

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Through involvement in extra-curricular activities and clubs, students are able to extend and enhance their high school experience. Every student is encouraged to participate. If a student has an idea for a club that is not represented on this list, he/she can contact the Director of Student Activities, Mr. Venarchik, to discuss the possibility of establishing a new club.

Academic Quiz Bowl Team

Great Valley Quiz Bowl Team is open to all students in grades 9-12. The club consists of a general knowledge trivia team that competes with 23 other local schools in the Chester County Academic League on both the varsity and junior varsity levels and competes in numerous other state, regional, and national quiz bowl tournaments on a team and individual scale.

America Club

America Club is a service-based organization that focuses on raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project, helping our local Veterans and current service members, and building patriotism within the Great Valley Community. All are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Best Buddies

Great Valley High School's Best Buddies Chapter is associated with the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program empowers the special abilities of people with disabilities and is working to make sure that Great Valley High School is a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students. The students in Best Buddies participate in activities during the school day and outside of the school day to develop meaningful friendships with their peers. Events may include holiday shopping, Best Buddies Friendship Walk, a local Talent Show, and a Great Valley Field Day. Best Buddies is a vibrant organization that has grown from one original chapter to nearly 2,500 chapters worldwide, positively impacting the lives of over 1.2 million people with and without disabilities.

Dance Club

Dance Club is a student-led group of students interested in dance. It is open to all GVHS students, regardless of dance experience. The club meets weekly to learn dances, choreographed by members. Performances are usually at Homecoming Pep Rally, Mr. Great Valley, Variety Show, Spring Arts Night, etc.

Drama Guild

Drama Guild is open to all students in grades 9-12 and offers opportunities for performance in musical and dramatic productions in the following areas: Acting, Directing, Pit Orchestra, Technical Crew, and Backstage Crew. Two main stage productions are offered each year. Drama Guild comprises a true cross-section of the student body and offers the opportunity for interested, motivated students to participate in a theatre experience of high quality.

Environmental Enthusiasts

The Environmental Enthusiasts Club is for students in grades 9-12 who enjoy experiencing and protecting the outdoors. Students participate in fundraisers and service projects that support environmental concerns.

Envirothon Team

The Envirothon Team is open to all students. The Envirothon is a county, state, and national competition that challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. There are five focus areas: aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and current issues. Two teams of five students are chosen to compete at the county competition. Students work after school to prepare for the competition.

French Club

The French Club (Le Cercle Français) is open to all students interested in the French language and the cultures of the French-speaking countries of the world. Officers meet once or twice a month to plan the monthly events for club members. Some activities include cooking demonstrations, visits to French bakeries and restaurants, trips to French shows or movies, parties for French holidays, and an end-of-year picnic with French food.

Future Business Leaders of America

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a national student organization. FBLA helps students develop leadership abilities and prepare for entry into, and advancement within a business occupation. Members learn how to engage in business enterprise, how to direct the affairs of a group, and how to compete honorably in competitive events. These activities help prepare students to be better employees. Students do not need to be enrolled in a business class in order to be a member.

Gay Straight Alliance

The GSA works to provide education regarding issues of diversity, difference, awareness of, and respect and acceptance of sexual minority youth (LGBTQ), their families, and allies while fighting against homophobia in our community. The GSA works to provide advocacy for the safety and equal rights of persons, especially those of the LGBTQ community.

German Club

The German Club meets once or twice a month before or after school for various informal events. Annual favorites include a traditional German breakfast, the Reading Terminal visit for *Kaffee und Kuchen*, Love Park for a traditional Holiday Market experience, Bingo and Movie Night. Our club also includes a service project which provides quarterly trash clean-up at GVHS. Enrollment in the German Course is not necessary for club membership. Active participation in German Club is required for German National Honor Society Membership.

Great Valley Crew Club

Great Valley Crew is a competitive, co-ed rowing team for student athletes in grades 9-12. Great Valley Crew rows in both the fall and spring seasons, practicing 3-4 days each week and competing in regattas on the weekends. No rowing experience is required to join, but dedication, determination, and teamwork are key. Go to www.gvco.org for more information.

Great Morning Great Valley

“Great Morning Great Valley” is the daily live morning show produced by students. The show is produced in cooperation with the Video Production Club of GVHS and takes place before and during homeroom every day. The show includes the morning announcements, special guests who stop by to discuss the events of the day, and different segments produced to provide information or entertainment. To participate, stop by the GVHS TV Studio (room 175), or email greatmorninggreatvalley@gvhsd.org.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is an international, ecumenical housing organization that provides affordable housing for those in need. Its goal is to eliminate poverty housing for everyone. Members of GV’s HfH Club attend workdays at local job sites, raise funds to supplement building projects, and educate the community on issues regarding substandard housing. Students who wish to be involved should attend a club meeting and/or sign up for a workday

Ice Hockey Club

The Great Valley Ice Hockey Club sponsors the varsity and junior varsity ice hockey teams that compete in the Inter County Scholastic Hockey League (ICSHL). Great Valley’s teams are open to students in grades 9-12 with the interscholastic varsity team limited to 16-18 students that are selected in evaluations in the late spring and late summer. The ice hockey teams practice once or twice a week at rinks in West Chester and Exton from September through early March. Games are normally once a week beginning in November and running through March. Students must adhere to school attendance policies (for both practices and games) and meet academic requirements to remain eligible.

Interact Club

The Interact Club is a community service organization affiliated with the local Rotary, an international service organization. Service projects may include the Giving Tree (to benefit outreach programs), annual clothing drives, holiday food drives, working in a soup kitchen, visiting retirement homes, adopting families for the holidays, Tastykakes for Troops, and many seasonal activities. In addition, students work with our elementary schools in various school activities and service projects. The club is open to all students in all grades.

Junior Classical League (Latin Club)

Great Valley High School’s chapter of JCL is part of the National Junior Classical League, an organization dedicated to the appreciation of the language, literature, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, and also to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity. At Great Valley, Latin students participate in a considerable variety of activities to celebrate Classical culture, including trips to museums, plays, restaurants, and movies, taking part in academic, athletic, and artistic contests, and celebrating Roman holidays together and sometimes with Latin students from all over Pennsylvania. Some years the GVJCL travels to Penn State University to join in the PAJCL Convention.

Key Club

Key Club, like its sponsor, Kiwanis, is an international service and social club for students in their freshman through senior years in high school who are committed to the Club’s principles, possess good academics and have earned sponsor approval. The acronym, **KEY** stands for **K**iwanis **E**ducating **Y**outh. The Key Club’s motto is “Caring—Our Way of Life.” Student activities in the school and community are built around the concept of caring. Operating under school regulations, the Club’s objective is the development of initiative, leadership, ability, and good citizenship practices. Key Club is different from many other school clubs because it not only functions on the local level but on a district and international level. This highly developed organizational structure provides an opportunity for our students to relate to teenagers from countries all around the world. Key Club is the largest service organization of its kind with over 160,000 members in approximately 4,200 worldwide clubs.

Lemon Club

The Lemon Club is a student-led club that functions under the direction of ALSF to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. ALSF believes that high school and college students play a vital role in helping bring awareness and attention to the cause of childhood cancer. Through Lemon Club, students have the opportunity to engage a broad range of people and resources (e.g. students, teachers, community, and forums) about the need for funding childhood cancer research projects. ALSF’s Lemon Clubs plan and execute on and off campus fundraisers for the duration of the school year. Lemon Club chapters are encouraged to host a variety of awareness and fundraising events to help spread the mission of ALSF and to meet their fundraising.

Leo Club

Standing for Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity, Leo Club members are partnered with Lions Club International. Together, Leo’s work to complete their mission is to empower volunteers to serve their community and the world around them by encouraging peace and promoting international understanding. Believing in the power of action, The Great Valley Leo Club dedicates their time and service to various projects both within the local Malvern community and around the world. Student Leos are actively involved in donating their time, conducting fundraisers, and creating special memories for people who are in need of support and compassion.

Math Olympiad

The Math Olympiad is a student-run club for students interested in honing their math skills by discussing and solving a variety of math problems. Students of all levels are welcomed. In recent years, students have participated in monthly Math League contests and annual events including the American Mathematics Competition, the Purple Comet Math Meet, and Moody’s Mega Math Challenge.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial Club hopes to bring students together that have an interest in learning more about law and logic. This club has a goal of furthering knowledge about laws and public speaking. The club also hopes to create teams that compete against other schools by arguing different sides of a case. Students involved hope to sharpen skills in public speaking, teamwork, and knowledge of laws.

Model United Nations Club

The Great Valley Model United Nations Club challenges students to understand the world from a global perspective. The club travels to multiple conferences each year to participate in simulations of United Nations Committees while representing different nations around the world. In addition to the conferences, the club hosts different training and informational sessions for new and returning members to hone the skills necessary for success in the activity. Finally, the club sponsors periodic social events to build comradery among the members and to educate the Great Valley community of our diverse population.

Multicultural Student Union

The Multicultural Student Union (MSU) is to promote diversity and cultural awareness in our school and the surrounding community. MSU gives students and staff the opportunity to share their cultural backgrounds while learning about others.

Ski Club

The Great Valley Ski Club has been organized to provide interested students with a chance to ski or snowboard. Any interested student may join the club provided they are capable skiers or boarders.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club is a student-run club for students of all levels who would like to enrich their knowledge and experience with the Spanish speaking cultures. Activities are selected by the club at the beginning of the year, but have included crafts, food, movies, and volunteer opportunities in the past. Meetings are held monthly.

Stage Crew

The Stage Crew is composed of students who have displayed an interest in the technical staging of activities in the school. This group takes care of lighting and sound equipment and runs student musicals as well as assemblies and activities.

Student Democrats

The Great Valley High School Student Democrats work collaboratively to promote the Democratic Party Platform while supporting local, state, and national candidates. The club sponsors events with local candidates and provides opportunities for students to become active in the electoral process in our community. Additionally, the club works to increase dialogue amongst all students in our school and promote civic involvement through issue sessions and voter registration drives. As the Democratic Party Platform states, "Democrats will promote the rights of young people and nurture young leaders. We will work with people around the world who seek greater opportunities, including by promoting job creation, expanding education, and health care."

Student Republicans

The Great Valley Young Republicans is a club for conservative students to express their beliefs with other likeminded students. The Young Republicans Club will also participate in local food drives and other activities that will better the community. We also try to work with local representatives and support their campaigns.

Video Production Club

Members of the Video Production Club volunteer their services to provide video support for different events throughout Great Valley High School. Headquartered in the GVHS TV Studio (room 175), the club assists in the production of the daily "Great Morning Great Valley" show, as well as plays, concerts, and other events throughout the school year. To join the Video Production Club, stop by the GVHS TV Studio and chat with Studio Director, Kevin Fitzpatrick.

Women in Science and Engineering

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) is for female students interested in exploring any area of science or engineering. Projects pursued by club members have included running a Science Day at the high school for fourth grade students and participating in the Annenberg Science Symposium with schools along the Main Line. WISE members can also learn more about their interests through guest speakers from industry and academia.

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Marching Band

This ensemble is an extracurricular activity (similar in time commitment to a varsity sport) comprised of wind musicians, percussionists, and color guard members. The marching band represents the school at football games, parades, and competitive festivals. Rehearsals are scheduled during the summer and periodically after school during the fall. Co-participants during some fall sports may be possible. Fundraising opportunities are available to help defray operating costs and trip expenses. In past years, the ensemble has performed at Disney World, Universal Studios, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Quebec. Two weeks of band camp are held in August and attendance is required. Members must maintain a positive outlook, a committed attendance record, and perform consistently in order to remain a member in good standing. Grades 9-12.

Indoor Color Guard and Indoor Percussion

These performance ensembles are coach-led school clubs that are open to interested high school students. The clubs begin to form during the late fall and meet until early May. They rehearse after school and attend shows and festivals on weekends. Members learn ensemble specific skills through exercises and performance opportunities. Marching band members should participate to build skills and gain experience in a similar performance medium. Grades 9-12.

Pep Band

This club begins during the late fall and is comprised of wind musicians and percussionists (and anyone else who is interested!). The Pep Band plays at home basketball games to support the teams, partner with the cheerleaders, and promote school spirit. The ensemble typically meets one night per week during the winter basketball season.

PUBLICATIONS

Adagio

Adagio, the literary magazine, is open to all students interested in developing their creative skills. Adagio publishes the works of both faculty and students.

The Musket

Each year, members of the yearbook staff tell the story of the school year with words as well as candid and formal photographs. The goal is to capture the memories that students will treasure long after they have graduated from high school. Students design pages that feature seniors and underclassmen, faculty, sports, clubs, and activities. While creating the yearbook, students develop skills in writing, editing, layout, design, photography, interviewing, sales, and marketing. Computer skills are essential.

The Surveyor

The Surveyor is the Great Valley High School student newspaper. It is published six to eight times a year. All positions on the staff are filled by students who are interested in journalism. The staff partakes in all aspects of newspaper production, including interviewing, writing articles for all sections of the newspaper, attending sporting events for in-depth coverage, taking photographs, contacting potential advertisers, and designing the layout of pages. The newspaper promotes student functions, recognizes student achievement, publishes opinions of students, and addresses issues that pertain to students and their world.

SELECTIVE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Some student activities require an application and selection process; others require an election. There are several student activities which fall into this category:

National Honor Society

The Great Valley Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) is a service organization composed of students who excel in scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 are eligible for consideration as members. Academically eligible students are selected during the fall by the NHS Faculty Committee on the basis of their positive character, demonstrated leadership, and demonstrated service. Inducted students are expected to perform community service individually and as a part of NHS-organized activities for a minimum of 100 hours over two years.

French National Honor Society

The French Honor Society celebrates the love of francophone culture and scholarship in the French language. Invitations to apply for membership will be dispersed during the fall, giving members the opportunity to participate in events such as a traditional French dinner, field trips, after school cultural events, and tutoring. In order to be eligible for membership, French students must have completed French 3, have an A- average in their French classes over the preceding three semesters, and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Members are strongly encouraged to attend all French Honor Society events and to participate in the National French Exam. Members enrolled in French during their senior year wear a tricolor cord for graduation.

German National Honor Society

GNHS is an academic organization recognized as the Delta Epsilon Phi chapter by the American Association of Teachers. This is an opportunity to prove students are dedicated to studying German language and culture beyond the classroom. In order to qualify for GNHS national standards, a student must be: enrolled in German 4AA/Honors or German 5AP/Honors, maintain a 90% final average, maintain a final 80% average of school grades, and have active participation in German club activities. Students in good standing will walk with honors at graduation wearing the GNHS honor cord.

Latin National Honor Society

The National Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society is a special designation given to Junior Classical League students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and citizenship in Latin class. NJCL Latin Honor Society induction matters because it shows prospective colleges and employers that a student values high academic achievement and has maintained proper citizenship. Colleges especially value language honor society induction because they are eager to accept students who challenge themselves in meaningful courses and who succeed. The Latin Honor Society membership is open to students in Latin 4, 5, and AP, and earn annually by maintaining a 90% or higher course average.

Spanish National Honor Society

The Paco de Lucia chapter of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispana (Spanish National Honor Society) is open by invitation to students in Spanish 4, 5, or AP. Students are invited to apply who have a final grade of A- in their previous year of Spanish, have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, and who have demonstrated an interest in learning more about the Spanish language and culture. Chapter activities include cultural activities, exploration of Spanish and Latino food, music, dance, and crafts, and fundraising for local community organizations. Students in good standing will walk with honors at graduation wearing the GNHS honor cord.

Student Council

The Great Valley High School Student Council is a composite of the following groups: representatives from each homeroom, class officers from each grade, the Student Representative to the School Board, the Alternate Student Representative to the School Board, and GVHS Student Council officers. Homeroom representatives voice the interests of homeroom members during general assembly meetings and report student government actions back to homeroom members. Under the leadership of its officers and faculty advisor, this organization strives to enrich the school's climate and local community through a variety of special events throughout the course of the year. Some of its annual activities include Homecoming Festivities, a blood drive, a winter holiday door decorating contest, and the Mr. Great Valley Contest. Officers are elected each spring.

Each graduating class is an organization composed of elected officials and faculty sponsors. Activities include class assemblies, specific fundraising projects, and homecoming week. Funds raised by the classes are used not only to defray expenses of the prom but also to contribute toward such service projects as the support of needy children. Many classes use some of these funds for a class gift to beautify or add to the facilities of Great Valley.