

- The name of the teacher who will be the advisor: Thomas Pattavina
- The facilities your club will require: Classroom
- The number of students who are interested in joining: 20-30
- Any necessary equipment or uniforms: None
- Your club's budget needs: None
- How the club will be funded (through fundraising): No overhead, but we will sell t-shirts
- Any transportation requirements: None

Beman Middle School Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-led club that creates a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for **LGBTQ+ students and their allies**. It's a space where students can be themselves, build community, and promote understanding and respect for all identities, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Purpose of Beman Middle School GSA:

- **Support:** Offers a place for students to talk about their experiences, find friends, and feel less isolated.
- **Education:** Helps students learn about LGBTQ+ topics, such as terminology, history, and how to be an ally.
- **Advocacy:** Encourages respect and inclusion, and may help organize events like Pride Month celebrations or anti-bullying campaigns.
- **Empowerment:** Builds leadership and communication skills as students take on roles to plan meetings and activities.

How it Supports Students:

1. **Promotes Belonging:** Beman GSA meetings provide a safe and judgment-free space where students feel accepted and valued.
2. **Reduces Bullying:** In schools with active GSAs, studies show a decrease in bullying and harassment of LGBTQ+ students.
3. **Encourages Allyship:** Teaches students how to stand up for each other and create a more inclusive school climate.
4. **Builds Confidence:** LGBTQ+ students often feel more comfortable and confident expressing their identity when supported by peers.
5. **Fosters Leadership:** Gives students a voice and an opportunity to lead discussions, events, and school initiatives.

Overall, a GSA can make a big difference in helping students feel safe, supported, and proud of who they are — all while helping the whole school grow more inclusive and compassionate.