moved a pawn or you're already planning your next checkmate, this club is open to you. Chess builds focus, patience, and problem-solving skills that help in the classroom and beyond. It's also a great way to meet people who enjoy a good challenge. We will learn and practice strategies, openings, and tactics. We will also Play friendly games against classmates at every skill level.

Requirements: All 7th-12th Graders

Schedule: 2nd and 5th rotation day during WIN time

Location: STEM Lab

Fees: No fee

MOCK TRIAL

Advisor: Ms. Lissa Flaaten

Description: ORDER IN THE COURT! ⚖️
Think you have what it takes to make your case? Step into the courtroom and experience mock trial through exciting fictional cases! Take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, judges, and jurors as you investigate the evidence, build your arguments, question witnesses, and make your case. No experience needed just bring your curiosity, confidence, and willingness to think on your feet!

Requirements: 7th-12th grade

Schedule: Wednesday during WIN Time

Location: USLC

Fee: None

Student Marketing Team

Advisor: Mrs. Amy Clausen

Description: Maranatha's first-ever student-run marketing team is here to tell Maranatha's story! The Student Marketing Team's mission is to empower students with practical marketing skills specifically in the areas of social media and blog writing. Taught by MCA's marketing team, SMT's goal is to also help grow students' unique abilities in the field of marketing.

If interested in any of the following, join us as we share the MCA experience: general marketing, social media, graphic design, journalism, videography, and storytelling.

Requirements: 9-12th grade. Must apply (Only 10 spots).

Schedule: Every Wednesday during WIN Time

Fees: No fee

Advisor: Mrs. Susan Eibes
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seibes@mcamustangs.org

High School Book Club

Advisor: Mrs. Chloe Larson
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NHS

Advisor: Mr. Ward Bennett
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First Tech Challenge

Advisor: Mrs. Ingri Weidner
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Running Club
Hispanic Club

Advisor: Mr. Allen Banks
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NJHS

Advisor: Mr. Eric Sherman
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HS Student Council

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Black History Student Commitee
HS Student Council

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NJHS

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Badminton

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Student Marketing Team

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Chess Club

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Middle School Student Council

Advisor: Mr. Owen Marvel
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First Lego League

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First Tech Challenge

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Sidleline Cheer

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Sideline Cheer

Advisor: Mrs. Kari Nelson
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Art Club
Daily Bread

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Gaming Club

Advisor: Mr. Josh Moua
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Chess Club

Advisor: Mr. Jerry Oehler
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jerry.oehler@mcamustangs.org

Black History Student Commitee

Advisor: Ms. Lissa Flaaten
Email:
lissa.flaaten@mcamustangs.org

Mock Trial

CONTACT

Is something missing?

If you would like to start a club or an activity here at MCA

please reach out to the Athletics & Activities Department

Athletic/Activities Director: Eli Valder
Email: eli.valder@mcamustangs.org

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