

## A NEW SCHOOL YEAR CAN OFFER NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED

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Debate Club

A new school year can mean a lot of different things for a lot of different people. It could mean making new friends, getting better grades, and for some, it is getting more involved. One way to do this is by joining clubs.

At Darby, there are a variety of different clubs for a variety of different student interests. Joining a club can help you have a better high school experience. Clubs help you make new friends, increase social skills among your peers, help people get engaged with something bigger than themselves, and most importantly people can feel a sense of belonging.

Assistant principal Adam Olsheski says students who belong have a better high school career because of having a group they can relate to.

"Clubs help people belong by giving them peers in the school that they have something in common. I think that just being a part of something really helps drive purpose and holds you accountable," said Olsheski. "If you feel like you belong you are apt to try more things."

According to The National Center of Education Statistics, research proposes that being in an extracurricular activity can pilot you to increased success in school, "Recent research suggests that participation in extracurricular activities may increase students' sense of engagement or attachment to their school, participation in extracurricular activities can lead to success in school".

Clubs can teach many other things. Junior Caroline Turner says she has been able to see that students want to be kind but don't know how to get started.

"It has shown me that students here at Darby want to be good and want to be kind, they just need someone to start the movement so they can join in," said Turner.

Being involved in a Chinese club, Senior Marie Meeks has been able to have a group of friends that enjoy the same culture as her.

"It has allowed me to meet new people who appreciate the culture as much as I do and has helped me make new friends," shared Meeks.

Some students join clubs to get a positive experience from volunteering and or service hours. Senior Claire Huffman says Interact has given her the opportunity to earn volunteer hours while having a great time.



Spanish Club 19-20

"This club gets me lots of volunteer hours and we have a lot of fun," said Huffman.

Even though clubs get started at the beginning of the school year, that doesn't mean that it is your last chance to join. It is never too late to join a club even if you are involved in a season of sports, band, or theater. Clubs such as Interact, Debate or Chess club are always looking for members.

Clubs have a huge impact on a high schooler career, from making new friends to increasing a student's sense of belonging. Darby has a variety of clubs, make sure to see the packet attached to find your club today!



Key Club

<https://www.hilliardschools.org/hdb/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019-20-Clubs-and-Activities-List-1.pdf>

