

# BLAKE

**Upper School  
Activities and Clubs  
Handbook  
2018-2019**

**Compiled by Flora Yang,  
Chief Communications Officer of Forum  
[jyang20@blakeschool.org](mailto:jyang20@blakeschool.org)**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **ACTIVITY BASED CLUBS**

- Quiz Bowl
- Robotics
- Science Bowl
- Science Olympiad
- Math Team
- Debate Team
- Model United Nations

### **INTEREST BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

- Anime Club
- Bee Club
- Blake Stock Exchange Club
- Badminton Club
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance
- DECA
- Drawing at Dawn
- Blake Asset Management Group
- Chess Team
- Slam Poetry Club

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Spectrum – Newspaper
- Flash! – Literary Arts
- Mr. Gazette

### **SERVICE LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS**

- Community Service Board
- Assembly Moderators
- Admissions Ambassadors
- Learning Works

### **SERVICE ORIENTED CLUBS**

- Bear to Bear Tutoring
- Empty Bowls Club
- We Charity
- Habitat for Humanity

- Green Team
- Blood Drive Club
- Girl Up
- She's the First

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS**

- Forum
- Community Judiciary Board
- Student Inter-Action Committee

## **ACTIVITY BASED CLUBS**

### **Quiz Bowl:**

Student Leaders: Charlie Mortenson

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Osters

Quiz Bowl is an academic trivia competition covering a wide range of areas, from math and science to literature and history to music and sports. Some questions are individual and others require collaboration with a team, but all reward knowledge, accurate anticipation and quick critical thinking. Blake's Quiz Bowl team has a long history of success, including state and national champions, and is open to anyone interested in joining. We meet before school from 7:30 to 8:30 in room L03, on Wednesday mornings for upperclassmen and Friday mornings for underclassmen and then have various competitions throughout the year. We're always looking for new members - come have fun, learn a lot, and help continue the tradition of one of Blake's most successful teams.

### **Robotics:**

Student Leaders: Gwyn Alexander, Saji Champlin, and Brandon Sun

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Burton

Bearbotics is Blake's robotics team, which competes in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), a national high school robotics league. For six weeks in January and February, the Bearbotics team designs, builds, programs and tests a robot to compete at the University of Minnesota in late March. We meet after school on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 6:00pm in the shop (near the photography studio) in the off-season. During the season (January through February) we meet both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00pm as well as Sundays from 10:00am to 4:00pm. All skill levels and backgrounds are welcome.

### **Science Bowl:**

Student Leaders: Samantha Stocking and Brandon Sun

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Walt

Science Bowl is a group of students that practices answering science and math questions in a quiz bowl like format. Students draw on previous knowledge and often explore areas where there is content not specifically covered in normal course work. The categories of questions are: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Energy, Math, and Earth (geology)/Space (astronomy). In general, this club meets once per week to practice from September until mid-January. In the past, these practices have been on weekend afternoons to allow for increased attendance by students involved in after school activities. There is only one competition, which is held the third Friday in January at Macalester College, from noon until mid-evening. This competition is sponsored by the Minnesota Academy of Science and includes teams from all over the state. There are two teams that compete and they are chosen out of all club participants at the discretion of the Coach/Advisor. The criteria are seniority, knowledge of specific content areas, and participation in practice. While up to two teams compete, we encourage all interested students to come to practices and get critical experience.

### **Science Olympiad:**

Student Leaders: Elisa Lopez, Sonal Sinha, Jordan Dombroski, Ashlyn Kehoe

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Nystrom

Science Olympiad: Faculty Advisor: Mr. Nystrom The Blake Science Olympiad Team is made up of 15 competitors participating as pairs in 23 events. The events are balanced between the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. Beginning in late October/early November, the team will meet about once a week to organize and prepare for the two Science Olympiad tournaments; the Regional competition in February and State in March. The team meetings will try to take place during TASC, when possible. However, most of the event preparation is done independently with event partners on your own time.

### **Math Team:**

Student Leaders: Samantha Stocking, Kyle Weatherly, Ajay Raman

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Osters

We are a member team of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics league, a network of 172 schools statewide that compete in five competitions per year. These competitions are held at the schools in our division with whom we compete and are always held on Mondays after school. Practices are generally once per week on Mondays during both lunches in room L03. For the days during any of the 5 meets on Mondays, the Math Team will also meet during Tuesdays during lunch. Our goals with the Math Team are to learn interesting mathematics, compete at the state tournament, and involve as many people as we can. While there is no official process for

leadership, often there are older students who can "take the reins" and help to teach the challenging topics to the younger students.

**Debate Team:**

Student Leaders: Cole Mathews, Jack Johnson, Morgan Swigert, Thomas Gill, Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Izzy Wu, Emma Wilson

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Stafford

The Blake debate team competes both locally and nationally in Congressional Debate, Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, and World Schools Debate Format. Members learn vital argumentation, research, public speaking, writing, and critical thinking skills. This is done through in-depth research of both domestic and international topics. Most students practice twice a week and the practice times are listed on our bulletin boards for each type of debate. Debate can be a part-time activity for students or a full time one, we are very flexible and want to give as many students experience in debate as possible. The competitions are at both local schools and schools across the nation from Las Vegas to Boston. We are always looking for new members, and anyone interested can email our coach Shane Stafford, or any of the captains. We meet in the debate room, in the basement between the Black Box Theater and the photography room. World's Debaters meet Mondays and Wednesdays, Policy debaters meet Tuesdays and Thursdays and Public Forum debaters meet Mondays and Thursdays.

**Model United Nations:**

Student Leaders: Ben Gelb, Kaitlyn S., Hazel D., Lane L., Eesha N., Jade D., Miki R, Gwyn A., Zoe W.

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Graham and Mr. Dicus

MUN is an opportunity for students of all grades to participate in United Nations simulations at conferences in Chicago, Georgetown, and Edina. MUN engages students in current global issues and pushes students to think creatively to tackle these important issues. MUN starts each fall and anyone in any grade who is interested should attend the meetings in the social studies wing during TASC on Wednesdays.

## **INTEREST BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Anime Club**

Student Leader: Justice Tyner

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Batiste and Ms. Helmbrecht-Wilson

Anime club is a club where many different kinds of people can come together to watch and discuss anime. The purpose of the club is to both create more interest in anime and just have a nice space where the art form can be collectively enjoyed.

### **Bee Club:**

Student Leaders: Niharika Bhavsar

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Sago

Bee club is a fun and interesting way to get to know bees! We will learn lots about these little pollinators and take action to help them locally by doing different projects including taking care of our own Blake Hive! Feel free to become an avid member or even stop by if you are interested in what the buzz is about. Thanks!

### **Blake Stock Exchange Club:**

Student Leaders: Noah Ragan, Will Becker, and Gavin McDonough

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Zalk

The Blake Stock Exchange Club strives to educate Blake students about investing, securities, financial markets and other aspects of finance. The club meets monthly and discusses current financial events or different aspects of finance. Also, there is an ongoing stock market game competition, where club members compete with each other and a gift card is awarded to the player with the largest "overall gains" after each quarter.

### **Badminton Club:**

Student Leaders: Lucy Farrell and Ajay Raman

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Burton

Badminton Club is a fun club that meets once a week during TASC, we encourage everyone who wants to either learn to play badminton or spend some time just hitting a shuttlecock to come to the gym starting in the spring semester.

### **Gender and Sexuality Alliance:**

Student Leaders: None

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Cady and Profe Kahle

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance is a group of LGBTQ-identified students and allies who meet once a week to discuss LGBTQ issues as they pertain to our school and the greater community. The GSA is a safe space for anyone interested in learning more about LGBTQ issues or those

questioning their own sexual or gender identity. Students do not have to disclose anything about themselves when they come to GSA. The GSA meets every Tuesday during both lunches in room 242. EVERYONE is welcome!

### **Slam Poetry Club**

Student Leader: Hannah Filby

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Shaw

In Slam Poetry club, we watch videos of slam poetry and spoken word and discuss the poems. Anyone who comes is also welcome to share their own poetry or bring in some favorites to share.

### **DECA:**

Student Leaders: Timo Hemphill, Morgan Swigert, Isabel Meyer, Alice Jin, Jake Lundberg, Nico Udris

Faculty Advisors: Dan Kelley

The Blake DECA & Entrepreneurship Club combines competition-based DECA (an organization that seeks to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management) with opportunities to partake in community service events and outreach programs, to learn from business professionals in several fields, and to work on change-driven projects such as the Bear Necessities store. From writing business plans for competitions, testing products in consumer markets, learning about social media and business ethics, to becoming social entrepreneurs of the 21st Century, The Blake DECA & Entrepreneurship Club caters to the business spirited student. The club is open to all students and requires no investment experience. All students are encourage to join us during weekly meetings on Wednesdays during TASC in the Cherne Forum.

### **Drawing at Dawn**

Student Leaders: Maddy Florida, Zoe Florida, Laura Parente, Maddie Dopp

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Colburn

Meets Friday mornings at 7:30 in Mr. Colburn's room. Drawing at Dawn is a place for people who just want to hang out and work on art, and it is an extension of the Art Honors Society.

Unlike most other clubs, none of our activities are mandatory, as our goal is to simply provide a space for students to relax and express themselves. Our first year was very successful, and our attendance only increased as we implemented snacks and weekly (optional) themes. We stuck to our vision and provided a fun place for students to hang out, do art, and talk. However, I would like to extend Drawing at Dawn's influence, and so the Art Honors Society and I think that Drawing at Dawn should be its own entity. That is why, in its second year, Drawing at Dawn is

becoming an officially chartered club! We hope that this will help increase awareness and interest.

**Blake Asset Management Group:**

Student Leaders: Timo Hemphill, Nico Udris, Ben Gelb, Jack Sabre

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Cady and Mr. Zalk

The purpose of the Blake Asset Management Group (BAMG) is to offer students an educational opportunity to learn about valuable wealth management skills, investment strategies, equity analysis, financial literacy, and other fundamentals of portfolio management. It operates in part to address the absence of financial education at Blake. In order to give students a realistic investment experience, BAMG manages a subsection of the Blake endowment valued at over \$20,000. Club members will collectively manage this portfolio. The club is open to all students and requires no investment experience. Members who demonstrate a commitment to the club and help further its goals have the opportunity to earn leadership positions and rewards. The school draws from the fund in the same way it does from the endowment (approximately 4% annually). The Blake Asset Management Group meets weekly during Monday tutorial in Mr. Cady's room. Anyone interested in finance or investing is strongly encouraged to join.

**Chess Team:**

Student Leader: Ben Gelb and Charlie Mortenson

Faculty Leader: Mr. Kaback

The Blake Chess Team aims to form a group of dedicated chess players who compete actively in state leagues and tournaments, as well as online competitions against other schools. Members work to improve their own individual game while being part of the team. The group meets Fridays after school in Mr. Kaback's room.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Spectrum – Newspaper**

Student Leaders: Maya Chadda and Eva Berezovsky

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Reid

Spectrum is Blake's student newspaper, a print publication and an online publication ([blakespectrum.org](http://blakespectrum.org)). Spectrum serves as a public forum for students to report and comment on what is happening in the Blake community from a journalistic angle. Different sections of the newspaper (sports, arts, opinions, etc.) are managed by student editors, who are chosen by our faculty adviser and the incumbent editorial staff. Any students interested in becoming Spectrum editors should consider working on the paper's staff as writers, photographers, or designers beforehand; anyone interested in getting involved with Spectrum in any capacity should come to our Tuesday staff meetings, held during both lunches in Ms. Reid's room.

### **Flash! – Literary Arts:**

Student Leaders: Maya Chadda and William Lyman

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Flinsch

Flash! is The Blake School's literary and visual arts magazine that publishes the creative work of students both electronically and in a professionally bound, 50-100 page full color book once annually. Flash! meets 1-2 times a week depending on the number of submissions requiring review. We gather in the Photography room on Wednesdays at 8:00 AM. At that time we read and discuss poems, stories, essays and visual images from our peers and enjoy snacks and beverages together. On Wednesday we plan announcements, curate submissions, and work on the graphic layout of the book and website using InDesign software. There are three ways to get involved: 1) to create and then submit original literary or visual arts work through our portal at [flash@blakeschool.org](mailto:flash@blakeschool.org); 2) to help plan, compose and organize the requests for submissions as well as the layout of the book during our Wednesday morning meetings; 3) to discuss and help select submissions to Flash! during school meetings. Editors are chosen by club members and advisors on the basis of experience. We hope you'll submit your creative work to our staff at [flash@blakeschool.org](mailto:flash@blakeschool.org). Thank you!

### **Mr. Gazette – Satire:**

Student Leaders: Dominic Reyes, Jackson, Henry Roach

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Buchanan

Mister Gazette is a student-run satirical newspaper at Blake that writes and publishes comedic articles on various topics that concern Blake, pop culture, current events and pretty much any nonsense that can be put to paper. What's up with that Roosevelt guy? What are the peasants complaining about this time? Fire good? Uugh tooga raahg? Find out the answers to these questions and more in Mister Gazette. Dan Danielson during Wednesday TASC, be there.

## **SERVICE LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS:**

### **Community Service Board:**

Student Leaders: Shira Aronow, William McDonald, Anna Johns, Jing Jing Munson, Nya Manneh, Natalie Anderson, Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Allen Cao, Rosa Gerds, Kennedy Rupert, Anna Secor, Yeukai Zimbwa, Madeleine Florida, Alexie Dietz, Simran Singh, Erika Homan, Madeline Wethington, Annika Gutzke, Rohan Ajmani20

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Sackreiter

The mission of the Community Service Board (CSB) is to support and lead service action at the Upper School because through service students can gain a better understanding of themselves, the local and global communities in which they live, and the opportunity and responsibility they have to improve all. CSB weekly meetings (Wednesdays during lunch in the Small Dining Room) are open to all Upper School Students; leaders of CSB are asked to put forward, prioritize, and realize Service Action Proposals and make recommendations about Fundraising Proposals submitted by other clubs and organizations.

### **Admissions Ambassadors:**

Student Leaders: Eva Berezovski and Ruth Goldenberg

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Reid

The Admissions Ambassadors provide positive experiences for prospective students by hosting and following up with shadow visitors. Additionally, they give tours during the week and assist at the Discover Blake admissions events several times a year. To apply, check out the Blake Student Leadership Common App.

### **Assembly Moderators:**

Student Leaders: Addison Anderson, Eva Berezovsky, Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Ben Gelb, Joely Gendler, Isaac Gittleman, Will Lyman, Morgan Sabes, Roshnee Tarafder, Maddie Tix

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Berkowitz

Assembly Moderators are the student MCs at Tuesday and Thursday Senior Speech Assemblies. Moderators are responsible for introducing senior speakers and presenting requested announcements. The goal of the moderating group is to establish a reputation for respectful and entertaining introductions and announcements. Ideally, groups and organizations will want their announcement to be presented by the moderating group rather than have their own representatives read them on stage. To apply, look for the Blake Common Application in the Spring.

### **Learning Works:**

Student Leaders: Kai Sovell, Joe Gustafarro, Bella Burke, Lucy Kiernat, Sonal Sinha, Anna Secor, Eesha Nagwani, Addison Anderson, Robbie Grace, Nico Udris, Allie Miller, Nathaniel Ronan, Rosa Gerdts, Alyssa Story, Yeukai Zimbwa, Louise Ba, William Becker, Safaa Roba, Sierra Erdman-Luntz, Elisa Lopez, Alice Jin, Ian Acheson, Flora Yang, Lane Lipschultz, Sophia Rohlfen, Azalea Hallin-Graber, Sara Gregor, Samuel Hykes, Kennedy Rupert, Simran Singh, Kaitlyn Saldanha

Faculty Advisors: Ali Khaleel, Natalie Owens-Pike, and Marsille Reed

LearningWorks offers tuition-free academic enrichment to a representative group of motivated, high potential middle school students from Minneapolis Public Schools during both the summer and school year. Our teachers are college students and high-school seniors, juniors, and sophomores who are passionate about education and enjoy working with young people. While we have a high concentration of Blake students who participate, many of our teachers are from colleges across the country and various Minneapolis Public High Schools. The Summer Program's teacher selection process is organized by our national partner, Breakthrough Collaborative; you can find more info at [breakthroughcollaborative.org](http://breakthroughcollaborative.org) The School Year Program (SYP), which has the most opportunities for Blake student participation, provides academic support and community building through teacher-led academic classes and workshops on 12 Saturday mornings between September and March here at the US campus.

## **SERVICE ORIENTED CLUBS:**

### **Bear to Bear Tutoring:**

Student Leaders: Roshnee Tarafder, Elie Oxford, Annabel Chase, and Peter Barry

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Sackreiter and Mr. Dean

Bear to Bear Tutoring is a student-led tutoring organization in partnership with The Blake Middle School, fostering a one-to-one student relationship between Upper Schoolers and Middle Schoolers to practice and help with study habits and homework. Bear to Bear meets twice per week, every Tuesday and Wednesday, from 3:45 to 4:45 in the Middle School's Bovey Chapel or Library.

### **Empty Bowls Club:**

Student Leaders: Benjamin McCabe

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Spector

Empty Bowls Club offers Blake community members an opportunity to work in the ceramics studio while helping the larger Minneapolis community. Members will "throw" bowls on the wheel, create pots using off-wheel techniques, trim bowls, paint, and glaze. The pieces made are auctioned off at the end of the year, and the proceeds are donated to local non-profits.

Empty Bowls Club works in the ceramics studio, room L02. The club requires no prior experience and meets before school on Friday afternoon. Specifics will be posted on the weekly Bear Essentials and the Blake Facebook page.

### **We Charity:**

Student Leaders: Bella Burke, Julia Abraham, Jordan Dombroski, Jade Dombroski, Allie Miller, Sarina Dev, Joely Gendler, Frieda Liston

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Peterson and Ms. Sackreiter

The Blake chapter of Free the Children supports education, clean water and sanitation, health, alternative income and livelihood, and agriculture and food security in Barind, India and other partnering communities around the world. While this club works with fundraising and awareness on a global level, we also take time to work on local service projects. Anyone in any grade is welcome; there is no application process. We meet Wednesdays at 8:00 in the Northrop Alumni Room. Watch the second floor bulletin board at the top of the main staircase for updates and information.

### **Habitat for Humanity:**

Student Leaders: Kai Sovell, William Lyman, Martha Lucas

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Trinh

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps people that face dire housing situations as they struggle to rebuild their lives. We provide shelter and housing assistance to

help these families recover. When we go to a build site we do smaller jobs such as painting and hanging doors. We have a build a few times a year on Saturday mornings, and we may meet two or three times before school to organize before builds. It is very easy to get involved. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience is needed. The only requirement is that you must be at least 16 years old.

### **Green Team:**

Student Leaders: Elisa Lopez and TBD

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Bohrsen

The Green Team is a collection of students interested in campus sustainability. The team works on initiatives that improve areas of our school such as energy use, water, waste (garbage, recycling, and compost), food sourcing, consumables (paper, white board markers, cups and silverware), and landscape. The Green Team also determines who has access to the campus carpool parking passes.

### **Blood Drive Club:**

Student Leaders: Ben Lee and Flora Yang

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Sachs

The Blood Drive is a bi-annual event in partnership with Forum Government and Memorial Blood Centers. The event's purpose is to give back to the wider community via blood donation and to save lives. There is a goal of meeting 50 donors each year and if that is met a small scholarship is given back to the Blake community. Club members join out of interest for community organizing and serve for as many blood drives as they desire. The club doesn't have an official meeting time, but meet around the time of the two drives. Interested students should reach out to Lexi Fine or Ben Lee.

### **Girl Up:**

Student Leaders: Eesha Nagwani, Elisa Lopez, Lilli Herpers

Faculty Advisors: Ms. Helbrecht-Wilson

Girl Up is a campaign of the UN that focuses on raising funds, empowerment, and raising awareness on issues that confront adolescent girls in third world countries. The idea of this club is centered on raising awareness in our community to help support girls in places where it is hardest to be a girl. Members will discuss these important issues with other chapters of this international organization and organize initiatives to raise awareness. Interested students should contact one of the student leaders.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Forum:**

Student Leaders: Bella Burke (Student Body President), Hazel DeHarpporte (CFO), Flora Yang (CCO), Ben Lee (Senior Class President), and Joe Gustafarro (Junior Class President)

Faculty Advisors: Frank Sachs (Faculty Co-Chair)

Faculty: Mr. Fisher, Mr. Cady, Mr. Menge, Mr. Ruggiero, Ms. Pierson, Ms. Williams, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Sachs, Mr. Osters,

The Forum was established in 1974 as the principal student-faculty organization of the Upper School with the intent that it serves as a student/faculty government. The Forum is charged with representing the interests of all elements of upper school life (students, faculty, administration and parents) and is expected to play a significant role in the decision-making process as it concerns issues that rise out of the day-to-day life of the Upper School. This may include giving advice to the upper and all-school administration, issues of climate in the upper school, overseeing clubs and other organizations of a co-curricular nature, and other responsibilities as requested by the school's administration or implied by the Forum Constitution.

### **Community Judiciary Board:**

Student Leaders: Izzy Wu, Addison Anderson, and TBD

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Menge, Mr. Zalk, Ms. Dessi-Olive

CJB is an elected organization made up of sophomores, juniors, seniors, and faculty members that deals with violations of major school rules. When a student violates a major school rule they may come before the CJB and explain their story and the CJB will offer recommendations to the administration on what the consequences should be for that student. These CJB meetings are strictly confidential. Also, recently the CJB has also taken a proactive approach to bolster academic honesty. The CJB elections are held in the fall, and sophomores, juniors, and seniors will each elect representatives from their grade. Two senior, one junior, and two sophomore representatives will be elected this year.

### **Student Inter-Action Committee:**

Student Leaders: Peter Barry, Louise Ba, Kaja Bingham, David Bix, Addie Burton, Chloe Countryman, Sam Deignan, Ruth Goldenberg, Robbie Grace, Erika Homan, Lindsay Kaback, Jai Kademani, James Killilea, Martha Lucas, Will Lyman, Zach Marmet, Gavin McDonough, Landon Peterson, Max Pihlstrom, Josh Power, Carter Puckett, Noah Ragan, Lachen Reid, Casey Stocking, Roshnee Tarafder, and Maddie Tix

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Menge and Ms. Shaw

SIAC (Student Inter-Action Committee) is committed to supporting a welcoming and safe environment in the Upper School. As stewards of hospitality and inclusiveness, we engage in a variety of efforts and activities to increase school spirit, to mentor underclassmen, to lead by

example and to ensure that all members of our community know that they are thought of and cared for. We work as mentors, helpers and most importantly, as friends; we're here to help. We believe that these efforts are imperative in promoting the school's larger commitments to an inclusive and supportive community. Current 10th and 11th-grade students are able to apply in the spring (to be part of the group for the following year) and members are selected by a committee of faculty and administration.