

The Anchor

SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Beyond The Bell

Elementary Students Gain Skills Through Clubs

Elementary school students who participate in after-school activities gain a multitude of skills that will lead them to success as they advance to intermediate and high school.

“By taking part in clubs in elementary school, students not only develop lifelong skills, but they also forge new friendships and discover interests and talents,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nicholas Dyno. “Studies have shown that participation in extracurriculars leads to higher achievement in academics.”

Through extracurricular activities, elementary students learn the importance of decision-making, critical thinking, collaboration, leadership and organization. They also learn to interact with their peers outside of a classroom setting and gain a better sense of commitment and responsibility.

“It is beneficial for elementary students to get involved in all their school has to offer,” said Dr. Dyno. “They gain a wealth of experience while having fun.”

Students also acquire an understanding of the world around them through the community service opportunities made available by the school’s many clubs. Student council members, for example, are involved in several community projects throughout the school year, from collecting coats for those in need to raising money for breast cancer research.

Likewise, members of the Community Service Club have raised funds through drives and sales for the Flying Point Foundation for Autism, the Southampton African American Museum and the Southampton Animal Shelter.

Other elementary clubs are an extension of the school day. In the Spelling Bee Club, students work to expand their English vocabulary, and in FLES, they can enhance their Spanish language skills by socializing and learning from native Spanish speakers. In the Board Game and Coding clubs, students expand on their problem-solving skills.

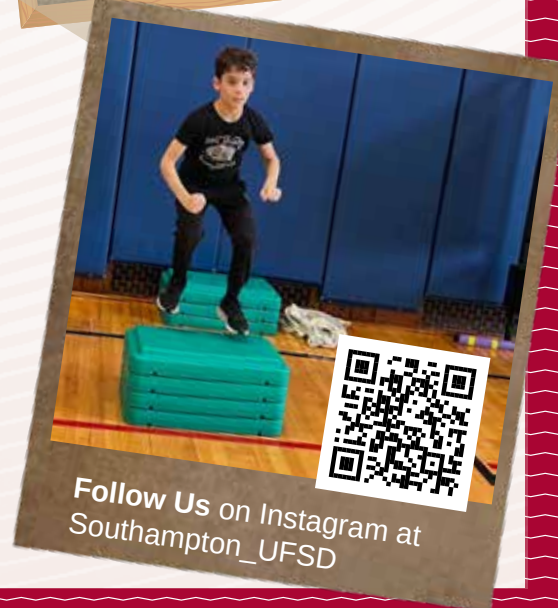
Elementary students can hone their creativity in the Art Club, Authors and Illustrators Club or Performance Club, all of which provide opportunities for students to express themselves through art.

The elementary school also provides students interested in physical activity to participate in the Unified Sports Club and Get Fit Club.

Understanding the importance of providing elementary students with unique after-school experiences, the Southampton School District supports 17 elementary clubs that are led by our engaging and dedicated staff members.

This school year, the district is highlighting elementary, intermediate and

high school clubs through the Anchor publication. This edition will focus exclusively on our elementary school offerings. Visit the district’s website, www.southamptonschools.org, to view the winter edition of the Anchor, which highlights intermediate school club offerings.



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Garden Club

- **Advisor:** Colleen Henke
- **About the Club:** Students care for four garden beds behind their school. They cultivate seeds in an indoor tower garden and transfer them to the outdoor garden in the spring. They also keep garden journals and planted bulbs on school grounds as part of a beautification project.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Members share a passion for gardening with each other, learning together, socializing and having fun.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members take at least one local field trip. The fall sessions always wrap up at Fowlers Garden Center, where students learn about different Christmas trees and make holiday wreaths.



Garden Club

Student Council

- **Advisor:** Lisa Carew
- **About the Club:** The Student Council engages third and fourth grade students in both schoolwide and community-oriented activities while promoting leadership skills.
- **Why This Club is Important:** It is a very rewarding experience for the students to be involved in opportunities to volunteer and make a difference in their school and community.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** The Student Council collaborated with the high school Patriot Club in support of the annual Veterans Dinner, and for the first time, they held an election for class officers. The officers met with administrators to share their ideas about ways to improve school life.



Student Council

FLES

- **Advisor:** Georgina Hernandez
- **About the Club:** Through research and their shared experiences, students develop their listening and speaking skills while also learning about Latin American countries and participating in physical activities.
- **Why This Club is Important:** The students socialize with other students, learn from native Spanish speakers about their culture and customs, and enhance Spanish language taught during the school day.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members have researched Latin American countries, including their geography and customs, created family trees in Spanish and practiced labeling different parts of the classroom in Spanish.



FLES

Shinnecock Club

- **Advisor:** Jesse Phillips
- **About the Club:** Club members spend time exploring the rich history, vibrant culture and cherished traditions of the Shinnecock Nation. Students learn about the great heritage, land and people who have existed on their land for thousands of years.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Exposure to different cultures expands students' perspectives and enriches their lives, allowing them to appreciate diversity and broaden their worldview.
- **Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members have been creating a children's book to highlight the Great Seal of the Shinnecock Nation. The book is written for children to introduce them to the symbolism and history of the Great Seal as well as the Shinnecock Nation.



Shinnecock Club

Fit Club

- **Advisors:** Chrissie Fagereng and Rob Neff
- **About the Club:** The Fit Club has two sessions based on grade level: one for first and second graders and the other for third and fourth graders. They participate in age-appropriate workouts that enhance their muscular strength, agility, muscular endurance and cardiovascular endurance.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Students learn the connection between incorporating physical fitness into their daily lives and how it translates into feeling good about themselves.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Older club members are preparing to compete in the Suffolk Zone Fit Club challenge.



Fit Club

Board Game Club

Board Game Club

- **Advisor:** Wendy Etheridge
- **About the Club:** Students practice critical thinking, problem-solving and friendly competition, all by playing some fun board games in rotating groups.
- **Why This Club is Important:** This club increases student language and focus skills, promotes teamwork, fosters social interactions and builds new friendships.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members will continue to share their favorite board games from home and create their very own board game.



Spelling Bee Club

- **Advisor:** Maria Rivera
- **About the Club:** Students prepare for a spelling competition, increase their use of the English language and engage in interactive learning activities.
- **Why This Club is Important:** This club helps students with spelling, builds vocabulary, teaches new concepts and develops correct English usage.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members will continue to practice their spelling skills for the 2024 spelling competition.



Spelling Bee Club

Art Club

- **Advisor:** Mandy Sachtleben
- **About the Club:** In the Art Club, students weave, decoupage, paint and macramé. Coasters, candleholders and natural garlands are just a few of the projects students have created.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Students can socialize in a safe environment while being creative.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members will be participating in the School Art Show on Thursday, May 9.



Art Club

Coding Club

- **Advisor:** Julia Best
- **About the Club:** Students practice their problem-solving and computational thinking skills utilizing various tools and coding interfaces – iPads, PCs, robots, Code.org and more.
- **Why This Club is Important:** As Steve Jobs said, "Everybody should learn to program a computer because it teaches you how to think."
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Students who participate in Coding Club often deliver mini presentations to their peers during their technology classes and act as peer tutors to their classmates. A big highlight for the club was presenting their work to the Board of Education.

Community Service Club

- **Advisor:** Dr. Nick Epley
- **About the Club:** The Community Service Club is sponsored by Southampton Rotary.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Members learn the importance of giving back and helping their local community by participating in fundraisers and activities that benefit local organizations.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members work to raise funds for local organizations through car washes, beach cleanups, food drives, lemonade stands, card drives, silent disco dances, animal supply drives, candy drives, bake sales and mattress sales.



Community Service Club

Southampton UFSD
70 Leland Lane
Southampton, New York 11968

SunHe Sherwood-Dudley, *President*
James F. McKenna, *Vice President*
Cara Conklin-Wingfield, Anastasia Gavalas,
Monique Proctor, Jacqueline Robinson,
Germain L. Smith

Dr. Nicholas Dyno,
Superintendent of Schools
Amy Pierson, *District Clerk*

District Office Phone Number:
(631) 591-4500
www.southamptonschools.org

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Performance Club

- **Advisors:** Samantha McEvoy and Alyssa Gerry
- **About the Club:** Each year, the Performance Club meets weekly to audition, cast and rehearse for a musical they stage in May.
- **Why This Club is Important:** This club is extremely valuable for our students. Working on a musical allows students to work together through dancing, acting and singing.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** This year, club members are performing "Annie KIDS" on May 17 at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium.



Performance Club



Authors and Illustrators Club

Authors and Illustrators

- **Advisor:** Lisa Carew
- **About the Club:** Students learn more about authors and illustrators through meet-and-greets with a variety of them. They also work on their own books.
- **Why This Club is Important:** Members use their language and illustration skills to create their own books.
- **Club Plans for the 2023-24 School Year:** Club members have met with and learned from a variety of authors and illustrators.

Newspaper Club

- **Advisor:** Jesse Phillips
- **About the Club:** Over the last five years, the Newspaper Club has been keeping elementary students and staff up-to-date on all the activities both inside and outside the classroom. The paper is a one-stop news source for all things from the elementary school. With over 25 editions, the paper has been providing student-driven information directly to the students.
- **Why This Club Is Important:** A school newspaper is important because it provides a way for students to express their thoughts and share news and events within the school community. It also allows them to display other talents that may not show up within the classroom.
- **Club Plans for 2023-24:** Moving forward, club members will continue bringing student news directly to the students. They will also continue offering schoolwide challenges, polls and interviews.



Newspaper Club