

# 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Activities:

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:** (BOB) will meet weekly from Oct through Feb, and it's a great program for kids who want to read and discuss books, with grade-level teammates, in prep for "battles" in the spring!

Contact: Carrie Kent

[Carrie.Kent@dmschools.org](mailto:Carrie.Kent@dmschools.org)

## **BEST BUDDIES:**

Best Buddies is a group grounded in respect and inclusion where students with and without intellectual and/or physical disabilities come together to create meaningful friendships. We plan monthly group events but buddies are encouraged to find ways to interact and hang out weekly! This group is open to any student wanting to expand their friendships and help make Merrill a welcoming and inclusive place for ALL students!

Contact: Danielle Taylor

[Danielle.Taylor@dmschools.org](mailto:Danielle.Taylor@dmschools.org)

**Book Club:** Do you love to read? Join Ms. Vogel to read together and talk about great books! We will meet once a week to discuss the book of the month and have a celebration after we finish each one.

Contact Kristin Vogel

[Kristin.Vogel@dmschools.org](mailto:Kristin.Vogel@dmschools.org)

## **Gardening Club:**

Students will plant seeds, weed flower beds, pick produce, and maintain the gardens. New opportunities this year include planting trees, maintaining compost bins, and building rain collection and hydroponics systems. Watch for an announcement regarding an informational meeting in September!"

Contact: Hillari Cooney and Cait Foshe

[Cait.Foshe@dmschools.org](mailto:Cait.Foshe@dmschools.org)

[Hillari.Cooney@dmschools.org](mailto:Hillari.Cooney@dmschools.org)

**Gay Straight Alliance:** Merrill's GSA is open to all students who wish to celebrate and support members of our LGBTQIA+ community. The groups mission is to promote acceptance of diversity in all students at Merrill and we do so by creating community-building days, beautification events, and event art parties!

Contact: Courtney Copic

[Courtney.Copic@dmschools.org](mailto:Courtney.Copic@dmschools.org)

**Harry Potter Club:** Make some magic here at Merrill by joining Harry Potter Club! Make your own wands, experience classes like potions and botany, and play magical games. A few times a year, club members transform into house elves, helping around the school building to spread magic and good deeds. The club will meet from 3:30 till 4:15 on Fridays.

Contact Gabby Smithman

[Gabrielle.Smithman@dmschools.org](mailto:Gabrielle.Smithman@dmschools.org)

**Journalism Club:**

More information coming soon.

[Martin.Luft@dmschools.org](mailto:Martin.Luft@dmschools.org)

**M Club:** Students will participate in leadership activities such as pen pals with elementary students, community service projects, mentoring, input on school decisions, Creating the Mustang Weekly power-point and more. The work of the M Club will be based on CPR: Caring, Principled, and Respect. Would you like to join the Mustang M Club?

Contact Paige Dahms

[Paige.Dahms@dmschools.org](mailto:Paige.Dahms@dmschools.org)

**DRAMA; Merrill Theatre Collective:** Led by Mr. Davenport (a local professional actor and Roosevelt High School's Theatre Arts teacher) seeks students interested in joining a virtual (for now) club of creative artists, comedians, poets, actors, and any student wanting a place to express who they are in a fun, respectful, and educational way. All students are encouraged and welcome to be a part of our collaborative, funky group. You don't have to have any previous acting or performing experience, because Merrill Theatre Collective is about educating young artists to explore their expressive creative side in the performing arts. MTC will offer virtual workshops and performance opportunities, in unique partnership with Roosevelt Repertory Theatre at TRHS.

Contact: Micheal Davenport

[Micheal.Davenport@dmschools.org](mailto:Micheal.Davenport@dmschools.org)

**MidPoint Poetry is a RunDSM + Movement 515 program:** This program is specifically for middle school students! The program's goal is to provide a creative outlet to students to write their own Spoken Word Poetry, Songs and Raps! We meet once a week, create together, talk about social justice issues, play games, and build community. Once a year we also get super competitive and face off against the other DMPS middle schools to try and earn the coveted golden boombox!

Contact: Martin Luft

### **Mustang TV:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this club is to teach students the fundamentals of journalism and mass communication and give them a hands-on experience with the current tools of the industry and a real-world feel with deadlines, etc.

**Goal:** The goal for each semester is to cover events as they happen and report in long-form feature style on those events, assembling them into a single show/newscast anchored and produced by students. This show will be delivered by the end of the semester to the web editor for posting and distribution.

Contact Hillari Cooney

[Hillari.Cooney@dmschools.org](mailto:Hillari.Cooney@dmschools.org)

### **Show Choir:**

Try-out process- there will be a 5-minute slot where students will sign up for their independent vocal audition. (Information about the auditions will be given at the mandatory show choir informational meeting, which will take place the week before audition week. Make sure to listen for day and time of the in the daily announcements. (There will also be signage posted around Merrill). There will be a large-group practice session for choreography on Monday, the week of auditions, and dance audition will take place that Thursday in small groups. Attendance at the mandatory meeting, choreography practice and dance audition are all a must.

Rehearsals- will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30/4:45.

Performances- remain to be seen, but we will be certain to find a way to showcase our Merrill talent!

Contact: Courtney Copic

[Courtney.Copic@dmschools.org](mailto:Courtney.Copic@dmschools.org)

## Unified Sports:

More information coming soon.

Contact: Kari Ferring

[Kari.Ferring@dmschools.org](mailto:Kari.Ferring@dmschools.org)

## 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Sports:

### CROSS COUNTRY:

Cross Country is for boys and girls in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a Roosevelt High School program. That takes place at Merrill. Practices are at Merrill every day after school till around 5:00pm. There are usually about 5 Cross Country meets that take place in the metro area. The season runs from the first day of school till mid-October. Students will need a current physical on file with the Merrill nurse in order to participate.

Contact for boys: Adam Severson [Adam.Severson@dmschools.org](mailto:Adam.Severson@dmschools.org)

Contact for girls: Lacy Brunnette [lbrunnette@gmail.com](mailto:lbrunnette@gmail.com)

### VOLLEYBALL:

Volleyball is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. This is a Merrill Middle School program. That takes place in the Merrill gym. Practices are every day after school till around 5:00pm. There are usually about five, 7<sup>th</sup> grade games and five, 8<sup>th</sup> grade games that take place either at Merrill or at one of the other 9 Middle Schools in the city. There is usually a one Saturday tournament for the schools most competitive team. The season runs from the first day of school till mid-October. Students will need a current physical on file with the Merrill nurse in order to participate.

Contact for girls: Hang Nguyen [Hang.Nguyen01@dmschools.org](mailto:Hang.Nguyen01@dmschools.org)

### ROOSEVELT WRESTLING:

Wrestling is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys or girls. This is a Roosevelt High School program. That takes place in the Roosevelt Wrestling Room. Practices are every day after school till around 5:30pm. There are usually about five meets that take place at the different High School around the metro area. The season runs from mid-October till mid-december. Students will need a current physical on file with the Merrill nurse in order to participate.

Contact: Daryl Dotson [Daryl.Dotson@dmschools.org](mailto:Daryl.Dotson@dmschools.org)

### TRACK:

Track is for boys and girls in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a Merrill Middle School program. Practices are at Merrill every day after school till around 5:00pm. There are usually about 5 Track meets that take place at one of the four high school tracks in the city. The season runs from the beginning of March till the end of April. Students will need a current physical on file with the Merrill nurse in order to participate.

Contact for boys: Martin Luft [Martin.Luft@dmschools.org](mailto:Martin.Luft@dmschools.org)

Contact for girls: Kristin Vogel [Kristin.Vogel@dmschools.org](mailto:Kristin.Vogel@dmschools.org)

### SOCCER:

Soccer is for boys and girls in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a Merrill Middle School program. Practices are at Merrill every day after school till around 5:00pm. There are usually about 5 Soccer matches that take place either at Cownie fields or at one of the middle schools in the city. The season runs from the beginning of Mid-April till the end of May. Students will need a current physical on file with the Merrill nurse in order to participate.

Contact for boys: Adam Severson [Adam.Severson@dmschools.org](mailto:Adam.Severson@dmschools.org)

Contact for girls: Martin Luft [Martin.Luft@dmschools.org](mailto:Martin.Luft@dmschools.org)