

Get a head start: find the ideal club

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High school offers a large variety of new clubs, and sometimes, it can be difficult to know all of the clubs that are available. The school's website provides a list of the clubs offered, and the club wall in the main office contains information about each activity. While walking through the school, you can also check announcements on the TVs or on fliers in the hallways to find out the date and time of a club meeting. To help you get started on your search, refer to the categories listed below.

If you like to solve problems, experiment and test your knowledge, then try:

Math Team, Science Bowl, Scholastic Bowl, Health Careers Club, Chess Club, Environmental Club

If you like to draw, paint, take pictures, cook or sew, then try:

Art Club, Computer Multimedia Art Club, Culinary Club, Fashion Club, Photo Club

If you like to compose, perform, listen to music and watch musicals, then try:

Band, Choir, Drama Club, Men's A Cappella, Modern Music Masters, Musical, Orchestra, Show Choir, Spring Play, Contest Play, Group Interpretation

If you like to utilize verbal talents, then try:

Business Club, Speech Team, Debate Team, Model United Nations

If you like to organize events, social gatherings, and charitable activities then try:

National Honor Society, Freshman Executive Board, Student Council, Service Over Self

If you like to lead other students in cheering on your school, then try:

Cheerleading, Pom Pon Team, Vikettes, United Clubs of Fremd

If you like to build and create models out of wood or metal or work with electronics, then try:

Auto Club, Computer Aided Drafting Club, Electronics Club, Internet Club, Robotics Club, Tech Crew

If you like to write and get works published, then try:

Viking Logue, Literary Magazine, Writers' Forum, Yearbook Club

If you like to stay active and exercise, then try:

Dance Club, Viking Dance Team, Ping Pong Club, Weight Training, Outdoor Adventure Club

If you like to travel or experience different cultures, then try:

French Club, Foreign Exchange Club, German Club, Multicultural Club, Spanish Club

Getting involved as a freshman has its benefits

As a freshman, I had the same anxiety as every other incoming high school student. Will I be able to find my classes? Am I going to receive a lot of homework? There were so many questions racing through my head, but there was one in particular that stuck out to me: How am I going to meet people?

Coming from Sundling Junior High, most of my friends would be attending Palatine High School, and I didn't feel like I was going to know anyone. Of course, I would be entering high school with about 60 other students from my elementary school, as well as a handful of classmates from junior high. However, the chances were slim that I would know someone in every one of my classes.

My first solution was to beg my mother to allow me to transfer to Palatine, but unfortunately, my request was denied. It was then I realized that I needed to take the initiative to make my transition into high school as easy as possible.

I thought that joining a sport would be my best option for meeting new people. In junior high, I ran cross country and track, so I decided that running would be my method of meeting other students.

I had come up with a more reasonable solution, but I was still unsatisfied. I didn't want to wait until the beginning of the school year to meet my future teammates and classmates. For that reason, I signed up for the school's summer running camp.

The first day entailed running three miles at six o'clock in the morning, and socializing was the last thing on my mind. However, as the days progressed, I got to know the other girls during long runs and weight lifting. Even silently running next to someone felt like a quality bonding experience. I was able to meet other incoming freshmen,



Kayley Slezak

and despite the exhausting workouts, I looked forward to training every day.

That fall, my freshman year began, as did the cross country season, and my improved mile time wasn't the only thing I was happy about. I remember the excitement and relief I felt when I found out that I shared classes with

some of my teammates, and some of us even sat together at lunch.

Everyone on the team became close from the beginning. Motivating each other during races and laughing together at pasta parties helped us truly become friends.

Joining cross country was beneficial because I had the chance to meet my future classmates before school even started. I would meet new people in my classes, but it was comforting to see at least one familiar face when I walked into the room. Not only did I meet people my own age, but I met upperclassmen to look up to and to seek advice from. Even as a senior, I still keep in touch with everyone I met on cross country, including the upperclassmen who are currently in college.

It is to your advantage to get involved in high school. You will meet people with common interests and begin to recognize more faces in the hallways. Any hobbies should be pursued, and if there isn't a club you find appealing, there is the opportunity to start your own.

My decision to participate in cross country eased my nerves about high school and put the abundant questions in my head to rest. I no longer felt like I was attending the wrong high school. I missed my friends from junior high, but becoming involved allowed me to meet new ones. You will meet many new people in your classes, but joining an activity makes the adjustment to high school easier.

FRESHMAN VOICE

“I'm nervous about getting lost trying to get to classes.”

-Katie Klonder

Don't worry, going to and from class will become easy. If you need help, ask a teacher. You can also refer to the map on page 4.



“I am worried about being overwhelmed with homework.”

-Adam Shay

If you organize your time, stay focused and use an assignment notebook, homework will be manageable.

“I am afraid that the upperclassmen will make fun of me.”

-Alyssa Mensie

Fear not! The upperclassmen were once in your position, so they will be kind to you.



“I don't want to get in trouble anymore, and I do not want to be late to class.”

-Gabe Zukowski

You will enter high school with a clean slate. Make the right choices, and you will stay trouble free.

Compiled by Arjun Thakkar

Top 10 things to do before graduating

Do you want to make your high school experience memorable? Here's a list of things to accomplish to make your upcoming four years unforgettable:

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| 1. Try a freshly-baked chocolate chip cookie from the cafeteria. |
| 2. Dress up for a football game. |
| 3. Buy a Valentine's Day survey. |
| 4. Go to a dance. |
| 5. Find the spiral staircase. |
| 6. Watch FANBOYS perform at Writers Week. |
| 7. Attend a production of one of the school musicals. |
| 8. Get a free cup of hot chocolate on special days before school in the cafeteria. |
| 9. Dress up for spirit days. |
| 10. Meet foreign exchange students. |