

HILLCREST CLUB OFFERINGS 2025-2026

Please read through the list of clubs/extracurricular activities and review with a parent/guardian at home. Take note of when the club begins and how often meetings will occur. The faculty advisor is listed in case you have any particular questions. We have an impressive list this year - Go Hawks!

Club	Advisor(s)	Description	Meeting day/time	Meeting Location
3D Design Club	Mr. Groll	The 3D Design Club will discuss different applications of 3D design and give students an opportunity to create their own 3D models and prints.	Meets Thursdays , Date will be announced through Google Classroom	A10
8th Grade Council	Mrs. Bogos	The 8th grade council is a club that meets after school to plan community and social events for the 8th grade class. Any interested 8th grade student is encouraged to attend our informational meeting!	Meetings are scheduled around events and vary in frequency. Dates will be announced through morning announcements and posted on Grade Level Google Classroom.	B-10
American Sign Language Club	Ms. Fitzpatrick	The American Sign Language (ASL) Club gives students an opportunity to learn the basics of ASL including: letters, numbers, vocabulary, and ASL grammar. Students will also learn about famous Deaf individuals, ASL in pop culture and the history of ASL in America.	Meets Mondays 10/20-12/8	C-2
Art Club	Ms. Towne	Join us for a creative adventure in the Art Club! This session we're making squash books — awesome fold-out books that burst open with creativity! You'll get to experiment with paint, collage, pastels, colored pencils, and more. Fill your squash book with whatever you want: a story, a journal, a visual adventure, or just your wildest ideas. Each week you'll add new artwork until you have a one-of-a-kind masterpiece to take home.	Thursdays (8 sessions) starting January 8th	C-1

Baking Club 	Ms. Dordevic	Love baking (and eating)? Join the Baking Club! All you need is a little experience, teamwork, and a willingness to bake <i>and</i> clean. We'll make delicious treats you can enjoy right away or take home. Come ready to learn, create, and share your love of baking! Open to 8th grade only!	Monday, 10/6 Monday, 10/27 Monday, 11/3 Monday, 11/17 Monday 12/1 Monday 12/15	A-16 (FCS Room)
Best Buddies	Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Csizmadia	Each participant of Best Buddies is an advocate for social inclusion and a leader in the disability rights movement. Each individual participant can make a significant impact by fostering a more inclusive school and community, educating their peers, and raising awareness. Join our Google classroom for the link to registration: vx5bzet	Wednesdays , once per month after school, with additional in school activities	C-2
BUF Movie Club	Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Brown	Belonging, understanding, and fairness: Sit back and relax as we watch a variety of movies to highlight stories that humanize issues and raise awareness about challenges we have faced as a society. The goal is to discuss common experiences in an effort to create a shared vision for a more just society. Snacks? → Of course! Movie Choice? → You bet! Permission Slips for PG13 movies? → Required	Weekly meetings. First meeting Thursday, 10/9	B-12/14
Calendar Club/Social Media	Ms. Andreson Ms. Schuessler	Do you love organization and keeping everyone in the know? The Hillcrest Calendar Club is for you! We will keep the school up to date on all the fun activities and events going on by creating cool calendar layouts using tech tools like Canva. We look forward to seeing you twice a month to stay up to date on all things Hillcrest! 😊	The first and last Wednesday of the month until 3:15pm First meeting date: Wednesday, 9/24	A-1
Chess Club	Ms. Winschel	Open to all, experienced and not. Meets for a total of eight weeks, four in the fall and four in the late winter. October Mondays in the Media Center. Starting November 3, 2025	Mondays , beginning November 3 for 4 weeks	
Choraleers	Mrs. Winters	The Hillcrest Choraleers is an extension of the choral program here at Hillcrest. It is composed of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and offers an intense, small ensemble experience in choral music literature. Due to the advanced level of the music performed, all participants are selected through an audition process. Please see Mrs. Winters in D4 for an information packet, and to sign up for an audition time.	Thursdays until 3:15 pm (some rehearsals will end at 3:45 pm)	Chorus Room D-4

Clay Club	Mrs. Saunders	The Clay Club is for students who love to have fun, be creative, and get their hands dirty! We will create beautiful and functional pieces out of clay. There is a \$10 material fee to cover the cost of clay. <u>Space is limited to the first 12 participants and all students will be notified in mid- December, through the grade level google classroom, when they are able to sign up.</u>	Day of the week to be determined! Starting in January	Art Room C-1
Color Guard	Ms. Ardito	The HMS color guard is a non-competitive team that welcomes all students. We meet every other week starting in December. We will work on our routine for the Memorial Day Parade throughout the school year, where we lead the HMS marching band! This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in the color guard to improve their skills. Although, no experience is needed. Feel free to come to our first meeting, where you can try it out without commitment, in March, TBD for an exact date!	First meeting starting in March	A-13/Cafe/Outside
Cornhole	Mr. Seltenreich	Want to learn how to play cornhole? Already know how? Want to have fun playing cornhole in a very friendly, social environment? The cornhole club is open to the first 25 people who sign up. All levels of ability are encouraged to sign up. Sign-ups will take place in January.	Wednesdays starting February	Gym
Environmental Club	Ms. Doran	Join us at Environmental Club to learn about the various ways that we can have a positive impact on our environment! We will discuss steps that we can all take at home, in school, and in the larger community! We will meet every other Wednesday 2:30-3:15 in Ms. Doran's office (B20). Everyone is welcome! For more information and to sign up, please contact Ms. Doran: adoran@trumbullps.org .	Every other Wednesday starting October 1st	B-20
Esports Competitive Team	Mrs. Miller	Sixteen students will be able to participate on our competitive esports team. This is a combined team of Hillcrest and Madison students. If your child is on the team they will be competing in Rocket League games after school on Mondays until 4:30 in the <u>Middle School Esports League</u> . There will also be scheduled practice time.	Tryouts - Monday, September 16, 2:30-4:30	Planetarium
Esports Club	Mrs. Miller and Mr. Groll	The esports club will be for students interested in playing recreationally. Games will include Super Smash Bros and Mario Kart. There is no fee for this club.	Wednesdays 2x month Start Date: Oct. 8th	A-10

Game Club	Mrs. Saunders	The Game Club gives students the opportunity to play games and have fun! In the past, we have played board games as well as larger group games. We will also have legos available. No experience necessary and EVERYONE is welcome.	Mondays Sep.- Nov. First Game Club Session will be on <u>September 29th!</u>	C1- Art Room
Garden Club	Ms. Winschel	Get your hands dirty! Take care of the plantings around Hillcrest. Meets Mondays, starting September 22 for 4 weeks.	Mondays until 3:15	Meet in A hallway by Greenhouse
Interact Club	Mrs. Rooney	Are you interested in helping others? Would you like to be part of projects that benefit the people in our school, town, state, country, and world? Then come join the Interact Club. Last year we baked and bought gift cards for veterans at Homes for the Brave, collected coats for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, raised awareness and money for the victims of the California wildfires, made Holiday and Valentine's Day cards for local nursing homes, and held a school wide service project where we made hundreds of care bags for Operation Hope, blankets for the Binky Patrol, and wrote positive messages around our school.	Every Monday starting October 6	B-4
Jazz Ensemble	Mr. Holmgren	HMS Jazz Band is a select audition group that meets after school on Mondays throughout the school year. Students must play a band instrument, guitar, bass, strings, piano or a percussion/drum set and should be in the end of the red Standard of Excellence book example around 100 or higher. We take in a variety of instruments and this is a fun group for you to encounter new jazz, jazz rock, pop and other styles of band music in a smaller ensemble format. We also feature jazz history, improvisation, learning the pentatonic and other scales as well as having fun with a unique grouping of instruments to a common goal. Once late buses start we have auditions 9/22, 9/24, 9/25, 9/29 and 10/1 for new members. Jazz Band officially starts on Thursdays on October 9th. See Mr. Holmgren in D6 to sign up! This is an all year performance ensemble and regular attendance is expected.	Thursdays starting 10/9	D-6
Kindness Club	Mrs. Miller and Ms. Andreson	The Kindness Club is a welcoming space where all students can feel accepted, supported, and valued for who they are. Our goal is to create a community built on respect, compassion, and understanding, where differences are celebrated. Together, we work to spread kindness throughout Hillcrest Middle School and encourage others to do the same.	2x a month on Thursday (starting on Oct. 9)	A-7

Literary Arts Magazine ("Expressions" Club)	Mrs. Bogos and Mrs. O'Brien	Expressions Club is Hillcrest's Literary Arts Magazine. Expressions is the place where we will share our love of expressing ourselves through the arts. We will work with Hillcrest's Young Author's Club, student artists, and musicians to publish an online literary arts magazine that will be available on the Hillcrest website at the end of the school year. Students (grades 6-8) will meet 2-3 times per trimester (in B-10) to discuss creative pieces, collect submissions, sharpen their proofreading skills, and learn more about graphic design.	Meetings are scheduled 2-3 times per trimester. Dates will be announced through morning announcements and posted on Grade Level Google Classroom.	B-10
MathCounts	Mrs. Formanek, Ms. Vowinkel	MathCounts is a national middle school mathematics competition that builds problem-solving skills and fosters achievement through four levels of fun, in-person "bee" style contests. Regional competition will be held in February at Fairfield University and if we progress to states, it will be held in March at The University of Hartford!	Every Thursday First meeting date: Thursday, 10/16	B-8
National Junior Honor Society	Mrs. Kitchener	NJHS invites 7th and 8th graders to apply during the third trimester of school. Candidates must have 3.85 GPA over all the trimesters they have been at Hillcrest. NJHS has many service roles and sponsors the 7th grade Halloween Party, Crosstown Showdown door decorating contest, and the Bead War.	Meetings are scheduled around events and vary in frequency. The Executive Council meets monthly.	Media Center or B-5
News from the Nest	Mrs. Kitchener	<i>News from the Nest</i> is Hillcrest's weekly news video. Students will generate story ideas, interview people, photograph and record, and produce video segments using WeVideo. This club is open to 7th and 8th graders.	Meetings are Mondays , twice a month. The first meeting is October 6th.	B5
Orchestra (after school)	Ms. Winschel	Open to all string players with one or more years of experience. This group plays music that is different from that played in the classroom. 6, 7 and 8th graders! Meets Wednesday afternoons in D-5.	Wednesdays until 3:15	D-5
Sports Club	Mr. Marx	Come join the Sports Club! Starting on 9/24 we will be playing a variety of different sports (basketball, pickleball, weightlifting, ping pong, etc) Wednesday after school for 8 sessions. Come join in on the fun in the gym!	Wednesdays weekly until 3:15, Beginning 9/24 and ending 11/12	Gym

Podcast Club	Mr. Hart and Mr. Parente	Do you love technology, storytelling, or being in the spotlight? Join the Podcast Club and help create Hillcrest's very own student-run show! What You'll Do: • Conduct fun interviews with teachers and classmates • Learn how to share our stories through social media • Use cool tech to record and edit episodes • Develop skills in teamwork, communication, and creativity We're Looking For: • Students who are tech savvy • Outgoing, curious, and personable voices • Future content creators with fresh ideas!	Mondays weekly until 3:15, Beginning October 6th	A3
Robotics Club	Mr. Groll	Come learn how to build and program robots! There will be a number of different activities including races, design challenges, and coding competitions.	Mondays, Starting in September 22, 2025	A10
Sandy Hook Promise S.A.V.E Club	Mrs. Durand and Mrs. Noyes	Join Hillcrest's Save Club! The Students Against Violence Everywhere club is the student leadership initiative of Sandy Hook Promise. This club encourages students to take charge of creating a safe environment for all staff and students. Anyone is welcome to join!	First Meeting - Monday, September 8, 2025. Dates will be announced through morning announcements and in the SAVE Club Google Classroom.	Media Center
School Musical (Drama Club)	Ms. Barrett Ms. Ardito	The Hillcrest drama club provides students an opportunity to express themselves in a creative manner. Students can take part in the school musical as a performer, or as a member of the set and crew team. The club is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and auditions are required to participate. Rehearsals will take place 1 to 2 times a week, after school, starting in November to prepare for the musical that will take place in April. An informational meeting will be held prior to auditions.	First meeting September 24th	Cafe and B-2

Science Bowl 	Ms. Ardito	Do you love science and math? Do you like competing? Then the science bowl team is for you! Open to all Hillcrest students who LOVE science, Hillcrest's science bowl club will begin on September 25th after school in room A13 for an informational meeting. Ten students from the club will be selected to represent Hillcrest in a competition in February at the University of Connecticut. The Science Bowl is sponsored by the Department of Energy and is a "highly competitive science education and academic event among teams of high school and middle school students who compete in a fast-paced verbal forum to solve technical problems and answer questions in all branches of science and math."	First Meeting Thursday 9/25	A-13
Student Council	Ms. Schuessler and Ms. Doran	Are you ready to make a difference and have fun doing it? We invite you to consider running for Hillcrest Student Council! The student council plays an important role in shaping our school community and bringing our school together. Meetings are held every Monday, where you'll have the chance to collaborate with students to plan exciting social events and school spirit weeks filled with fun activities that will have everyone talking. As part of the Student Council, you'll get to make a meaningful impact by reaching out to our community through fundraisers and school-wide activities. Whether you're passionate about event planning, leadership, or just want to be a voice for your peers, there's a place for you in the Student Council. Our informational meeting is on September 22nd in room A-1, where we will help you prepare your campaign.	Mondays (weekly)	A-1
Young Authors	Ms. Andreson	The Young Author's Club is an after-school writing opportunity for students in grades 6-8 which provides a positive, creative, and encouraging environment for students who like to write, with opportunities to be published in real books! This club will provide brainstorming sessions, writing sessions, and peer-editing sessions. Students who enjoy writing fiction, poetry, song lyrics, and more will enjoy this club where they can interact with other young authors.	Mondays: Oct. 6 Nov. 10 Dec. 8 Jan. 12 Jan. 26 Feb. 9 Mar. 9 Mar. 30	A-5