

STUDENT ORGANIZATION APPROVAL

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School has over 60 recognized clubs. In addition to the many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in academics, arts, and athletics sponsored by the school, there are also student-interest clubs and activities. These clubs and activities provide students additional opportunities to extend their learning, develop and demonstrate leadership, impact the school and community, expand their social network, and grow and be supported cognitively, emotionally, and socially. We are committed to providing the best guidance possible to support student-interest clubs and activities.

All academic clubs and special interest clubs are monitored by the activities director or their designee. **Established student clubs will be reconstituted* each school year.** Reconstituted student clubs are not the same as clubs on probation. If you are interested in forming a student club, talk to the activities director. Each new club proposal requires a constitution in which students describe what the new club will do at club activities and what its purpose will be. The approval process may take as little as a week or two to as long as a couple of months.

*A **reconstituted student club** is defined as an active, not on probation, established related student interest club, special interest club, service club, club sports non-VHSL, or performance club that can demonstrate active membership and activities.

Categories

There are seven categories of clubs plus one ‘Other’ category: VHSL Clubs/VHSL Teams, Academic Clubs, Honor Societies and related Student Interest Clubs, Special Interest Clubs, Service Clubs, Club Sports (non-VHSL), Performance Clubs, and Other.

VHSL Clubs/VHSL Teams
Academic Clubs
Honor Societies and Related Student Interest Clubs
Special Interest Clubs
Service Clubs
Club Sports (non-VHSL)
Performance Clubs
Other

Forming a New Club

Club proposals are submitted to the activities director no later than September 30th each year. Proposals will list the sponsor name, a common web-based link for attendance, type of club (see above) and will include proposed dates of meetings and the names of all students in the club. Proposals must also outline the community purpose and goal of this club.

Seniors can not propose a new club. If a junior starts a club, there must be at least half sophomores or freshmen on the initial application. The club will then be on probation for one year. This allows time for the club to establish any long-term projects or outreach.

Student organizations must be sponsored by one or more faculty members. Sponsorship is considered in the vetting process.

Administrators are prohibited from sponsoring new clubs. Clubs without a staff sponsor will become inactive. At the executive director's discretion, a waiver may be submitted for approval to the Regional School Board for a non-staff sponsor to be appointed in the event that a tier 1 or tier 2 club cannot find a staff sponsor.

Membership and Meetings

MLWGS clubs are open to all students of all grades and interests. Club membership is defined as regular attendance (required) at consistent club meetings with the goal of meeting new people and helping to create a fun environment. **Consistent is defined as half of the total meetings to be held.** The minimum number of active club members required per club is (10).

Each club will create a common web-based report that records students' consistent attendance for club meetings or activities. This report will be approved by their leadership by the third Monday of September of the new school year. Access to this report will be provided to the activities director with viewing rights annually.

Club Dues

Dues are established by club leadership annually. For any club that requires a membership or facility entry fee, etc., the students in the club should fundraise to pay for the club sponsor's expenses utilizing their activity fund.

Probation

Starting with clubs formed in 2019-2020, all newly formed clubs will be on a probationary period for one year. Because of the requirements of probation, seniors are prohibited from proposing new clubs. During the probationary period, clubs are prohibited from fundraising activities (including Fall Festival), 'official' meetings, opening a student activity account, or from travel. Requests to deviate from probation must be approved one month in advance by the activities director.

MLWGS cautions that probationary club members do **not** miss instructional time for club activities. If such a request is made, the sponsor must seek approval from the activities director at least one month prior to the activity. The activities director will communicate club requests to the Leadership team for approval of missed academic time.

When a club comes off probation the club sponsor will receive 4 hours of comp time at that time.

Tier System

Compensation for club sponsors is grouped into Tiers 1-5, which designate levels of sponsor commitment and experience. Other stipends are available for non-club activities that benefit MLWGS; see the table at the end of this document.

With the completion of all application materials, the new organization or club will be vetted by the activities director, who will make a recommendation for approval or denial to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration for their determination.

The decision of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration in this matter is final. Organizations or clubs are not recognized as valid activities until approval is obtained.

Upon Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administrative approval, club materials will be provided to the Regional School Board for their information.

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