



*Bellows Free Academy*  
*Fairfax*

*Co-Curricular Offerings,  
Clubs, and Activities  
2016-2017*





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# BFA FAIRFAX STUDENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DATE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WELLNESS/ LUNCH	Diversity Committee Advisor: Ms. McElroy Location: Guidance	Farm To School Advisor: Mr. Griffin Location: Rm #205	National Honor Society Advisor: Ms. Villeneuve Location: Rm #405	Student Council Advisor: Mr. Griffin Location: Rm #205	Gay Straight Alliance Advisor: Ms. McElroy Location: Guidance
SUPPORT BLOCK		Scholars Bowl Advisor: Mr. Grant Location: Room #406		Multicultural Club Advisor: Mrs. Kacirot Location: Room #353  Scholars Bowl Advisor: Mr. Grant Location: Room #406	Coffee House  Advisor: Ms. Villeneuve Location: Rm #405
AFTER SCHOOL			Yearbook Photography Club Advisor: Mr. Choiniere Location: Computer Lab	Gaming Club Advisor: Mr. Vance Location: Rm #405	Friechteher Fencing Club Advisor: Mr. Vance Location: Multipurpose

## High School Friends

Advisor: Ms. McElroy

Location: Guidance

Dates and times are flexible with students' schedules

## Dramatic Arts Ensemble

Advisors: Ms. Villeneuve, Ms. Filiberti, Mr. Bailey

Location: Middle and High School Stages

Dates and Times: Fall Musical auditions are the previous spring and One Act auditions are in January

## **Art Club**

Art Club meets during Support Block. Students may come daily (excluding Mondays). Students use this time to work on portfolio preparation, projects for other classes, and murals. Students are free to use any media to create art; either 2D or 3D. Contact Ms. Hart.

## **Band (Concert, Jazz, Marching)**

**Concert Band:** Concert band is the cornerstone of the instrumental music offering at BFA. We will be performing medium to advanced level standard and contemporary band literature in various styles. Participation at concerts and adjudication festivals is mandatory.

**Jazz Band:** Jazz Band is an ensemble that includes Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet and Rhythm Sections. Students will be learning contemporary musical styles for performance and composition. There will be a high degree of improvisation, so scale and key knowledge will be emphasized.

**Marching Band:** Marching band is an ensemble that participates in local community events such as parades and festivals. The music is memorized and is focused on entertaining the community.

## **Bellows Freifechter Historic Fencing Club**

Come study the art of fencing through the lens of historical sources. Freifechter is a Middle-High German word, which means Free Fencer. At Bellows Freifechter, our predominant focus is the art of longsword fencing through the works of Joachim Meyer, a 16th Century German Fencing Master. We meet weekly, after school on Fridays to train and practice these noble arts. All are welcome. Contact Mr. Vance for more information.

## **Chorus**

Chorus is a group that focuses on performing pieces from various musical genres and welcoming students who enjoy singing. Vocal technique and music reading skills are an important part of our curriculum. The group culture stresses discipline and commitment to the improvement of our individual singing abilities as well as excellence in performance as a group. Students are encouraged to assist in the selection of music. Chorus generally performs concerts two to three times a year: winter, spring, and graduation.

## **Coffee House**

BFA Fairfax's premiere live student showcase of talent and fun! Coffee House is a venue open for students to share their music, poetry, comedy, theatrics, or any other talent they want to show off in an accepting, comfortable environment with delicious snacks and beverages. Students can be involved in the planning or just participate the day of show. Advisor: Sara Villeneuve

## **Diversity Committee**

The goal of the Diversity Committee is to make the school a safer, more inclusive space for all. We seek to create an ongoing conversation among students and faculty around diversity both globally and within our school community. We coordinate monthly themes and activities and culminate in Diversity Day. Club meeting on Mondays at Lunch/Wellness and all are welcome. See Katherine McElroy, Alex Hamel and Parker LaCross with questions.

### **Dramatic Arts Ensemble**

The Dramatic Arts Ensemble works towards the charitable and educational purpose of promoting and strengthening excellence, access, and education in the theatrical arts. The Dramatic Arts Ensemble stages a large musical production once a year and a One Act play for regional/state wide competition. With a strong drama club, awards and accolades at regional and state levels, and a dedicated group of students, parents, and advisors, the Dramatic Arts Ensemble is a standout organization in the Fairfax theatre community.

Drama allows students the opportunity to explore various aspects of the performing arts within many different venues. Aside from stage acting, our students have an opportunity to learn to stage manage, direct, build sets, run lights and sound equipment, crew a show and many other technical endeavors. Contact Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Filliberti, Ms. Villeneuve, or Mrs. Maynard.

### **Dramatic Arts Ensemble's Spring One Act Play**

Students will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the performing arts within many different venues. Aside from stage acting, students have an opportunity to learn to stage manage, direct, build sets, run lights and sound equipment, crew a show and many other technical endeavors. Auditions begin in January. The culmination of the Spring One Act Play is a presentation of the show for our community and participation in the Vermont Principals' Association's One Act Play competition in March. Please see Mrs. Villeneuve if you are interested.

### **Fairfax Helping Hands**

Fairfax Helping Hands, is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping others. We volunteer for activities that aid others in our school and general community, in our state and around the world. The recipients of our work range from small children to senior citizens, disaster victims and animals who have been rescued. We raise money to support local charities. We welcome any high school student. We meet during Support Block each Wednesday. Contact TBD

### **Farm to School**

The BFA Fairfax Farm to School Club meets once a week during the school day but convenes after school throughout the year to work on building and implementing the Farm to School Project. Currently they are maintaining a large (4,000 sq. ft.) production garden and greenhouse, but plans are underway for adding a berry plot, an orchard and a chicken coop and chicken run and more.

### **Gaming Group**

BFA Gaming Group is a weekly, social gaming group for middle and high school students. We meet after school on Thursday's in Ms. Villeneuve's room from 3-4 p.m. to play a variety of board and card games, including, but not limited to Magic: the Gathering, Settlers of Catan, Disc Duelers, Pokemon, Sheriff of Nottingham, etc. Contact Mr. Vance for further information.

### **Geo Bee**

Geo Bee is offered in the spring to students in grades 6-8. Students use their knowledge of geography for fun and competition with other middle school teams in the district and state. For further information, contact Mrs. Skerrett.

### **GSA**

The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) is an inclusive group of people of any and all identities that would like to focus on LGBTQ+ issues within our school and community. This group values confidentiality, acceptance and support. All are welcome to join weekly meetings in Guidance Office and are not required to disclose their identities if they choose not to. Please contact Parker LaCross or Katherine McElroy with questions.

### **JHP (Junior High Project)**

JHP, sponsored by the Green Mountain Prevention Programs, Inc., is a drug prevention/teen leadership program specifically designed for middle school students. JHP teaches students positive coping skills, peer leadership, and stresses the importance of the individual. A key ingredient to the success of the program is using high school students as positive role models for the middle school students. High school students who have been through the program in middle school may apply to be a staff member. See Mr. Buckingham or Mrs. Wehman for more details.

### **High School Friends**

An opportunity for high school students in grades 10 - 12 to serve as mentors to students in the elementary school. Mentors must make a commitment to training and to meet weekly with their younger friend. Interested high school students must apply and be accepted into the program. More information can be obtained in the Guidance Office. See Ms. McElroy.

### **Multicultural Club**

Join the Multicultural Club to explore different cultures and world languages through activities! You may even pick up some functional phrases in a foreign language! Some of our meeting time is spent organizing future travel opportunities. Contacts: Madame Racicot & Señora Brien.

### **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, 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 their beginning in 1921. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. Bellows Free Academy's chapter is currently involved with many organizations including the American Red Cross, Operation Happiness, People Helping People Global, the local food shelf, assisting the PTSA, and the United Way. Students do not have to be members to participate in many of the community service opportunities. For more information contact Mrs. Villeneuve.

### **Peer Support**

Peer Support is a program which trains high school students in peer counseling skills as well as identifying and implementing action plans aimed at promoting teen mental health. Students must apply to be in the program and participate in a training which covers active listening, diversity issues, problem solving, motivational interviewing, substance-abuse issues, adolescent development, teen mental health issues, suicide and self-harm, assertiveness, and stress management. The training also provides students an opportunity to explore the role of a peer counselor and learn about group problem-solving skills. Interested students should see Mr. Buckingham or Ms. McElroy.

### **Project Grad**

Project Graduation is an alcohol/drug free night celebration for seniors that is held the night of graduation. This is a nationally recognized event that is sponsored by the parents of seniors with seniors participating in the planning process and events. Contact: Michelle Brown at [michelle@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:michelle@sevendaysvt.com)

### **Prom Committee**

The 2017 Junior/Senior prom will be held at The Barn at Boyden Farm, Cambridge, VT. The event will be on Saturday, May 13th from 7:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m. Contact Junior Advisors: Ms. McElroy, Ms. Welch, Mr. Emery, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Griffin.

### **Scholars Bowl**

The key strength for a Scholars Bowl player is the ability to quickly recall a variety of information. The Scholars Bowl team competes in a series of academic contests with teams from schools in Franklin County to prepare for the Statewide Tournament. Questions asked cover a variety of topics ranging from geography to literature to current events to math. Scholars Bowl is a great way to exercise your brain! Contact Mr. Grant.

### **Student Council**

The mission of Student Council is to develop good citizenship and promote student leadership through service to our school. We provide a voice for the concerns and interests of the study body and plan, organize and implement events which create and contribute to the positive sense of community within the school. All students are members of Student Council and will vote for five elected officers to lead Student Council each year (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary & Communications Director). See Fred Griffin or Katherine McElroy.

### **TASC**

Each year, the University of Vermont sponsors an engineering contest for high school students. The mission is to design a system to perform a specific task while meeting all the requirements of the rules. In the past we have designed battery sorters, recycling machines and football launchers. The machines are designed and built throughout the fall and tested at UVM in mid-November. Prizes are awarded based on performance, marketing, documentation and team spirit. If you enjoy a hands-on challenge, check out the TASC team. Contact Mr. Vance.

# FALL SPORTS

## **Cross Country Running (Grades 7—12)**

The Cross-Country Running program is open to student athletes in grades 7 - 12. It is the goal of every participant to finish the season stronger, fitter, and faster than he or she began. As a program, we hope to instill a life-long love of running and physical activity in each student. Activities include running on roads and trails, strength-building, and fitness games. The season begins in mid-August with pre-season practices and activities and throughout the season, athletes race approximately ten times. While the cross-country program is athlete-centered, we have enjoyed considerable success in both the boys' and girls' programs at the statewide level. Head Coach Karen Krupa, Assistant Coach Tom Pfeiffer, Middle School Coach Gabe Grant.

## **Football (Grades 9—12)**

Varsity football is offered during the fall season for any student in grades 9-12 and competes in Division III. Our foundation is hard work, sacrifice and teamwork. We emphasize discipline, respect and pride while promoting self-confidence, dignity, poise and tolerance. Practice begins mid-August and runs into November. Contact Coach Craig Sleeman at 802-922-7646.

## **Soccer**

Soccer is offered during the fall season for students in grades 7-12. Grades 7 and 8 have separate girls and boys teams for each grade level (numbers permitting), with the primary emphasis of expanding knowledge and appreciation for soccer through practice and game participation. A typical Middle School season includes a 10-12 game schedule, with practices beginning after the first day of school.

Students in grades 9-12 try out for team placement during mandatory pre-season practices and scrimmages that begin two-to-three weeks before the start of school in the fall. The try out determines placement of players on the JV and Varsity teams. Beginning around the start of school, all high school teams play a 14 game schedule in the competitive Mountain Division of the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference (NVAC). The Varsity teams, upon successful qualification, participate in the Division III State Tournament (for girls) and Division II (for boys), with the finals usually scheduled by the first week in November. Girls Varsity: Coach Geri Witalec, Girls JV: Coach Bill Ormerod; Boys Varsity: Coach Tim Kaleita, Boys JV: Coach Matt Huleatt.



# WINTER SPORTS

## **Basketball**

Basketball is offered during the winter season for students in grades 7-12. Middle School teams consist of a 7th grade team and an 8th grade team (numbers permitting) with emphasis on skill development, rules of the game, and game concepts. At the High School Level, students try out for placement on the Junior Varsity or Varsity team. The Junior Varsity and Varsity teams play a 20 game schedule from November through March in the Mountain League. The Girls Varsity team participates in the Division II Tournament upon qualification and the Boys in Division III. Contact Varsity Coaches Paul Lafountain (boys) and Coach Lee Tourville (girls).

## **Cheerleading (Grades 7—12)**

Co-ed cheerleading is offered to students in grades 7-12. The middle school cheer team is made up of student-athletes in grades 7 and 8 with an emphasis on basic skill, technique and safety in cheerleading and tumbling. At the high school level student athletes are required to try out for placement on the varsity cheerleading team. Junior varsity cheerleaders focus on the fundamentals of cheerleading while they continue to improve their overall ability in cheer safety, stunting, jumping and tumbling.

Middle School and JV teams compete at the Academy Cheer Challenge in Saint Albans, all teams compete at NVAC Cheerleading Competition, and VCCA Cheerleading Championship. The varsity team will compete in the Vermont State Cheerleading Championships.

The junior varsity and varsity cheer teams cheer at all boys and girls home basketball games. Middle school cheerleaders cheer for both 7 & 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams. This is a fast-growing sport that provides student athletes overall conditioning, endurance, flexibility, strength, balance and confidence. Coaching Staff: High School: Michelle Brown, Middle School: Amanda Spiller and Tammy Langlois.

## **Nordic Skiing (Grades 7—12)**

The Nordic skiing program at BFA Fairfax begins in mid-November and runs through mid-March. Student-athletes grow in strength, balance, agility, and conditioning while learning the techniques of cross-country ski racing including: classical and freestyle (skate) skiing, downhill, turning, and double pole techniques. Participants learn to be comfortable outdoors in winter conditions. Healthy lifestyles are emphasized. Middle school athletes have the opportunity to compete in Bill Koch League (BKL) events to supplement their school program. High school athletes race a winter-long schedule with a minimum of fifteen starts. The D-2 state meet takes place over two days during the last week in February. The school is able to supply equipment for most first year skiers. Head Coach: Fred Griffin Assistant Coach: Tom Pfeiffer.

# SPRING SPORTS

## **Baseball (Grades 7—12)**

State Champions 1978, 1987, 2004, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017. BFA-Fairfax Baseball strives to maintain a proud tradition of competitiveness, sportsmanship, leadership, and a commitment to excellence. The program is built upon the efforts of youth, middle school and high school players, coaches, parents, and volunteers supporting and promoting the game of baseball. Since last season volunteers donated countless time and resources upgrading the campus baseball field ensuring it will continue to be one of the finest fields in the area. There is a lot of excitement in the program as we look forward to the 2017 season and beyond. High school baseball opens in March. Middle school baseball starts in early April. Join a team and become part of the fun and tradition that is BFA-Fairfax Baseball. Contact Coach Mike Brown for more information.

## **Softball (Grades 7—12)**

Softball is offered during the spring season for girls in grades 7-12.

At the middle school level we offer a combined 7/8 grade team. At this level the focus is on skill development, understanding game concepts and having fun playing the game.

At the high school level we compete on the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels. The season begins mid-March and runs through early June. The Junior Varsity plays a schedule of up to 16 games competing against a variety of teams from our region. The Varsity competes at the highly competitive Division II level as a member of the Mountain League. They play a 16 game regular season followed by the playoffs in early June. Contact: Varsity Coach: Geri Witalec. JV Coach: TBA.

## **Track and Field (Grades 7—12)**

Outdoor track and field season runs from mid-March until mid-June. Practice is four to five days per week, with many at the Collins-Perley Track. It is open to middle and high school students. Track events include sprints, hurdles, mid- and long-distance. Field events include throwing events: discus, javelin and shot put; and jumping events: long and triple jumps, high jump and pole vault. This is a sport for everyone. The program provides the student-athlete overall conditioning: speed, endurance, flexibility, strength and balance. Coaching Staff: HS Coach Karen Krupa, MS Coach Tom Pfeiffer .

## **Ultimate Frisbee: Grades 7-12 (April 1 to June 1)**

This club has a recreational and competition component and is opened to all students in Grades 7-12. Teams can expect 10-15 games, while 7-8 practice only. Contact Gabe Grant.

