



THE ROEPER SCHOOL



TRACURRICULAR
opportunities
AT THE
Birmingham campus



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INTRODUCTION

"I love playing games with words!"

"I'm interested in talking about politics with other students."

"How can I support the fight for equality of the sexes?"

"I like observing the weather."

"I want to help organize fun activities for the community to enjoy."

These are just a few of the reasons why students start a group or club at Roeper.

Extracurricular activities at the Birmingham campus are constantly changing and adapting because our students' interests and passions are ever-changing. This pamphlet is designed to provide an overview of the variety of activities available for students. A majority of groups are student-led and designed; caring faculty offer help and guidance.

Students interested in starting a new club or group should first take a few minutes to answer the following questions:

- Is this club/group open to Middle or Upper School students, or both?
- What is the purpose of this club/group?
- Who will be the faculty advisor?
- Where and when will this club/group meet?

You can then meet with Student Life Coordinator Linda Vernon to talk about how to make your new club official.

Roeper is what you make it. Get involved, share your passions, and have some fun!



Lisa Baker
Upper School Director

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY

COMPETITIVE CHESS TEAM diallosmith@sbcglobal.net

Play tournament-style chess, representing Roeper at its best! Scholastic chess teams formed by students from the same school compete with other schools at local, regional and national tournaments. Roeper's Lower School Scholastic Chess Team has won several state and national awards, and this year a team is being formed at the Middle School. Come be a part!

Practices are held Mondays after school from 3:30 – 5pm. Local tournaments are held monthly on Saturday mornings, and there are state and national tournaments. Registration and membership fees apply.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB corinne.hatcher@roeper.org

Join us every week for a new adventure into the world of books! In the Middle School Book Club, we focus on reading books that appeal to middle grade readers. Come join us Friday's during lunch for spirited conversation on a variety of genres. Examples include: *When you Reach Me* and *Maze Runner*. Every week we are either discussing a book or reading a book. Everyone is welcome, and snacks are always provided!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL COMMITTEE linda.vernon@roeper.org

This group is open to all 6th – 8th graders interested in helping to plan social activities (dances, roller skating parties, etc.) for Middle Schoolers during the school year. When needed, the committee meets on Tuesdays during lunch block.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS [248/203-7406](tel:248/203-7406) or athletics@roeper.org

Middle School students are offered a chance to participate on sports teams under our "no-cut policy." This means that students will not be asked to "tryout" for a team, nor will they be "cut" for lack of ability. They are, however, asked to do their best, take pride in their efforts and learn how to be a responsible member of a team. In this way students begin to learn the fundamental skills needed to prepare themselves for increasingly higher levels of play. Questions about Middle School Athletics should be directed to Ernie Righetti, Athletic Director.

Middle School Sports by Season

Fall

- Cross Country, Boys and Girls
- Boys Soccer
- Volleyball (Girls)

Winter

Girls Basketball (plays first half of season)
Boys Basketball (plays second half of season)

Spring

Track and Field, Boys and Girls
Girls Soccer
Baseball

ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING CHALLENGES

ROBOFEST *linda.pence@roeper.org*

Middle School offers elective classes in Lego Mindstorm Robotics and provides an additional opportunity for team and individual challenges, building on classes, for other interested students. This is the Lawrence Technological University’s Robofest competitions. Autonomous robots are designed, built and programmed using logic and sensor control to complete a choice of challenges set for regional and international events. Competition rules are announced in December. Building and programming is mainly done after school or at home for competitions held primarily from February through May.

THE PHOENIX *lisa.bagchi@roeper.org*

Each school year, since 2004/05, *The Middle School Phoenix*, a literary book-let, has captured and celebrated the creative work of Middle School students in a published format. Student editors are tasked with taking the publication from its beginning to its end — exercising their leadership skills, decision-making, creativity and industry. A team of two to four Middle School students work in an editorial capacity to encourage and coordinate student submissions of creative writing and art work, establish an inclusive review protocol, design and complete an electronic layout of the publication, operate within budget, and distribute the *MS Phoenix* to students and staff before the last day of the school year.

UPPER SCHOOL ONLY

GENDER BLENDER *susannah.nichols@roeper.org*

Gender Blender is a combination of two abandoned student groups, Cherry Bomb and GSA. The group is for individuals who are passionate about feminism, marriage equality and other issues concerning gender roles and representation. It will encourage open discussion and be open to anyone who has questions or any interest in the previous topics. We will also focus on gender minorities, under-represented orientations and any other people of any gender or orientation. The purpose of the group is to start an open and inclusive conversation about the issues presented and to create a comfortable way for people with many different experiences and points of view to have a voice.

MICHIGAN ROUNDTABLE *carolyn.lett@roeper.org*

The Michigan Roundtable Regional Youth School Consortium brings together youth from across Metro Detroit to engage in issues of Education Justice. By building relationships with their peers from schools and communities different from their own, youth will be able to engage in experiences which give them unparalleled knowledge of the education system and its effects on urban, suburban and private or independent schools.

MODEL UN *mike.ruddy@roeper.org*

This group meets biweekly after school from October to March as an extra-curricular. MUN simulates United Nations activities using discussion, debate and negotiation. MUN delegates decide what nations to represent, which committee topics are of interest, research their topics and, for conferences, develop policy statements and position papers that serve their nation's interests. Roeper MUN typically attends three conferences each year: Southeast Michigan (local, one day); Great Lakes (three-day overnight, in-state); and a four-day regional conference: Chicago/Washington/NYC. Since 2008, Roeper has also attended a European conference in alternating years. (US MUN Conferences open to Middle School students by invitation only.)

THE MUSE *kelly.piontek@roeper.org*

The Muse, Roeper's Upper School literary magazine, welcomes submissions of poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, photographs, drawings and other visual art work from all Upper School students. Students interested in joining *The Muse* board should talk to the student editors or the faculty advisor. Meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

The Muse board invites a guest poet to give a reading at the school each year in spring for the Alex Frank Memorial Poetry Collective.

ROEPER ART TRIP (RAT) *janet.szeto@roeper.org*

RAT is the acronym for Roper Art Trip, an Upper School club dedicated to art. Our main activity is visiting art exhibits and museums. These trips take place after school about once a month. We hold meetings every other week to plan the trips.

UPPER SCHOOL ROBOTICS *clint.spevak@roeper.org*

Roper Upper School has participated in the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association (OCCRA) Big 'Bot (up to 40" tall at start, up to 120 pounds) competitions since 2001 with about 20 other Oakland County high schools. Four tournaments seed teams for a final Oakland Championship during November.

OCCRA also organizes a VEX Robotics Championship Tournament for high schools in parallel with a middle school VEX competition in November. VEX robots are much smaller, fitting in an 18" cube to start. A team of two or more students could compete, continuing after the OCCRA tournament at Michigan and regional competitions from December into February.

No prior knowledge of robotics or engineering required — necessary skills are taught over the course of the season through hands-on design and construction. Robots are 100% student-built; team members cooperate to choose which aspects of the robots and programming each wants to work on.

UPPER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB *corinne.hatcher@roeper.org*

Love to read? Join the club — literally. The Roper Upper School Book Club is the perfect place to meet other bibliophiles. The goal of the Upper School Book Club is to encourage reading by providing an environment where literary discussion can take place in a safe and friendly environment. We focus on reading current, popular, young adult and adult fiction. The only requirement is to have the desire to discuss and try out books from multiple genres. Join us during lunch every Tuesday in the Library.

UPPER SCHOOL SPORTS. *248/203-7406 or athletics@roeper.org*

One of the truly unique features of the Roper Athletic program is that we offer our high school students a chance to participate on serious, competitive sports teams — in a first-rate athletic conference — under a "no-cut policy." This means that any student may participate on a JV or Varsity team given desire, commitment and dedication to hard work. There are no formal tryouts or cuts. We believe that this policy allows every student an opportunity to explore and appreciate his or her own physical potential within the context of learning about responsibility to oneself and to the team.

Guided by an experienced and dedicated coaching staff, our athletes come to understand the importance of good sportsmanship, self-discipline, commitment, pride and leadership — life skills which help prepare them well beyond the thrill of victory. The program's success can be seen in the performance of our teams; they are often state-ranked and have earned numerous League, District, Regional and State championships as well as team and individual honors at those levels. Questions about Upper School Athletics should be directed to Ernie Righetti, Athletic Director.

JV & Varsity Sports by Season

Fall

Varsity Cross Country, Boys and Girls
Varsity and JV Boys Soccer
Varsity and JV Girls Volleyball

Winter

Varsity and JV Boys Basketball
Varsity and JV Girls Basketball

Spring

Varsity Track and Field, Boys and Girls
Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Baseball
Varsity Golf

OPEN TO MIDDLE + UPPER SCHOOL

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL *mike.ruddy@roeper.org*

“Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights for all.” The Roeper chapter of Amnesty works through fund-raising, letter writing and educational campaigns to raise awareness of and work against human rights abuses. The students meet Mondays during lunch block.

BLACK STUDENT UNION *tessa.stein@roeper.org*
robin.turner@roeper.org

The Black Student Union (BSU) affinity group was established in 2012 for Black students at The Roeper School. Affinity groups provide an engaging environment of camaraderie for members to share common interests, issues and challenges. The mission of the Roeper Black Student Union is to strive to educate ourselves and others within our community on Black culture and history while creating a supportive forum for Black students to address topics that are unique to our ethnicity in order to improve our overall educational and social experiences. The BSU provides an excellent opportunity to participate in discussions, programs and events that celebrate our heritage and contributions to the larger community.

DEBATE *dan.jacobs@roeper.org*

The idea behind Roeper Debate is not to force you to believe in someone else’s viewpoint, nor to entrench you in your own. Rather, the goal is to give you the basic tools you need to intelligently examine complex moral, political, intellectual and philosophical issues, and to come to your own conclusions. The Roeper Debate Team has generally consisted of a small group of very dedicated students who enjoy honing their own debate skills while helping their fellow teammates by providing critiques of cases and acting as verbal sparring partners. Debate topics range from philosophical — i.e., Should a child’s right to privacy outweigh a parent’s right to know? — to policy-oriented debates about health care, immigration, etc. Students are also welcome to use both the club and the class as a means to present and argue for different Roeper-related issues. In the past, these debates have included: advocating for healthier vending machines; converting a lounge into a classroom; and the need for a more environmentally-conscious behavior on campus.

While coaches will certainly provide you with resources and advice, it is up to you to do your own research and write your own cases. In general, the best debaters are those who: (a) know a ton about the subject they are debating; (b) work diligently on their cases and research; (c) understand various philosophical and practical viewpoints; (d) understand how to interact with their audience.

The types of debate you are joining are called “Lincoln-Douglas Debate” (LD Debate) or “Values Debate” and Public Forum Debate, (PF Debate). While these kinds of debate are relatively rare in the state of Michigan, there are thousands of participants nationwide, and we make an effort to participate in at least one national tournament each year.

FORENSICS *dan.jacobs@roeper.org*

Roeper Forensics is a public speaking activity that deals with the art of connecting what you feel in your heart with what you know in your head. In working with students, we focus on different speaking techniques, including stage fright, body language, and finding ways to connect with your own emotions and with your audience through the words of your piece. The overall focus is on improving communication and performance; the tournaments should be viewed as a means to gain more input and insight into how you can improve and how successful you are at achieving your own goals. Forensics is also the art of audience manipulation. That sounds terrible, but we mean it in a good way. A litigator, an orator, a presenter or leader of any kind must possess the skill to stand before an audience and sell them, convince them, persuade them, entrance them, or at the very least, entertain them.

Joining the Roeper Forensics Team as an extracurricular activity means committing yourself to participating in at least one tournament during the season. For high school students, the invitational forensics season runs late January through March, with regionals in April and states in May. Middle school students have two main tournaments, one usually in December and another usually in April. Middle school folks may also compete in high school tournaments.

Forensics requires a minimum of one hour of after-school practice each week; achieving your full potential often demands more. Tournaments are almost always on Saturdays, and generally run from 8am – 6pm (and we often have to meet at Roeper around 6am to get to tournaments on time). Roeper Forensics generally seems to attract (and sometimes create) very dedicated students, parents, and coaches; we have one of the best teams in the state by any number of measures, and we certainly have a good deal of fun throughout the season!

GIRLS’ MENTORING PROGRAM *carolyn.lett@roeper.org*

In this program, Stage IV, 6th and 7th grade girls and Upper School girls will come together to build friendship and camaraderie, with the older girls serving as mentors to the younger girls. Together, the girls will explore topics and engage in projects designed to assist them to establish and maintain healthy relationships with others, while being reflective about themselves. These conversations and activities will help all to build self-esteem and empowerment. Mostly, the girls will have fun being with each other.

JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION *sharon.carter@roeper.org*

The goal of the Jewish Student Connection is to connect students to their Jewish roots. The focus of our group is to have discussions based on Jewish/Israeli current events that our members want to talk about (we have a board right outside of Sharon’s room that will say what our next discussion topic will be and when that discussion will occur). There will be pizza at our meetings, which occur every other Friday in Sharon’s room (108). Any Middle or Upper School students are welcome to join, regardless of your religious affiliation.

LINGUISTICS CLUB *karen.johnson@roeper.org*

The Linguistics Club is a group of Upper School students interested in the interdisciplinary field of linguistics. Members get together twice a month at lunch and discuss everything from the formal properties of sounds and words to artificial intelligence, from metaphor and figurative language to the evolution of language in human history, from formal logic in mathematics to endangered and extinct languages, from native language acquisition to multilingualism in a global age. They also especially enjoy word play: anagrams, puns, palindromes, etc. All students with an interest in language are encouraged to attend (we also have snacks!).

OCCRA AND VEX CHALLENGES *clint.spevak@roeper.org*

Robotics opportunities also available for Middle and Upper School students are the Oakland County Schools sponsored OCCRA and VEX Robotics Challenges which begin in September. These robots are larger than Legos (think Erector set and larger), primarily constructed with preformed metal and provide engineering experience with designing and building all components needed to construct a fully mobile, multitasking robot that combines autonomous programmed actions with wireless driver control. Each robot is designed to play predetermined games in partnership with other competing teams to complete a team challenge.

Middle School students are welcome to visit the Upper School RoboShop to observe and help out as interest and safety allow. The US Robotics regular coordination meeting is each Tuesday after school in the shop during the OCCRA Big ‘Bot season, from September through November, and MS students are particularly invited to participate during Tuesday meetings.

PHYSICS CLUB *andrew.blechman@roeper.org*

The Physics Club is a meeting of Roeper students interested in learning more about what Physicists *actually* do.

We will be using the lunchtime meetings to have discussion and short presentations about various topics relevant to modern physics research. We will also be doing various challenge projects such as building egg-cars and Rube Goldberg machines. We will also set up meetings for a chance to talk to some professional scientists via Skype, as well as talks after school.

Students who are taking or have already taken Intro Physics are encouraged to attend, but all Upper School students are welcome. (Middle School students should seek Wendy’s advice for attending.) Students taking Physics classes will also have an opportunity to earn partial credit toward their grades, if they wish. We especially welcome sophomores and juniors who might be thinking about doing a senior project in the sciences — this would be an excellent opportunity to get ideas and possibly forge a relationship with a research adviser!

Meeting time: Monday during lunch block in the Physics Rm (007).

ROCKET BOOSTERS *emery.pence@roeper.org*

Educating students about space, astronomy and space exploration and creating enthusiasm for those topics is the mission of the Rocket Boosters. The club — that meets on Thursdays at lunch — will have mini-classes and discussions, bring in guest speakers, conduct model rocketry classes, show movies, go on field trips and post space trivia and other info.

ROEPER PHILOSOPHY CLUB *emery.pence@roeper.org*

We eat lunch every other Friday in Emery’s room (Rm. 200A) while discussing scenarios involving how the Roeper Philosophy is involved in our school and community. These real-life situations happened at Roeper and are great “triggers” for interesting discussions. We will also talk about giftedness and what it means to us at Roeper.

ROEPER THEATRE COMPANY *shelley.fager-bajorek@roeper.org*

The Roeper Theatre Company (RTC) produces a wide range of exciting, ambitious and innovative productions each year. The RTC is proud to hold its productions to very high standards and is committed to creating theatre that is entertaining, challenging, and relevant to our community. It is a professionally-run environment in which actors, artists, musicians, designers, and technicians collaborate closely with one another. The RTC season usually includes at least one Upper School musical and play and a Middle School musical. Middle School students who are able to handle a more rigorous rehearsal schedule may audition for roles in Upper School shows with prior permission. Previous productions include *Urinetown*, *Henry V*, *Into the Woods*, *Hair*, *Cabaret*, *Rent* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Students also have opportunities to write, direct and produce their own work for the RTC stage. Students may act, play music, build sets, work backstage, including sound and props, create costumes, design hair, makeup, lighting and contribute in many other ways to productions, depending on experience. In addition, many prestigious theatre artists visit Roeper to work and talk with students.

Each year's productions are announced toward the end of the previous year. Auditions for the Fall production are held at the beginning of the year. All students, including those new to Roeper and regardless of previous experience, are encouraged to audition. A packet that includes a selection of scenes and monologues for students to prepare will be made available. The director and music director are happy to assist those who are new to the audition process. Students can sign up for other production opportunities throughout the school year.

SIERRA CLUB *laura.panek@roeper.org*
michelle.stamler@roeper.org

While the Roeper Sierra Club was founded in September of 2005, not on May 28, 1892, like the national association, we, too, consider ourselves very much a grass-roots organization. America's Sierra Club's members and supporters are more than 1.3 million; we number about 15 very committed students who come together once a week during lunch to work on different projects, targeting various environmental concerns. We have focused our efforts over the last two years to working inside the Roeper community to make students and staff aware of the positive effect they as individuals can have on the environment by recycling. Students in the group have done presentations for the entire student body, specifically targeting paper recycling and lessening the use of water bottles. The club meets every Friday during lunch.

STUDENT DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE . . . *carolyn.lett@roeper.org*

Diversity, inclusion, equity and justice are integral to everything we do at The Roeper School. We see diversity as fundamental to the implementation of our school's philosophy. We value diversity and recognize the importance of paying attention to all voices in our school community. This committee is composed of representatives from various student interest and affinity groups such as Student Government, Gender Bender, Model United Nations (MUN), Amnesty International, Sierra Club, The Black Student Union (BSU), etc. The purpose of this committee is to audit specific diversity activities and initiatives and to lend support to students who are initiating these pursuits.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT *US: linda.vernon@roeper.org*
MS: emery.pence@roeper.org

Student Government serves as a liaison between the student body and the administration. The group is comprised of elected student representatives whose purpose includes: granting the general student population a voice, boosting peer-to-peer communication, tackling social and academic issues, and bringing The Roeper School as a general entity (both the Birmingham campus and the Lower School) together.

UMOJA *michelle.stamler@roeper.org*

UMOJA is a Roeper School organization that is devoted to exploring and embracing diverse issues inside and outside the Roeper community. This organization is open to all students at the Birmingham campus. The students in this group often take a leadership role in planning and performing our Martin Luther King, Jr. Candlelight Vigil. In addition, the members of UMOJA play a major role in organizing symposiums, Diversity Day events, field trips and Black History month activities. The group meets every Thursday during lunch to share food, ideas and experiences.

THE ROEPER SCHOOL

MIDDLE/UPPER SCHOOL

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David Feldman, *Head of School*

Lisa Baker, *Upper School Director*

Colleen Potocki, *Middle School Director*

Patricia Bostwick, *College Counseling Director*

Ernie Righetti, *Athletic Director*

Linda Vernon, *Student Life Coordinator*