Middle School Fall Clubs and Activities

**Board Game Club** with Mr. Stader
In the Middle School Board Game Club, we read and discuss comics and graphic novels. We look at both fiction and non-fiction genres within the medium including (but certainly not limited to) graphic memoirs, superheroes and realistic dramas. Depending on interest, we may also look at creating our own comics. We also play board games to mix things up!

**Model UN** with Mr. Shaker and Ms. Lorenzo
The purpose of the Middle School Model UN team is to expose students to important international issues and grapple with them through the purview of the United Nations. Students learn about the powers and limits of this institution, develop language to use in the drafting of resolutions and clauses and work on their skills in the fine art of diplomacy.

**Robotics FLL** with Mr. Colestock
Robotics FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a team competition in which students engineer and program a robot to complete a series of table-top missions. FLL places a strong emphasis on all members of the team playing an active role and working together to accomplish both the robot challenge and the design challenge.

**Social Justice Club** with Ms. Liszka and Mr. Fuder
The Club aims to provide a safe space for students to consider, probe, discuss and act on issues that shape their immediate lives, the life of the school and our society, be it local, national or global, and to forward the cause of exploring intentionally, sharing confidently and conversing boldly about social justice issues that develop at school.

**The Clark Street Journal** with Ms. Tabor
*The Clark Street Journal* is open to all students interested in creating content for the newspaper. Students learn about writing news and opinion and cover what is interesting to the Middle School. Helmed by 8th grade editors, our goal is to publish 10 issues this year, and students do not need to attend every meeting of the paper to write for the *Journal*. 
Dungeons & Dragons Club (New!) with Mr. Rampson
The Middle School D&D Club provides students with a fun, creative way to explore cooperation and problem-solving skills (along with basic math and writing) while participating in group storytelling. We will also use some of the maker tools in the library to create materials for the game (maps, miniatures, etc.). No experience with Dungeons & Dragons is necessary and all needed materials are provided.

Math Olympiad I (for 6th Grade) with Ms. Masters
Math Olympiad I is open to Middle School students who are new to mathematics competitions and Olympiad-style problems. Students in Math Olympiad Club participate in five math competition exams (November–March). Weekly sessions are mini-lessons on topics often represented on these exams. During our weekly sessions, students have opportunities to work individually and collaboratively in small groups. If you have a passion for math and seek to be challenged in a fun and positive environment, this is the perfect opportunity for you.

Math Olympiad II with Mr. Carlsson
Math Olympiad II is for 7th and 8th graders who have participated in Math Olympiad I in previous years at Parker or have similar experience in math competition. During meetings, this team engages in high-level mathematics work, designed to deepen students' skill and knowledge in a wide array of mathematical fields. We prepare for several math competitions, potentially including the M level MOEMS, AMC 8 and others.

MS Improv Club with Mr. Hildreth
The Middle School Improv Club teaches improv games and other theatre exercises in a fun, no-pressure environment. Regardless of previous experience, students cultivate their sense of humor and boost their four C’s: creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

MS Scholastic Bowl (New!) with Ms. Huynh
In Middle School Scholastic Bowl, members answer practice questions based on different subject areas such as math, science, literature, religion, mythology, philosophy, economics, history, music, art and current events to have fun and potentially compete with teams from different schools in academic knowledge competitions. Matches require team members to buzz in (much like the show Jeopardy!) with answers for points and collaborate on more in-depth questions regarding similar subjects. No prerequisite knowledge is needed—we all start as beginners!
Affinity and Ally Groups

We remain committed as a school to working with students, faculty, staff and parents to ensure that every child experiences life at Parker as a full and equal partner, a heard, known and valued member of our community. Furthermore, we believe that every member of our school community shares responsibility for making this a reality for every child. In the Middle School, our Students of Color Affinity group, Gay-Straight Alliance and Heritage Speakers Program help us advance our shared goals.

Students of Color Affinity Group (SOC) with Mr. Woodard and Mr. Garza
Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who self-identifies as a student of color may participate. Attendance for participants is entirely optional, and self-identification is up to each individual. The purpose of SOC is to provide early adolescents of color with support, information and the time and space to share common experiences as they engage in the process of developing their own identities and consider the role race plays in that process. The agenda partly follows what the students wish to discuss. Sometimes the facilitators suggest topics and present guest speakers and films to help educate and spark reflection and conversation.

La Mesa Hispana with Ms. Frasz and Mr. Lopez Flores
La Mesa Hispana, the Hispanic Table, invites those who self-identify as Hispanic to gather around a “table” with those who have an interest in Hispanic culture of any identity to explore food, music, art, dance, history, etc. with interested native speakers sharing their own cultures with the group. This group meets in the mornings periodically throughout the school year.

Black and African-American Affinity Group with Ms. Rose
Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who self-identifies as Black and/or African American may participate. Attendance for participants is entirely optional, and self-identification is up to each individual. The purpose of BAAA is to provide an opportunity for students to share and explore their lives and experiences within a space defined by their self-identified membership within the Black and African-American community within and beyond the school. This space aims to cultivate trust, courage and safety and design programming, activities and opportunities for students to connect and renew relationships, explore and celebrate identities, share successes and challenges and encourage and support one another while engaging in developing their own identities. They also consider how existing in a racialized society impacts each individual and the community at-large.
Asian and Asian-American Affinity Group (AAAM) with Ms. Lorenzo
Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who self-identifies as Asian or Asian American may participate. This affinity group aims to celebrate the plethora of distinct Asian cultures present in our Middle School. Attendance for participants is entirely optional, and self-identification is up to each individual. The purpose of this affinity group is to provide Middle School students with support, information and safe space to express shared experiences as they engage in the process of developing their own identities and consider the role of their racial, ethnic identities and/or nationality in that process. And often, students simply get together, get to know one another, have lunch and have fun.

MS Pride Alliance
Any 6th, 7th or 8th grader who is interested in supporting equity for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender preference or adherence to stereotypical gender roles is invited to participate. Attendance is entirely optional. This group uses articles in the news, videos, discussions and activities to raise awareness around Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ+) issues. MS Pride Alliance strives to ensure a safe and inclusive school for LGBTQ+ students, in part by using and promoting positive and inclusive language.