



The SHS GSA welcomes all students who would like to be known as an ALLY to their LGBTQ friends and classmates! Your participation in a GSA is important in helping create a safe and welcoming school for all students!

CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
CHANGE BEHAVIORS.  
CHANGE DIRECTIONS.  
CHANGE LIVES.  
CHANGE POLICIES.  
CHANGE VOICES.  
BE AN ALLY.  
BE THE CHANGE.

## Why we NEED a GSA:

- ◆ 74% of LGBT students were verbally harassed in the past year because of their sexual orientation and 55% because of their gender expression.
- ◆ 30% missed at least one day of school in the past month.
- ◆ Studies have reported that drop out rates for LGBTQ youth are four times the national average.
- ◆ Even more concerning, LGBTQ youth are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, with a 20% greater risk for those individuals in unsupportive environments.
- ◆ LGBTQ youth in rural communities in particular reported higher rates of suicidal behaviors, substance abuse, sexual debut (girls), and dating violence (boys) than did LGBTQ youth in more urban settings.



**SENECA HIGH  
SCHOOL'S  
GSA**

**Gay-Straight Alliance 2015-2016**



## What We Do

**1. Support/Social:** GSA's can create a fun and safe place for LGBTQ students and their Allies to meet, make friends, and support each other by listening and talking about their issues and feelings.

**2. Advocate/Educate:** GSA's can focus on educating students, teachers, parents, and community on how they can learn how to help create a safer, more accepting school by helping eliminate bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Learn the laws and know your rights in your state!

## Our Mission Statement

“Our mission is to work toward a more accepting environment for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, through education, support, social action, and advocacy. We believe that schools can be truly safe only when every student is assured of access to an education without fear of harassment or violence. The GSA welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, questioning youth, and their heterosexual allies.”



## Activities

- Get a T-Shirt that supports the elimination of prejudices and hatred of all kinds!
- Attend GSA meetings and help us jump-start our club, define our priorities, and brainstorm our year!!
- Stand up to discrimination and homophobic language when you see it or hear it. Work to eliminate, “That’s so gay!”
- Listen to speakers from the LGBTQ community around us.
- Participate in GLSEN’s No Name Calling week in January and the Day of Silence in April.
- Support your LGBTQ friends and classmates simply by being a friend and accepting them for who they are.

## Your sponsors

**Mrs. Jill Rockrohr**

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