

Medina High School Gay-Straight Alliance, aka “GSA Club”

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Why Does Medina High School have a GSA Club?

The Gay-Straight Alliance support group was established informally five years ago as a student-led and teacher-supervised support group that met as needed, ranging from bi-monthly to every six weeks. However, the GSA group grew to the point that the formation of a club was warranted, particularly in terms of number of students served and how often they met (more than a dozen regular members, and meetings at least twice monthly). The club participates in a variety of activities, including a fieldtrip to the Western New York GSA Conference (last year, 26 area schools attended). The group's mission has always been to provide a safe and non-judgmental space for students who

- a.) self-identify as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer) youth; or
- b.) consider themselves allies (supporters), friends, and family members of LGBTQ persons or people; or
- c.) are looking for a place where they can meet others their own age for support, camaraderie, friendship, and acceptance.

Mission:

GSA Club’s mission is to provide a safe and non-threatening space for Medina High School LGBTQ youth and their allies. GSA club seeks to promote acceptance and tolerance of GLBTQ youth and their allies so that students who identify as such do not feel threatened, alienated, or alone. Moreover, GSA club, through its various activities and through the leadership of its members, hopes to reduce bullying and give voice to students who might otherwise feel disenfranchised in the school community.

Goals:

1. Reduce feelings of isolation and alienation among Medina High LGBTQ youth and their allies;
2. Coordinate events and activities that promote tolerance and acceptance of LGBTQ youth and their allies in the high school community;
3. Provide a safe space where LGBTQ students and their allies know they have a place to regularly go to seek and give support, camaraderie, and acceptance to peers who similarly identify as LGBTQ or LGBTQ allies.

Activities and Events:

- **Twice-Monthly Meetings—All year.** Students can privately discuss the issues they deal with on a regular basis. Students meet in room 205 every odd Wednesday of the month.
- **Wear It Purple Day—October.** A day where kids and adults wear purple as a sign of support to marginalized youth/also a symbolic gesture to take a stand against bullying: Shows LGBTQ youth that they have more allies than they might realize, even among their teachers.
- **GSA Conference—March.** Day trip to a Western New York school, where Medina GSA kids meet other kids from schools all over Western NY (four counties, 26 schools, 200+ kids). This year’s conference is in Starpoint.
- **Day of Silence—April** (students are silent for the day as a symbolic gesture of how LGBTQ people often feel silenced or marginalized in society; their chosen silence is also a symbolic gesture against intolerance and bullying.)