

Everyone says “Get Involved!” What does that mean for you?

* Note that first meetings for all groups are advertised after the start of school each fall. In September listen for those announcements and/or find the advisors of groups you are interested in.

Service

Become a **Student Council Officer or Representative** to help make your four years at TA the best it can be! Activities are varied, from planning community service efforts like food drives to decorating for dances to volunteering to help at TA events like the Children’s Winter Carnival.

Advisors: Ms. Lasante, MB208, and Mrs. Martin, Guidance Office

Thornton Academy Action Team is one of the many clubs here at TA. We volunteer around the community and school, doing an array of events to help as many people as possible. We work with Volunteers of America & the Major League Baseball Players Trust partnering with a local elderly housing unit called The Paul Hazelton House. Events include playing bingo with residents, serving dinner, throwing holiday parties, and any other activities they would like. Besides the Hazelton House, members volunteer at Young School to babysit for the PTO once a month. Members should be committed, active within the group, kind, and helpful. Come and volunteer, it makes your heart feel good!

Remember: “Together anything is possible.”

Advisors: Mrs. Martin, Guidance Office, Ms. Hall and Mr. J. Morrison, SB210

Amnesty International is dedicated to working for human rights. It is a global organization with over 3 million supporters worldwide. At TA, Amnesty works together to raise awareness of human rights, fundraise, and write letters to governments suspected of human rights abuses. Advisor: Ms. Serrano, FA216

Become an ambassador in the **TA Ambassador Program** and foster friendships and encourage cultural exchange between TA’s international and American students while organizing fun activities that bring day and residential students together.

Advisor: Mr. Kolmar, MB111

The **Animal Rights Group** works to raise money for local animal shelters and other organizations. They also work to raise awareness of how animals are treated in our society, and how we can treat them with respect. Advisor: Ms. Serrano, FA216

Do you love giving tours? Do you love meeting new people? Do you want to be the reason that someone chooses to come to TA?? Then you should become

a Big Sib this year! The **Big Sib Club** helps the Admissions Team represent our amazing school. Advisors: Ms. Theberge and Mrs. Gagnon, Alumni House

Members of the **Disaster Relief Club** do fundraising and volunteering to help those who have been affected by disasters, both locally and globally. We meet every other week on Thursday mornings before school. Join us to help those in need! Advisors: Ms. Nicketakis, FA216 & Mrs. Prescott, Nurses' Office

The **Environmental Club** consists of a group of students who meet monthly. Each year the club selects and focuses on one school issue. Some examples have included more vegetarian food choices in the cafe, improving recycling and working on the school garden. Club members also participate in community clean-ups, field trips, and conferences related to environmental topics. Based on the selected issue, group members meet on an as needed basis to accomplish their goal(s). Be a part of forming TA's culture towards sustainable practices. Check out a club meeting, listed in announcements, 1st Thursday of each month.
Advisor: Ms. Rausch, SB101

The TA **Interact Club** is a Saco Bay Rotary-sponsored youth service organization for high school students. Interact students are involved in myriad volunteer activities in school, in the community, and internationally. Each year the club volunteers countless hours for events such as Mary's Walk, Toys for Tots, Saco Meals program, Dyer Museum activities, Saco Spirit activities, Children's Winter Carnival, Operation Christmas Child, and many more. Meetings are held once a week on Mondays and are very short allowing you to continue to participate in athletics and other activities.

Advisors: Mrs. Arenstam, SB212 and Mrs. Verville

Members of the **Ribbon Club** work to raise funds to support members of the community fighting cancer and fund cancer research. Past activities include T-shirt sales, school dances, and bake sales. The club has made financial contributions to community members as well as to the Maine Cancer Foundation.

Advisor: Mrs. Arenstam, SB212

R.S.V.P. (Reducing Sexism and Violence Program) is really an anti-bullying club with as many as 30 kids. They meet in room MB111 every Wednesday from 3:00-3:40pm and we get new kids almost every week. The club is developing a new focus for next year aimed at growing empathy and understanding in the school and wider communities. We have gone to SMS and TAMS and worked with middle schoolers on anti-bullying training in addition to working with faculty and other students here at TA. We will have a guest speaker come to meetings once per month to discuss social injustices and we will devote other meetings that month to finding ways to advocate for that marginalized community. We have a great time and try to make healthy connections with other kids at school through classroom presentations and awareness events/campaigns.

Advisors: Mrs. Durkee, MB208 and Mr. Kolmar, MB111

Saco Police Explorer Post is a group of students from Thornton Academy, and surrounding communities who are interested in law enforcement as a profession. The post meets each Monday at the Saco Police Department from 6:30-8:00 pm. The Explorers are involved with community service events, hands-on police-related trainings, and are eligible to ride with Saco Police Officers during patrols. This group frequently has guest speakers including game wardens, state troopers, military police officers, district attorneys, and many others.

Academic

TA's **Classics Club** is open to any student who has an interest in any aspect of the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome. Experience with Latin or ancient Greek is not required. Members meet twice a month after school, and gather to eat, watch movies, compete in *certamina* ("contests", mostly academic), and just hang out with folks with similar interests. Favorite activities in the past have been visits to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and participation in the Latin conventions put on twice a year by the Maine Junior Classical League.

Advisor: Mr. Koonce, TH102

The Thornton Academy **French Club** explores cultures in French-speaking countries around the world. We make crepes, watch movies, listen to music, visit museums and learn about cool new places. Join us, even if you're not in a French class! Advisors: Ms. Nicketakis, FA216 & Mrs. Maalouf, SB201

Whether it's watching German movies, playing board games, or cooking German recipes together, TA's **German Club** is doing something exciting after school. Meetings twice a month. All are welcome, even if you aren't in a German class. Kommt mit! Advisor: Frau Curtis, FA202

There is also a **Chinese Club** and a **Spanish Club**! Once a year all of the language clubs have a Jeopardy-like competition to earn bragging rights for the year. Advisors: Ms. Nicketakis and Ms. Serrano, FA216 (French), Ms. Hsieh, Alumni House (Chinese), and Ms. Fritzsche and Ms. Wiles, FA209 (Spanish)

INK is Thornton Academy's Literature & Arts Magazine, focused on spotlighting the artists, performers & writers in our community. If you are interested in the arts and/or journalism and publication, join us on Fridays. Check us out at ink magazine.org. Advisor: Ms. Barklow, MB207

The TA **Math Team** consists of 30-40 students of all grade levels who compete in different types of competitions. This club has many international students, which

makes it a great way to make friends from all over the world who speak the common language of math! There are weekly practices to prepare for upcoming meets, but these meets aren't mandatory. Many students do Math Team in addition to athletics or other clubs. TA's team has brought home numerous awards and recognition in the past 5 years. Coach: Ms. Dubovik, SB208

The **Model United Nations Club** consists of a small group of students (-14) who meet weekly throughout the winter months to discuss International Relations and Global Politics. As a group, we discuss current events and the many challenges presented throughout the world. Examples of topics may include terrorism, Russian Aggression, Climate Change, various historical topics, etc. In addition, students will prepare for Model United Nations conferences where they will research and represent various country interests as they role play on behalf of the country they are assigned. Students will participate in one local conference, and one regional multi-day conference hosted at a University. Students will debate various topics at these conferences and will network with others from all over New England. The goal of the club, and conferences, is to see how well high school student's work toward finding solutions to the many challenges presented throughout the world. Scholarship opportunities are available at Model United Nations Conferences and will be rewarded to students who demonstrate various skills in diplomacy. The group will start meeting in February and will determine meeting times.
Advisor: Nathan McKenney, MB210

The **Neuroscience Club** studies neuroscience and participates in the annual Brain Bee state competition at UNE in December. The club meets weekly in the fall leading up to the competition, and then meets monthly from January to June.
Advisor: Mrs. Cardosi, SB112

Students in the **Robotics Club** have just completed their first season with VEX robotics. They won one tournament and qualified for the state championship tournament where they made it to the semifinals. The group will be meeting regularly starting in September and will meet daily after school in the weeks prior to a tournament. The last tournament is in early February. Advisor: Mr. Hall, SB103

10-15 students of all grade levels make up the **Science Olympiad Team**. They meet monthly in the fall and weekly through winter and spring to prepare for the statewide competition in March. There are over twenty events to pick from, with lots of room for independent work or teaming up with a friend.
Advisor: Mr. Carbone, SB111

Other Academic Clubs include: **Debate Club** Advisors: Mr. Grasso and Mr. Parise, **History Day Club** Advisor: Mr. Parise, **Speech Team** Advisor: Mr. Arenstam

Special Interest

The **Thornton Academy Anglers' Society** meets every Thursday. The students participate in activities like Ice Fishing, Open Water Fishing, and Fish Stocking. Advisor: Mr. Delcourt, SB203

The Anime Club is one of the largest at TA, with about 40 students from all grades at any given time. Come by any meeting on Wednesdays from 2-4pm in room SB217. They watch lots of different anime and usually plan and fundraise for an annual trip to the Boston Anime Convention.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thornton-Academy-Anime-Club/158705764081>

Advisor: Mr. Amoroso, SB217

Do you take artistic Instagram photos on campus? Would you like to be published on TA's YouTube channel? **Student Media Team** members assist the Marketing & Communications Department with documenting the TA student experience through written, photo, and video projects. Advisor: Ms. Deans, FA 204.

The TA **Cycling Club** has been a group for over seven years and has done community service at various trails through out the state over the years. The club has hosted road, mountain and BMX rides in and around Saco.

Advisor: Mr. Sylvester, LB104 or Locke building hall for club info.

The Thornton Academy **Equestrian Club** conducts practices at River Winds Farm, an equestrian facility close to campus. The program is unique to the school and invites students to ride regardless of their experience level. Transportation is provided. Students learn horsemanship skills, grooming, and stable safety. There is a cost associated with the club. Advisor: Krissy Mailman, Alumni House

The **Gay Straight Transgender Alliance (GSTA)** is a group open to all students, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation and we encourage straight students to join to support their LGBTQ classmates. The function of the group depends on the needs and interests of its current members; sometimes the group functions mostly as a support group and safe space for students to discuss issues they have, and sometimes the group takes a more activist role. Essentially, the group for any particular school year becomes whatever its current members need it to be. The group meets one or two times a month in room MB110 and the advisor is always available for students if they have an issue they need to discuss. Advisor: Ms. Hefler, MB 110

The **Political Action Group** is a non-partisan club that helps to connect TA's interested students with opportunities to become involved in politics on local and state levels. Advisor: Mr. Kolmar, MB111

You will find about 30 students from all grades at **The Table Top Gamer's Club**. This group plays all sorts of card games, board games, and role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons, Risk, Yu'Gi'Oh!, Magic the Gathering, or anything you want to bring in or run! Join them by attending a meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4pm in room 56. Advisor: Mr. Temkiewicz, SB102

W.A.G.E.R. (Women and Gender Equal Rights) is a student organization concerned with issues of feminism and gender equality. With a focus on support, discussion, and awareness, past activities include participation in RAD Self Defense classes and advocating for updates to school policies. We meet every other Monday. Advisors: Ms. Curtis and Ms. Barklow, MB207

Music & Arts

The **Art Club** has fun activities, after school snacks and all students are welcome to join! We meet twice a month in room FA 118 right after school. We draw, paint, sculpt, collage and craft w/ a wide range of media. You do not need to be in an art class to attend this club. Meeting dates are in the student announcements and are posted outside of art room FA 118. Good times are had with a great group of student artists! Advisor: Mrs. Merry, FA118

Mondays after school you can join the **TATV Club** in room 141. This group:

- Learns how to produce high quality videos
- Tapes TATV Arts Events
- Tapes TATV Sports
- Learns about new technologies
- Broadcasts live events
- Uses the Green Screen and graphics

Come and join our exciting club and learn how to make great videos, and maybe get on TV! Advisors: Mr. Christenbury and Mr. Pulsifer, FA142

The **TA Photography Club** is for students, faculty and staff interested in photography as an art form. Participants of all skill levels are encouraged to join. Advisor: Ms. Thomas, FA122B

The **Music Appreciation Club** meets periodically with the intent of broadening students' musical horizons. Each meeting includes a listening session and discussion about a different piece or pieces of music. Students often choose the musical selections while the instructor moderates conversation. This is a great opportunity for music-lovers to discuss the music they love and to expand their knowledge about different musical styles. Advisor: Mr. Kolmar, MB111

Concert Choir is a group of 170 singers! No experience is necessary. All are welcome to join and learn to read music and expand your vocal range. You never have to sing alone and it is an excellent way to earn the required Fine Arts Credit. This is a class that meets during the school day.

Advisor: Mrs. Murray, FA105

Jazz Combo/Improvisation- meets one day after school. An opportunity for musicians to advance their skills in a small jazz environment, as well as to improve or begin improvisation. Students do not need to already be part of a performing ensemble, as new members are always welcome. Performances and music festivals are part of the requirement for participation. Advisor: Mr. David Stebbins, FA107

The **TA Players** is a very large club. The Players produce four shows every year:

The Fall Play – three nights. Every other year the Fall play is a Shakespeare production.

The One-Act Competitive Play – two nights. One Acts happen in March every year and are competitive through the Maine Principals Association and The Maine Drama Council.

The Spring Musical – four nights each spring. The Musical has become part of the Thornton and Saco community tradition.

Student Written Play Night – two nights in February. Each year the Players produce six or seven student written one-act plays. Shows are typically cast and directed by the student writers.

Technical Theater work is also a large part of the TA Players: set construction, lighting, props and stage crew.

The theater season typically begins the second week of school with Fall Play Auditions and continues throughout the entire school year. Rehearsal is typically every day after school from 2-5.

How to join: look for announcements and audition materials on the first day of school in the Theater/Music hallway. All are welcome, but know that auditions can be competitive. The Players strive to be inclusive and make few cuts. It is possible to be involved in sports and still be involved in the productions.

Advisor: Mr. Hanright, FA114

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