

**McCarthy Middle School  
Activities  
2023-2024**



**American Sign language****Ms. Fitzgibbons****Thursdays Bi-weekly****Virtual**

ASL Club is for anyone interested in learning American Sign Language! Everyone is welcome - some people will know some signs, but please come, even if you are brand new!

**Invite****Link:** <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjA5MjE3MDU3MzEz?cjc=yqtuwha>**Class****Code:** yqtuwha**Art Club****Ms. Mayer****Wednesday****Room 120**

Come make art in an open studio environment. Students receive demonstrations for how to use tools and materials, unlocking new “centers” and materials throughout the year including drawing, collage, paint, sculpture, fibers, and ceramics. Students practice coming up with and pursuing their own creative ideas in a supportive environment rich with emergent play and artistic explorations.

Attendance is required. Limit: 20 Students. If more than 20 students sign up, a Fall and Spring section will be created. If more than 40 sign up, names will be drawn from a hat. Everyone who would like to join should come to the first meeting on Wednesday, October 18th.

**Backstage Crew****Ms. Mayer****Tuesdays: 2:30-4:30****Auditorium**

Description: Backstage Crew designs the sets and props for the school musical as well as working backstage during the shows as stagehands. Parent pickup and additional commitments required. This club is currently full as students have been selected.

**Chess Club****Mr. Sullivan****Thursday****Room 114**

Students will play chess and a variety of other board games. No experience needed!

**Cross Country Running Team****Mrs. Keohane****Tuesday****McCarthy Track**

Students will practice and improve their running skills. All you will need is a good attitude, a water bottle, sneakers and weather appropriate clothing. Meet outside the cafeteria and we will head outside together to stretch and run.

### **Drama Club**

**Ms. Richardson**

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

**Auditorium**

Drama club is for those who love to sing and act or those who love to build sets and props! This club will produce a musical once a year. The cast must audition to be a part of the show. This year we may need to have a cut cast as we need to keep the numbers lower than normal due to covid. We begin in October and perform in February.

Drama club meets more than other clubs at school. You may be required to be at rehearsals (or builds) more than once a week. Rehearsals for the cast will end at 4:30. This is not the kind of club that you use the late bus to go home. You need to remain at rehearsal for the full time. The drama club google classroom code is "ms3nebd" please join this google class to stay informed. The drama bulletin at 4 corners will also be a place to get information. All the students have been selected for this club.

### **Festival Band/ATWE**

**Mr. DeStefano**

**Wednesday Evening 6-8**

**Band Room**

The CPS All Town Wind Ensemble (ATWE) is a group made up of volunteer students in grades 6-12 from McCarthy, Parker, and Chelmsford High School. It is an advanced ensemble and performs high school level repertoire. Older students' mentor younger members and everyone's musicianship improves! Program members must be enrolled in their respective ensemble programs during the school day.

The ensemble meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8PM in the McCarthy Band Room. ATWE performs throughout the school year, and major performances take place in December and May. Field trips, clinics, and enrichment performances do come up. Travel will be communicated with ample notice.

**Achievements:**

2018: Carnegie Hall Debut, MICCA Gold Medal Rating, Mechanics Hall Gold Medal Showcase Concert, Performance at Fenway Park

2017: MICCA Silver Medal Rating, Performance at Fenway Park, Clinic at The Boston Conservatory

2016: MICCA Bronze Medal Rating, Performance at Fenway Park

2015: MICCA Silver Medal Rating

2014: MICCA Silver Medal Rating

### **Festival Orchestra**

**Mr. Miller**  
**Wednesdays**  
**Room 124**

The McCarthy Festival Orchestra is open to any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra students. This ensemble will meet weekly on Wednesdays and will rehearse additional music to prepare for participation in the MICCA festival and/or prepare for the community outreach performances.

**Game Room “D & D”**

**Mrs. Carter**  
**Wednesday**  
**Room 130**

Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) is a fantasy role playing game (RPG) in which players create characters and embark upon imaginative adventures within a fantasy setting. Together they solve dilemmas, engage in battles, and gather treasure and knowledge. In the process, the characters earn experience points (XP) to rise in levels and become increasingly powerful over a series of separate gaming sessions. Weekly Dungeons and Dragons groups with a small number of students help promote creativity, teamwork, camaraderie, and most of all FUN!

Returning members will have the first opportunity to join, then remaining spots will be made available for new members in each grade on a first come first served basis.

As soon as you are interested in joining, 1) join Google **Class**

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NTU5MTkxODM0ODc3?cjc=plj2ho2> with the code “plj2ho2 fill out the **Sign-Up Form** found there. Filling out this form does not guarantee your position in the club, it is only a first step to help gauge interest level in the club this year\*Space may be limited in this club\*.

**Homework Club**

**Ms. Sousa**  
**Tuesday**  
**Library**

This program is designed to give students a “study place”. Come do your homework, work on a project, catch up on your reading, etc. Students must bring their Chromebook(s) for computer access for assignments and research. Please make sure you have homework to do when at the HW Club.

**Intramurals**

**Ms. Suchecki, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Graham, Taylor Johnson**  
**Tuesday-Thursday**  
**Gym/Fitness room**

Intramural sports will consist of different sports/games as well as weight training, fitness, and cardiovascular conditioning to increase performance in sports. Also, Cross-fit inspired fitness workouts meant to get the heart rate up and students moving and having fun. There will be a combination of body weight movements as well making use of some of the weights and equipment in the McCarthy gym and space inside and outside of McCarthy. (This is not a lifting club and will not focus on heavy lifts.) We will stretch to warm up, go over the movements,

complete a 20–30-minute conditioning WOD (workout of the day) and then cool down/stretch to wrap up.

### **Jazz Band**

**Mr. DeStefano**

**Tuesdays**

**Band Room**

Jazz Band will be a weekly activity held on Tuesday afternoons. This group will focus on the performance, history, and interpretation of jazz music throughout American history. A core component of this group will be improvisation and soloing. There will be a discussion of important people, genres, and events in the history of jazz.

Rehearsals will focus on learning important jazz literature and performing in the style of the era. There will be performances held at both the Winter and Spring McCarthy Band concerts. There will also be a performance with Parker Middle School and CHS (Chelmsford High School) at the Jazz Showcase concert later this spring. Additional performances will depend on community interest.

Any Band instrument can participate in Jazz Band. Additionally, the Jazz Band also includes the following instruments:

- Guitar
- Bass Guitar or Double Bass
- Drum Set
- Auxiliary Percussion

This jazz program will continue to be an integral part of the overall music education of our McCarthy students. This group provides extra opportunities for our students to play challenging and diverse musical literature otherwise not offered within the school day.

### **Knitting & Crochet**

**Ms. Caruso**

**Wednesdays**

**Room 215**

Knitting and Crochet club is both for beginners and practicing yarn crafters! Students can learn the basics or use the club to perfect their skills with the help of videos, the club advisor, and other students. We will host periodic theme weeks as well, including making hats for those in need in the late fall/ early winter. No experience is necessary, but an open mind and perseverance is necessary!

### **Knowledge Bowl/Trivia**

**Ms. O'Meara**

**Wednesday**

**Room 121**

Students will have the chance to test their wit, trivia, and teamwork skills as they battle against other students' skills in a "jeopardy like" event. In April, 5 students will be selected to represent Chelmsford Public Schools for the regional Knowledge Bowl Competition.

### **Magic the Gathering Club**

**Mr. Warnock**

**Thursdays**

**Room 230**

Attention all Wizards! Come join our Magic the Gathering club and dive into the world of the most popular trading card game! In our club, we will learn how to play Magic, battle with our friends, set up school tournaments, and discuss all things Magic the Gathering. If you are a veteran Magic player, bring your decks and come teach the new Wizards how fantastic our game can be. For those new to the game, learn the rules, strategies, lore, deck building ideas, and so much more from current players! Meetings will take place every Thursday and run until the late buses arrive. Please note there will be no trading or exchanging of cards on the school premises. Friendly games only! Come join and see what the excitement is all about!

### **Math Counts**

**Ms. Keohane**

**Wednesdays**

**Room 235**

MATHCOUNTS offers challenging and interesting math problems and the opportunity to participate in a national competition in the spring. You can compete no matter how good (or bad) you might think you are at math. The goal of math counts competitions is to improve students' feelings towards math and improve their math solving ability.

### **Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction/Yoga**

**Ms. Ramu**

**Wednesdays**

**Library**

Breathing exercises (pranayama) are the main components of Yoga. Pranayama decreases stress and increases mindfulness. It positively works on respiratory and nervous systems. The goal of Pranayama is to strengthen the connection between your body and mind. It promotes relaxation and improves focus and control. Sun salutations will bring more strength, flexibility, and tone to the body.

### **Select Chorus**

**Mrs. Richardson**

**Tuesdays**

**Room 127**

Select Chorus is an auditioned group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade singers wanting an extra musical experience beyond classroom performing groups. This group will learn a moderate to difficult level of music, perform at both choruses.

**Stand Up McCarthy (GSA)****Ms. Briand****Wednesdays****Room 209**

Stand-up McCarthy is a GSA that brings together students to support each other, provide a safe place to socialize, and create a platform to work for LGBTQIA rights. We encourage students to participate in school and community events including Ally Week (a national youth-led effort encouraging students to be allies with the LGBTQIA members of their community in standing against bullying, harassment, and name-calling) and Pride Week.

**TV Club****Ms. Martin****Tuesday****Parker MS**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn about writing, reporting, filming and editing – all to create their own news broadcast. Students will use professional tools of the trade like high-definition news cameras, professional microphones, and digital editing software. The finished videos will be broadcast on CTM-TV. Students will take their regular afternoon bus to Parker and go to the TV studio for the club. The lead instructor is Dianne Sherratt Steimel, CTM's News Director, who will team up with Parker teacher, Ms. Martin.

Because equipment is limited, this course is limited to 10 students. Grades 7-8 only.

If you are interested in joining the TV club at Parker, please send an email to [dianne@chelmsfordtv.org](mailto:dianne@chelmsfordtv.org) and explain why you would be interested in learning more about television production.

**Yearbook****Ms. Egan****Tuesday & Wednesday****Room 104**

The yearbook is a treasured keepsake for all the students and staff each year. It is a place to share the marvelous happenings here at McCarthy whether academic, athletic, social, Or creative. Come be a part of something incredibly special.

**\*Please be aware all activity times/days are subject to change**

