High School Club Establishment Guidelines

Purpose:
Student clubs foster collaboration, leadership, and community-building by providing students with a space to explore their passions, take on responsibilities, and engage with their peers. Through club participation, students develop a sense of belonging, learn to work with diverse groups, and contribute positively to the school environment, preparing them for future civic and social responsibilities.

At the same time, the school must balance student interest with its responsibility to ensure that clubs align with the school's mission, priorities, and resources. While we value and encourage student initiative, the establishment and continuation of clubs are subject to certain limitations. Factors such as the cost of staffing and supervision, potential liability to the school, duplication of existing clubs, or a mismatch between a club's mission and the school's educational goals may limit the school's ability to support new or existing clubs.

The following guidelines outline the process for establishing new clubs and maintaining status at ARHS as a club.

Club Status Definitions:

- **Proposed:** A club in the conceptual stage, where students express interest and submit a formal proposal to the administration. Proposed clubs must outline their advisor, mission, goals, and activities before moving forward for consideration as a provisional club. To propose a club, please complete this form.
    - Please note: Proposed clubs whose mission and planned activities overlap and/or compete significantly with existing clubs may be denied.
- **Provisional:** A club that has been approved for a trial period - typically from September through November 15 - and is actively attracting members and hosting meetings.
- **Initial:** A club that has attracted and retained strong student attendance. These clubs are now officially recognized by the school and may continue their activities with school support.
    - In recognition of the unique benefits that certain clubs may offer to a small but dedicated group of students, some clubs may be advanced to initial approval if they provide evidence of meaningful impact on its members, such as enhanced skills, academic enrichment, leadership development, or personal growth; and, they maintain regular meetings and activities, regardless of membership size, and show commitment to the club's purpose and goals
- **Ongoing:** A fully established club that has been in existence for more than two years. Ongoing clubs have demonstrated sustained participation and operations and are no longer required to go through the annual provisional-to-initial status process. They continue to function as an integral part of the school's extracurricular offerings.

Club Formation Timeline:

- **Mid-September:** *Proposals Accepted*
  Proposals for new clubs are accepted.
- **Late September:** *Club Extravaganza*
  All students will have the opportunity to learn about existing clubs and express interest in starting new clubs.
- **October-November:** *Initial Club Meetings*
  New clubs will hold their first meetings during this period, aiming to attract members and solidify their presence.
- **November 15:** *Club Status Evaluation*
  Student leaders and/or club advisors will update the principal about the club's activities, including how

many meetings they have convened and the student participation in each meeting. Using that information, the principal will notify each club whether they have moved from provisional to initial club status.

- **Approx. February 15:** Discretionary stipends are allocated for advisors of clubs not recognized in the teachers contract.