

## **DOWNTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# **Extra-Curricular Activity Descriptions**

Monday, September 8th - Thursday, June 18th Mon, Tue, Thu, Friday: 4:00 - 6:00 pm Wed: 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Semester 1: September 8, 2025 - December 19, 2025 Semester 2: January 5, 2026 - June 18, 2026

## **Fine Arts:**

### \*Year-Round Option DIY Creations (Semester 1:Tues, Fri | Semester 2: Tues, Thur)

DIY Creations empowers students to explore their creativity through hands-on artistic expression. Students will design and craft personalized works of art using various materials and techniques, blending function and aesthetic. This club emphasizes the importance of individual artistic voice while encouraging skill-building in areas such as design, composition, and mixed media. Through socio-emotional connections and creative exploration, students will experience the joy of making art that reflects their identities, reduces stress, and strengthens problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking. DIY Creations nurtures imagination, supports cognitive growth, and fosters a safe, inclusive space for students to express themselves through visual arts.

### \*Year-Round Option Visual Art (Mon, Wed, Fri)

Each student will follow the same progression of projects at their own individual pace. Their first few projects will be drawings that introduce them to the principles of value, tone, line, and proportion before they move on to more advanced projects such as a colored pencil portrait drawing, a watercolor still life, and an illustrated graphic novel. At the end of the term, they will have a collection of projects they can present in the Winter & Spring ASP showcase to our DTMS Community.

## \*Year-Round Option Scrapbooks & Stories (Thu)

A creative club for middle schoolers to express themselves through scrapbooking, storytelling, and fun group challenges that capture memories and spark imagination. Participate in creative challenges where we set a theme and create scrapbook pages or stories within a time limit.

## \*Semester 1 Option Filmmaking (Mon, Wed)

Students will explore the creative process of making movies, from scriptwriting and storyboarding to filming and editing. They will learn the basics of camera techniques, sound design, and video production, gaining hands-on experience in bringing their stories to life on screen. All experience levels are welcome, and students will have opportunities to collaborate on projects, experiment with different roles in filmmaking, and showcase their own films during our annual ASP Winter showcase.











## \*Semester 2 Option Photography/Yearbook (Wed)

In Photography & Yearbook, students will explore the art of storytelling through the lens of a camera. They'll learn to use professional cameras, develop their photography techniques, and gain an understanding of composition, lighting, and editing. Students will take on the role of school documentarians by capturing key events, student life, and special moments throughout the year. Through photo walks, event coverage, and collaborative planning sessions, they will gain hands-on experience in visual storytelling. By the end of the year, students will apply their artistic and technical skills to design and produce the official 2025–26 school yearbook, leaving a lasting impact on our community through their creative vision.

# **Performing Arts:**

## \*Year-round Option Musical Theater (Mon, Wed, Fri)

Musical Theater utilizes socioemotional wellness tools to prepare students to perform full-length musicals with an audience in mind. Students will be able to examine the structures, stories, and settings of musical theater examples to understand how those components serve the story and concept. Students will learn how to incorporate song and dance into storytelling. Students will learn different types of theater, from Shakespeare to Theater of the Absurd. Musical Theater also helps create long-lasting friendships along the way for students with their fellow cast members. Musical Theater is pivotal in helping students grow emotional awareness, as well as communication skills needed for adult development. We will have two performances: A Winter Showcase and a Spring Musical. This Spring, we did our version of Wicked Jr.

## \*Year-Round Option Dance (Semester 1:Tues, Thur | Semester 2: Tues)

Dance is one of the most immersive genres of art. From the top of your head to the tip of your toes, students are fully involved in this physical activity to convey a story or release of emotion. Students will be able to develop their skills through different styles of dance, including hip-hop, ballet, modern, and more. Students will also get to enhance their individual creativity by contributing to the dances that are being learned. By the end of each semester, a performance will take place at our Winter & Spring Showcase for our DTMS community to enjoy!.

### \*Semester 2 Option Step (Thur)

Step Club offers students the opportunity to express themselves through rhythmic movement, precision, and teamwork. Rooted in rich cultural traditions, step combines dance, percussion, and performance as students learn choreographed routines using only their bodies to create sound and rhythm. Students will build confidence, discipline, and unity as they prepare for showcases and school events. Whether new to step or experienced, all students are welcome to join and be part of a powerful, high-energy performance group that promotes school spirit and artistic expression. By the end of the semester, a performance will take place at our Spring Showcase for our DTMS community to enjoy!.

## **STEM Enrichment:**

\*Year-Round Option Digital Art & Animation (Tues, Thurs)











Students will explore the intersection of technology and creativity through digital art and animation. They'll learn core concepts like graphic design, motion graphics, and frame-by-frame animation using industry-relevant software and tools. By applying problem-solving, sequencing, and design thinking, students will bring their ideas to life through digital projects that blend artistic expression with technical skills. This club lays a strong foundation in both visual communication and technology, preparing students for future pathways in design, media, and computer science. At the end of the term, they will have a project they can present in the Winter & Spring ASP showcase to our DTMS Community.

## \*Year-Round Option Strategic Gaming (Fri)

In Strategic Gaming, students will build critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills through fun, strategy-based games. From familiar favorites like Uno, Connect 4, and Jenga to more advanced games like Blokus, Guess Who?, and Codenames, students will explore STEM concepts such as logic, patterns, probability, and systems thinking. Activities may also include digital games like Minecraft: Education Edition and team-based puzzle challenges. This club encourages collaboration, creativity, and strategic planning all in an engaging, game-filled environment designed to challenge the mind and build teamwork. By the end of each semester, students will have brainstormed, crafted, and playtested their own original game using MakeCode Arcade or similar design software.

## \*Semester 1 Option Chess Club (Mon)

Students will develop critical thinking, strategic planning, and problem-solving skills through one of the world's most classic strategy games. As they learn openings, tactics, and endgame strategies, students will strengthen their concentration, memory, and logical reasoning. Whether new to chess or looking to sharpen their skills, all students will have opportunities to practice, compete, and challenge themselves in a supportive environment. The club promotes focus, perseverance, and critical thinking—offering an engaging way to strengthen key STEM-related skills.

#### \*Semester 2 Option Lego Robotics (Mon)

Get ready to build, code, and explore the exciting world of Lego Robotics! In this hands-on club, middle schoolers will collaborate to design, construct, and program their own robots using Lego Education kits. Students will learn the foundations of robotics, including engineering design, sensors, motors, and block-based coding. As their creations come to life, they'll tackle fun challenges from navigating obstacle courses to solving real-world-inspired problems. Along the way, students will build teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Whether you're a beginner or an aspiring engineer, Lego Robotics offers something for everyone ready to innovate and explore through play and technology.

# **Literacy Engagement:**

### \*Semester 1 Option Dungeons & Dragons (Wed)

Students will embark on imaginative adventures where they create original characters, solve complex challenges, and collaborate to navigate immersive fantasy worlds. Through interactive gameplay and roleplay, they will strengthen their literacy skills by reading rulebooks, writing character backstories, and crafting narratives. In addition to storytelling, students will develop critical thinking, strategic











decision-making, creativity, and teamwork by building confidence and communication in a fun, supportive environment.

## \*Year-Round Option Anime (Semester 1: Thur | Semester 2: Wed)

In Anime Club, students will dive into the rich and fascinating world of Japanese animation and culture. They'll explore iconic, age-appropriate films and series, while learning about the language, traditions, and historical influences that shape anime storytelling. Through guided discussions and creative activities, students will analyze themes, character development, and visual styles unique to the genre. They'll also have the opportunity to bring their own ideas to life by designing an original anime book by developing characters, building storylines, and illustrating scenes. This club fosters creativity, cultural appreciation, and collaborative storytelling in a fun and expressive environment. By the end of each semester, students would have created their own Original Anime Book/Comic (Manga-Style).

### \*Year-Round Option Journalism (Tues)

Students will become school reporters by investigating stories, conducting interviews, and writing articles about the events and voices that matter most in their community. They'll learn the foundations of news writing, media ethics, and research while practicing real-world skills like editing, photography, and layout design. From student spotlights and event recaps to opinion pieces and breaking news, students will collaborate to publish their own school newspaper or newsletter. This club empowers students to amplify their voices, think critically, and become thoughtful, informed storytellers. Each month, students in the club will collaborate to produce a school newsletter featuring original reporting, interviews, and creative content.

# **Leadership Development:**

Our student-led leadership organizations highlight the importance of student expression, safe spaces, responsibility, and learning. With guidance from our lead facilitators, our students are developing leadership skills and personal integrity.

### \*Invitation Only NJHS (Tue)

The National Junior Honor Society will build students as leaders and complete service to their communities. The first part of the meeting time is for Service Hour, and the second part is for chapter meeting business. Committees will meet as necessary and at the discretion of their members.

## \*Invitation Only Sable (Wed)

A mentorship group to build community amongst young Black and Brown girls. In SABLE, we will empower students to develop self-advocacy, resilience, and leadership skills to thrive within their relationships with themselves and others. Throughout our program, you will explore culture, body image, and reflect on your own experiences as a young black girl.

## \*Invitation Only Speech and Debate (Mon)

All students will develop essential public speaking and critical thinking skills, learning to construct persuasive arguments and engage in respectful, evidence-based discussions. Through debates and











presentations, students will build confidence and leadership abilities, empowering them to effectively express their ideas and influence others.

## \*Invitation Only Student Council (Fri)

A dedicated group of students focused on improving our school community through various projects and events. They meet weekly to discuss ideas, represent student interests, and organize activities. Through these initiatives, Student Council aims to make a positive impact on our school and beyond!

## \*Invitation Only Student Ambassadors (Thur)

Student Ambassadors are positive student leaders who represent our school community. They support school events, promote a welcoming environment, and partner with the enrollment team to lead tours for prospective families. Through this role, students build confidence, leadership, and communication skills while making a meaningful impact.

# **Healthy Living:**

\*Year-Round Option Wellness Champions Club (Semester 1: Tues & Thur | Semester 2: Tues)
Students will develop healthy habits through fun challenges focused on physical wellness, mental health, and self-care, while leading school-wide initiatives that promote a positive and healthy community. Activities will include movement games, mindfulness exercises, wellness projects, and brain-boosting challenges to strengthen both body and mind.

### \*Semester 1 Option Master Chef (Wed)

Students will step into the role of junior chefs as they learn cooking fundamentals, explore diverse recipes, and understand the importance of nutrition and kitchen safety. From measuring ingredients to mastering simple techniques, students will build confidence in the kitchen while creating fun, healthy, and delicious meals. The club also encourages creativity, teamwork, and an appreciation for global cuisines. Please note: Due to the nature of activities in Master Chef, students with any known food allergies will not be permitted to participate in this club. This precaution is in place to prioritize student safety and prevent any potential allergic reactions during cooking activities.

### \*Semester 2 Option Cosmotelogy (Fri)

In the Cosmetology Club, students will explore the connection between beauty, self-care, and overall wellness. Through hands-on activities, they'll learn basic techniques in skincare, hair care, and nail care using safe, age-appropriate, and health-conscious practices. The club promotes confidence, hygiene, and positive self-image while encouraging creativity and self-expression. Students will also discuss how healthy habits like proper nutrition, hydration, and stress management contribute to long-term personal care and well-being.

# **Physical Enrichment:**

### \*Year-Round Option Mixed Sports (Wed, Fri)

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of team sports, such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship. Through regular physical activity and exposure to different sports, students will learn the importance of staying active, building











physical fitness, and much more. The club promotes a balanced and healthy lifestyle while also developing coordination, discipline, and social skills.

## \*Semester 1 Option Badminton (Mon)

In the Badminton Club, students will learn the fundamentals of the sport, including rules, techniques, and strategies for gameplay. Through drills, practice matches, and team-based activities, students will build coordination, agility, and teamwork. Whether you're new to badminton or looking to sharpen your skills, this club offers a fun and active environment for all levels to enjoy the game and stay moving.

### \*Semester 2 Option Parkour (Thur)

This physical enrichment class is perfect for students who will learn how to move with strength, control, and creativity as they explore the fundamentals of parkour. Through guided instruction, they'll practice safe techniques like jumping, vaulting, balancing, and climbing by using their environment to overcome obstacles. The club promotes physical fitness, confidence, and discipline while encouraging students to challenge themselves, build agility, and have fun through movement.

## \*Semester 2 Option Ping Pong + Table Tennis Club (Mon)

Get ready to serve, smash, and have a blast in our **Ping Pong + Table Tennis Club!** Students will learn the basics of the game, from mastering serves to perfecting their hand-eye coordination. As they improve, they'll participate in friendly matches, develop sportsmanship, and even try out some cool tricks!

## \*Semester 2 Option Post-Season Basketball (Co-Ed) (Tues)

Post-Season Basketball is a co-ed program designed for students who want to continue building their basketball skills after the official season ends. This club provides a structured, supportive space for student-athletes to stay active, sharpen their technique, and engage in team-based drills and scrimmages. With weekly sessions focused on skill development, conditioning, and game awareness, players of all levels can grow their confidence and court performance. Led by experienced coaches, the club emphasizes teamwork, sportsmanship, and a continued love of the game beyond the regular season.

# **Athletics Page Here.**

### Fall sports:

- Co-Ed Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Track (Conditioning)
- Co-Ed Flag Football

### Winter sports:

- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball (JV & Varsity)
- Cheerleading

### **Spring sports:**

- Co-Ed Track (Competitive)
- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball

## **Fall Athletics:**

Tryouts for fall competitive sports will take place the week of September 8-12

\*Fall Competitive Athletics Flag Football (Tue, Thu)











Our Co-ed Flag Football team is a competitive group that plays weekly games against other Brooklyn middle schools. With practices held twice a week, players focus on building core skills, teamwork, and strategic plays. Led by dedicated coaches, the team is committed to growing as athletes and preparing for each game. They're proud to represent our school with energy, effort, and sportsmanship on the field!

## \*Fall Competitive Athletics Varsity Soccer (Mon, Tue)

Our Co-Ed Soccer team is a competitive and spirited group, taking on other Brooklyn middle school teams each week. With practices twice a week, players work on developing their footwork, passing, defensive skills, and overall game strategy. Guided by dedicated coaches, the team is focused on improving their skills and preparing for weekly matches. They're proud to represent our school with teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship on the field!

## \*Fall Competitive Athletics Varsity Girls Volleyball (Mon, Thu)

Our Varsity Girls Volleyball team is a competitive and motivated group that competes against other Brooklyn middle school teams each week. With practices twice a week, players focus on developing advanced skills such as serving, setting, and team coordination, while strengthening communication and game strategy. Guided by dedicated coaches, the team is committed to continuous improvement and bringing their best to every match. They proudly represent our school with confidence, teamwork, and sportsmanship on the court!

### \*Fall Non-Competitive Athletics Track (Tue, Fri)

Fall Track Club is a fun, active way for students to build endurance, improve fitness, and develop healthy habits without the pressure of competition. Through weekly practices, students will focus on running technique, pacing, and strength training while participating in group workouts, relays, and movement-based games. This club also serves as conditioning for students interested in joining the competitive Track team in the spring. It's a great opportunity to stay active, build confidence, and prepare for the season ahead in a supportive, low-stress environment.

## Winter Athletics:

Tryouts for winter competitive sports will take place the week of November 3-7

### \*Winter Competitive Athletics JV Boys Basketball (Tue, Thu)

Our JV Boys Basketball team is a competitive group, playing against other Brooklyn middle school teams each week. They hold practices twice a week to focus on developing foundational skills, teamwork, and game strategy. Led by dedicated coaches, the team is committed to improving and preparing for weekly games. They're excited to represent our school with skill and sportsmanship on the court!

### \*Winter Competitive Athletics Varsity Boys Basketball (Mon, Fri)

The Varsity Boys Basketball team brings together our top players to compete against other Brooklyn middle schools in an intense and challenging environment. With practices twice a week, they focus on advanced techniques, conditioning, and cohesive teamwork. Their weekly games are an opportunity to showcase their dedication and hard work, representing our school with pride. This team is ready to take on the season with determination!

### \*Winter Competitive Athletics Varsity Girls Basketball (Tue, Wed)

Our Varsity Girls Basketball team is a skilled and determined group, competing weekly against other middle schools in Brooklyn. They practice twice a week, refining their skills, working on strategic plays, and building resilience together. With a strong sense of camaraderie, they're prepared to face











each new challenge and opponent with grit. Backed by a supportive community, they're set to make this season memorable for our school.

### \*Winter Competitive Athletics Cheerleading (Wed, Thu)

Middle School Cheerleading is a competitive team where students will build spirit and showcase school pride at home games throughout the winter season. Cheerleaders will travel to support our basketball teams, bringing energy and enthusiasm to each game. The program includes regular practices to develop routines, teamwork, and skills in stunts and cheers. This is a great opportunity for students to engage in school sports and represent their school with pride

## **Spring Athletics:**

Tryouts for spring competitive sports will take place the week of March 9-13

## \*Spring Competitive Athletics Varsity Baseball (Tue, Thu)

Our Baseball team is a dedicated and competitive group that takes on other Brooklyn middle school teams each week during the spring season. With practices twice a week, players work on building strong fundamentals—like throwing, hitting, fielding, and base running—while also focusing on teamwork and game strategy. Led by passionate coaches, the team is committed to improving their skills and representing our school with pride, discipline, and sportsmanship on the field.

### \*Spring Competitive Athletics Varsity Softball (Mon, Wed)

Our Girls' Softball team is a competitive and hardworking group that plays against other Brooklyn middle school teams throughout the season. With practices held twice a week, players focus on building strong fundamentals like pitching, batting, and fielding, while learning teamwork and game strategy. Led by dedicated coaches, the team is committed to growing their skills and preparing for each game. They're proud to represent our school with determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship on the field!

## \*Spring Competitive Athletics Track (Tue, Fri)

Our Track & Field team is a driven and energetic group that competes against other Brooklyn middle school teams during the spring season. With practices held twice a week, athletes train in a variety of events from sprints and long-distance runs to relays and field events like long jump. The team focuses on building endurance, speed, strength, and technique, while promoting teamwork and personal growth. Guided by supportive coaches, students are proud to represent our school with determination, resilience, and sportsmanship on and off the track.

# Study Hall / Prospect Academic Support Services (Wed)

Our Education Specialist and ASP Director identify striving students early on for academic support services provided through our after school program. All students are welcome, having the opportunity to complete any incomplete or missing assignments before daily clubs begin at 4 pm.

On Wednesdays, students have dedicated 60-90 minute homework rooms to work independently on any academic assignments. These rooms are facilitated by our afterschool team members, who can serve as a touch point or liaison between a faculty member and the student during after school hours.









