2026-2027 PCHS CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

ART CLUB

Art Club is a once-a-month meeting where creative minds come together to explore and have fun learning new art forms. The art club also offers many community service options such as face painting, window painting, murals, and so much more. All are welcome and no current art class is required to join and participate.

ASTRONOMY

Astronomy club offers the opportunity for PCHS students to reach for the stars.

BEST BUDDIES

Best Buddies operates as a student-run friendship club, which creates buddy pairs between students with and without disabilities. Members of Best Buddies make a commitment to communicate with their buddy once a week via email, telephone, or at school. The club has monthly activities for the buddies and their peers (pizza parties, bowling, dances, Secret Santa, and hayrides).

BOOK CLUB

Enjoy the medium of literature in community with other PCHS members (staff and students). Additionally, the club aims to create a space to share our current reading and recommendation**s.**

CHESS CLUB

If you enjoy the game of Chess or would like to learn, please join us. We meet to play chess for fun!

COMMON GROUND

Common Ground is PCHS's gay/straight alliance club. The purpose of this club is to give students and their allies a safe place to share ideas and experiences. The club's focus is also to help educate the school community on LGBTQ issues and events.

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

CWC promotes writing and writing events. We create bookmarks in the fall, holiday cards at the end of first semester, and Dragon Prints, a collection of student writing and artwork, every spring. We also attend workshops and enter local writing contests.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

The Pekin Community High School Dungeons & Dragons Club is dedicated to fostering creativity, teamwork, and storytelling through immersive role-playing adventures. We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where players of all experience levels can collaborate, problem-solve, and embark on epic quests. Our mission is to build friendships, enhance critical thinking skills, and celebrate the magic of storytelling, all while rolling dice, doing math and having fun!

Educators Rising

Educators Rising is cultivating a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers. By working with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and who are passionate about serving those communities through public education, Educators Rising is changing the face of teaching.

FACS CLUB

FACS Club brings together students who are interested in the use of skills learned in the Family and Consumer Science courses at PCHS. Members must be currently enrolled in a FACS course OR have previously taken a FACS course. FACS Club will sponsor a fundraiser addressing a community issue involving family needs as well as a banquet for members, their families, and invited guests. There will also be a variety of other FACS related activities.

FCY(Formerly FCA)

FCY seeks to make disciples through our strategy of engaging, equipping and empowering all to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same.

FFA

Focuses on making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. As a club we compete in CDE's (career development events), participate in several community service activities, coordinate team building activities through the chapter, travel to National & State Convention, attend agriculture/careers expos, and so much more. **WEBSITE LINK:** https://sites.google.com/pekinhigh.net/pekinffa/home

GAME CLUB

Game Club is where PCHS students can get together and share their passion for playing and competing in all types of games. We play video games, card games, board games, and more!

GAPP(German)

Activities such as games, movies, projects to learn more about the German Culture

GIRL UP CLUB

The Girl Up Club is an organization that raises awareness and funds for girls in the developing world. The club educates individuals about the struggles girls in the developing world face such as extreme poverty, lack of education, and lack of civil or political rights. Girl Up is open to all students.

JROTC

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps/National Defense Cadet Corps (JROTC/NDCC) is a program that is offered at the high school level and teaches high school students the value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork, and self-discipline. JROTC has several opportunities for its students to be part of competition

against other JROTC programs. Some of those programs include: Drill, Rifle Team, Archery, and RAIDERS. For more information please reach out to 1SG (ret.) Rodriguez or SGM (ret.) Merritt

KEY CLUB

Key Club is a community service organization that is dedicated to volunteering our time and effort to give back to the local community.

LATIN CLUB

Latin Club activities traditionally include weenie roast, gladiator games night, holiday bunko party, ice skating, bowling/pizza party, and our traditional Latin Banquet in the spring.

MIND MATTERS - ERIKA'S LIGHTHOUSE

Mind Matters - Erika's Lighthouse, is dedicated to increasing awareness and dismantling the stigma surrounding mental health. This organization provides a platform for students to engage in meaningful dialogue, offer support to one another, and access vital resources. Our goal is to cultivate a supportive and inclusive culture at PCHS where mental wellness is prioritized and understood.

NETWORKING CLUB

Networking Club is for students interested in new technology, computers, or careers in IT. Activities may include PC games, console games, and application development.

PCHS COFFEEHAUS: A POETRY CLUB

Coffeehaus (Poetry Club) celebrates the reading, writing, and performance of poetry. The purpose is to enjoy, discuss, and experience poetry in a creative and supportive environment. We also share works from our favorite poets. All are welcome to attend any session.

POLITICS CLUB

Politics Club is your chance to talk about the nation's (and world's) most pressing issues. This bipartisan group meets weekly to discuss current events and controversial topics. No political party preference is necessary and all political ideologies are welcome! Meetings consist of group discussion, the topics of which are brought up by the students and advisors. To be a member, all you have to do is attend! If you have a passion for politics or a desire to learn more, join the Politics Club.

SEWING CLUB

The purpose of this club is to cultivate a creative and inclusive community where students master sewing skills through hands-on practice, safety education, and historical exploration, while serving our school through dedicated craftsmanship and repair services.

SIGN LANGUAGE

The purpose of this club is to learn sign language and teach others about sign language culture.

SKILLS USA

This club allows students to compete in Career and Technical Education categories against students and teams from across the state. Students can earn the right to compete at the national level of Skills USA.

SPANISH CLUB

We do a variety of arts and crafts, games, and cooking activities (usually holiday-themed).

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is responsible for planning and organizing events for the student body. Our goals are to not only host events that will create memories for the students of PCHS, but also to inspire enthusiasm within our community. It is our responsibility to govern and lead our school to the best of our ability.

WELDING CLUB

To empower students through hands-on welding experiences, fostering creativity, teamwork, and skill development. We aim to inspire a passion for metalworking and engineering while promoting safety, innovation, and respect for craftsmanship.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS (COMPETITIVE) – ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED

BANDS

● JAZZ ENSEMBLE

SELECTION PROCESS: Students playing an instrument may audition in November

SEASON DATES: November – May

DESCRIPTION: Perform music in the jazz, Latin, pop, rock, and funk genres. Students compete against other jazz groups and participate in the Mid-Illini Festival.

● MARCHING BAND

PRACTICE TIMES: Seventh Hour, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and band camp during summer.

SEASON DATES: July through October

DESCRIPTION: Students must be enrolled in Marching Band class to participate. Students perform at home football games, some area parades, and in marching band competitions.

● PEP BAND

PRACTICE TIMES: During band class

SEASON DATES: Girls & Boys basketball- select home varsity games

DESCRIPTION: Pep Band performs popular tunes at all home varsity boys' basketball games.
Students must be enrolled in either Concert Band or Symphonic Band to participate.

● WINTER GUARD

Indoor marching percussion and pit percussion – Includes playing music and marching for drumline members. Drumline is by audition.

PRACTICE TIMES: TBA

SEASON DATES: Winter

● COLOR GUARD

Learn routines with flags to be a part of the Marching Band. Color Guard is an extension of the Marching Band and performs and competes with the PCHS Marching Band at all of its competitions.
PRACTICE TIMES: Same as Marching Band
TRY-OUTS: Spring
SEASON DATES: Same as Marching Band

COMPETITIVE ACAPPELLA
Practice Times: After school and/or evenings
Season Dates: January through March
Try-Outs: Fall of each school year
Description: This is an auditioned group of singers that will compete at the regional, state, and potentially national levels in addition to performing at curricular and local concerts. Students will sing in pop, rock, and jazz styles and continue to build performance, musicianship, and teamwork skills in a rigorous but rewarding environment.

MADRIGALS
Practice Times: After school and evenings as the event gets closer
Season Dates: September/October-December of each school year
Try-Outs: Fall of each school year
Description: Looking for something different? This ensemble blends singing, acting, and history to recreate the sound and spirit of the Medieval times. Students will perform in an engaging, interactive format with singing and short acting scenes during a dinner theater performance in December. Perfect for students who enjoy performance beyond traditional choir!

VOCAL JAZZ WORKSHOP
Practice Times: Once a week after school
Season Dates: Rotating all school year
Try-Outs: None (just show up!)
Description: Open to all students, singers in this group will learn the basics of vocal jazz, rock, and pop music in a relaxed and supportive environment. They will perform at curricular music concerts (four per year).

SCHOLASTIC BOWL
Scholastic Bowl is an academic competition much like the Jeopardy television show. The teams compete for toss-up questions to earn a chance at bonus questions on academic questions. Varsity has many Saturday competitions.
TRY-OUTS: End of September
SEASON DATES: November through February on Tuesday evenings

SPEECH TEAM
The Speech Team is a competitive activity that gives students the opportunity to develop their skills in the area of public speaking, acting, and oral interpretation. The 34-40 member team is composed of freshmen through seniors. There are 14 individual events in which students can participate. In addition to the invitational season,

there is the IHSA state series National Forensic League district contest and national tournament. Students interested in a future in performing arts, law, or teaching should consider this team.
PRACTICE TIMES: Individual sessions once or twice a week
TRY-OUTS: Late August/Early September
SEASON DATES: October through March

THEATRE/DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Theatre Department produces a fall and spring play every year, and musical every other spring semester. Students work both onstage as actors and backstage constructing the set, designing lights, operating sound, costuming the actors, and applying makeup. No prior experience is necessary. Any student can audition and participate on the crew.

BASS FISHING CLUB

Bass Fishing is a club where students can get together and fish with other students and learn best practices when it comes to fishing. Students compete in off season club tournaments to determine who will represent PCHS as a member of the Bass Fishing Team and compete in the Mid Illini Championships, as well as the IHSA State Series.