



**St. Francis High School
Model United Nations Academic Team 2016-2017**

What is Model United Nations (MUN)?

When the United Nations was founded, teachers, statesmen, and citizens believed an organization of states could maintain true international peace and prevent another devastating world war. Educators welcomed the 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution in which member states pledge to:

Encourage the teaching of the United Nations Charter and the purposes and principles, the structure, background and activities of the United Nations in the schools and institutes of higher learning of their countries, with particular emphasis on such instruction in elementary and secondary schools. United Nations Resolution 137 (II) November 17, 1947.

From that point on, universities organized conferences to simulate UN General Assembly action.

The St. Francis High School *Model United Nations* (“MUN”) academic team simulates the crucial business of the United Nations assembly. Students role-play UN delegates representing an assigned country. Large-scale university MUN conferences field topics facing the international community. SFHS students serving on various committees (World Trade Organization, Disarmament, Security Council, ECOSOC, UNESCO, etc.) engage in preconference research on assigned topics, their country’s position, and their country’s economics, politics, culture, and laws. This work culminates in weekend-long diplomatic simulations scored by the college students who chair each committee. SFHS attends one to three conferences per school year. See the team website at <http://www.stfrancishs.org/model-united-nations-mun>

Benefits of MUN Participation

SFHS students who participate in MUN gain solid academic training and enhanced life skills. Students on the team will:

- Receive one course credit and letter grade per semester of successful participation (this credit does not affect overall GPA but does appear on your college transcripts)
- Interact and collaborate with fellow high-performing teammates
- Sharpen negotiations, conflict resolution, and public speaking skills
- Come to understand critical international issues

- Expanded knowledge of political, historical, economic, and sociocultural issues affecting international member states.
- Integrate information across disciplines (geography, government, environmental studies, world history, and others)
- Learn the structure, functions, successes and limitations of the United Nations
- Enjoy a very polished addition to college resumes
- Gain experience for advanced political science and legal studies as well as further MUN work in college

Leadership

Coach, MUN Team Member 2007-2010: Ms. Evanne Torrecillas, etorrecillas@stfrancishs.org

Trying-out for the 2016-2017 Saint Francis High School MUN Team

St. Francis High School 2016-2017 Model United Nations academic team tryouts will be held August 23rd, 3:30pm-5:00pm in Room 320. Interested students need to attend this tryout, or email Ms. Torrecillas to schedule a make-up tryout during the week of August 22nd and complete the MUN 2016-2017 Team Application. Application follows in this packet and is due on August 23rd. No late applications will be accepted. If you cannot attend the tryout on August 23rd, the application is still due and can be emailed to Ms. Torrecillas or dropped off at the front office. Individual tryouts involve an interview, impromptu speech exercise, and pre-written essay assignment. All team spots are open. Interested students, including those who have previously served on the team, must tryout for a place on the SFHS MUN team.

Approximate Costs Associated with the Team

SFHS MUN Fees to cover Conference Costs (+ meals/snacks)	\$400
<i>Optional</i> SFHS MUN Academic Team Tee Shirt	\$28-30
<i>Optional</i> SFHS MUN Sweatshirt	\$60-65
Students rotate through snack duties at weekly practices	\$10
Parent volunteer drivers must be fingerprinted, if not already	

Responsibilities of Parents of Team Members

As her primary educators, parents are responsible for overseeing their daughter’s activities and enthusiastic participation in her academic team. Parents of SFHS MUN team members are vital to the success of our MUN team! They are asked to provide snacks at weekly meetings and chaperone trips (library, conferences, scrimmages, and off-site team meetings.) Chaperones must complete all Diocesan volunteer requirements, including fingerprinting. The process is outlined on our school website: <http://www.stfrancishs.org/diocesan-service-requirements>.

Responsibilities of Team Members

The 2016-2017 SFHS MUN Team practices Mondays 3:30-5:00pm, beginning August 29, 2016. Students who cannot commit to these weekly meetings cannot participate. Additionally, team members meet Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 pm for two weeks prior to each competition. Both conferences are mandatory to pass the class (dates provided below).

Team members are required to attend the Stanford Model UN Conference (November 11-13, 2016) and the Berkeley Model UN Conference (March 3-5, 2017). Attendance at these conferences is not only mandatory but also integral to membership on the team and participation in weekly meetings.

Team members compose a four to seven page committee topic position paper in preparation for each MUN Conference. This amounts to approximately 20 hours of research and development. This assignment will be submitted in drafts and reviewed by the Coach, Ms. Torrecillas.

The SFHS team is composed of veteran delegates and apprentice delegates. Apprentice delegates are new to the team. Veterans are those who have previously competed for SFHS MUN. Veterans mentor apprentices throughout the year. All members are expected to try out for the team.

Students will be expected to bring a Chromebook, iPad, laptop or another piece of technology which allows them to access their research during meetings. If a student repeatedly neglects to bring an item which gives them access to the internet and essential documents, thus affecting her participation in meetings, it may negatively impact the student's participation grade.

Attendance Policy

Team members are expected to attend all meetings. Members can miss a maximum of two meetings throughout the year without a grade penalty. If team members know of conflicts in advance, contact Ms. Torrecillas as soon as possible to discuss make-up work. For team members participating in other activities, it is the student's responsibility to communicate to Ms. Torrecillas the potential conflicts between those activities. This conflicts will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Grading Policy

Letter grades (A through F) are assigned to SFHS MUN students. The Coach assigns grades to track each student's performance in MUN. Grades are based on the level of preparation for and participation in the MUN Conference.

Grade Breakdown

- Stanford MUN Conference (November 11-13, 2016) Participation and Engagement – 25%
- Stanford MUN Position Paper and Research - 15%
- UC Berkeley MUN Conference (March 3-5, 2017) Participation and Engagement – 25%
- UC Berkeley MUN Position Paper and Research - 15%
- Homework, Meeting Attendance, Meeting Participation – 20%

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*Complete and bring these two pages to the St. Francis High School 2016-2017 Model United Nations academic team tryout on **August 23, 2016**. **Late applications will not be accepted**. See the team website at www.stfrancishs.org/model-united-nations-mun.*

Print Student Name: _____
Student *TroubieMail* Address: _____

Circle One: **Senior** **Junior** **Sophomore** **Freshman**

For Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors: Weighted GPA: _____
(2.5 GPA with no more than one D and no Fs is required to participate on an academic team. If at any point during the season your grades include more than one D or an F, you will be placed on probation)

Explain what you can offer the SFHS MUN team:

Extra-curricular, Student Officer, Fine Arts, Clubs & Athletics:

List all anticipated extra-curricular involvement during the 2016-2017 school year:

Please List any food allergies below:

Students—Check the True Statement(s):

- _____ I can attend the Stanford MUN Conference November 11-13, 2016.
_____ I can attend the BMUN Conference March 3-5, 2017.
_____ I do not foresee missing any Monday (3:30-5:00pm) MUN meetings.
_____ I do not foresee missing any Thursday (3:30-5:00pm) MUN meetings in the weeks preceding a conference.
_____ I may need to miss at least two Monday or Thursday MUN Meetings.

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Parents—Check the True Statement(s):

_____ I understand that, by joining the St. Francis Model United Nations team, my daughter will be expected to attend weekly Monday meetings, two college-level MUN conferences, and additional practices before conference. I understand that MUN is like a college-level course and that my daughter is expected to complete at least 5-10 hours of additional work per week in preparation for conferences.

_____ I acknowledge that my student will be assigned snack duty at least twice throughout the season and agree to provide team snacks.

Student Initials the following:

_____ If accepted onto the SFHS MUN team, I will attend Monday practices, 3:30pm-5:00pm and additional Thursday practices, 3:30pm-5:00pm during weeks preceding competitions. I will be on time and will stay until practice ends.

_____ I understand a 2.5 GPA with no more than one D and no Fs is required to participate in SFHS academic teams.

_____ I understand that MUN is an academic team, for which a letter grade will be assigned per semester. My grade will be determined by my attitude, preparation, attendance at weekly and additional practices, assignments, competition attendance/preparation, and team spirit.

_____ I and my parents understand the financial costs of joining the SFHS MUN team.

_____ I and my parents understand that SFHS MUN participation amounts to at least two hours of homework per week, and significantly more preceding a competition.

_____ I understand that an SFHS MUN team member has until Sept. 30th, 2016 to drop the team without penalty. After this time dropping the team results in a failing academic team grade.

Date: _____

Student Signature

Date: _____

Parent Signature

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Adopt the perspective of any key player mentioned in the article below and compose a paragraph exploring any aspect mentioned in the article from your selected key player. For example, you may submit a paragraph detailing the difficulties faced by the UNHCR when attempting to fulfill its mission while under extreme budgetary constraints. Please do not submit a paragraph focused solely on the individual refugee experience. Your paragraph should consist of an introduction, thesis, supporting points and conclusion, and should be a maximum of 400 words. Use MLA format and in-text citations for any ideas which require documentation. Please attached your typed paragraph to your application.

Paragraph prompt:

South Sudan: Scale of refugee exodus straining capacity in neighbouring countries, warns UN

12 August 2016 – The countries hosting refugees from their crisis-gripped neighbour, South Sudan, are straining under the sheer weight of the ongoing exodus as desperate people continue to arrive at their borders daily, joining hundreds of thousands of others that fled for safety before them, the United Nations has warned.

“There are already some 930,000 refugees in the region, and more are arriving daily,” Adrian Edwards, a spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told journalists at the regular press briefing in Geneva today.

“[We are] extremely worried that even as the refugee population grows, funds to meet basic needs are becoming exhausted,” he added.

In addition to the refugee numbers, there are 1.61 million people who are displaced within South Sudan.

In the midst of the humanitarian crisis, the agency is facing critical funding shortages, having received only about 20 per cent of the \$608.8 million needed for refugees in South Sudan and the six countries of asylum. A number of its programmes have been suspended to enable critical live-saving support for new arrivals.

Worst affected are the remote regions in Uganda, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), where UNHCR had no previous presence. Ethiopia and Sudan, which have experienced mass influxes, are also badly affected.

Further, as the anniversary of the August 2015 peace agreement approaches, the outbreak of violence in the capital, Juba, in July, appears to have tipped the scales against an imminent political solution to the South Sudan conflict, said the agency.

“There are numerous reports of sporadic armed clashes, human rights violations including sexual and gender-based violence by armed groups, and worsening food insecurity – inflicting immense suffering,” noted Mr. Edwards.

Especially concerning is that the situation in previously stable areas is now deteriorating. Some 200,000 individuals have been fleeing new violence in previously stable areas such as Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal.

The situation has been further compounded by a deteriorating South Sudanese economy. Inflation has risen an unprecedented 600 per cent over the past year, causing a severe fall in the purchasing value of money.

At the same time, the condition of refugee settlements is equally desperate. A particular case is Uganda, where three quarters of the refugee arrivals have headed since the outbreak of conflict in July, when the arrival rate peaked at more than 8,000 in one day.

New arrivals – 90 per cent of whom are women and children, mostly from Juba and other parts of Central Equatoria – point to a breakdown in law and order in their home areas.

“People cite rampant violence including killings and clashes between government forces and armed groups,” highlighted the UN refugee agency spokesperson, adding: “They also report that armed groups are robbing civilians and extorting money from them, preventing those who are unable to pay from leaving, and sexually assaulting women,” he continued.

“Armed groups are also reportedly abducting children aged 12 and above from schools and threatening people. Disappearances are said to also be on the rise.”

Uganda and Sudan have received an estimated 110,000 and 100,000 new arrivals respectively in 2016, together accounting for more than 90 per cent of the new arrivals in the region.

To cope with the arrivals, the Government of Uganda has opened a new settlement in Yumbe, located in the north-west of the country, with a capacity for more than 100,000 individuals. But funds are urgently needed to speed the relocation of more than 45,000 refugees out of overstretched and severely congested reception and transit centres.

Threat of disease outbreak

Mr. Edwards also noted that with people living in such close proximity, the potential for disease outbreak is high. “UNHCR teams are monitoring the situation closely, but need further resources to respond effectively,” he said.

“With some reception sites accommodating more than five times their capacity, protection interventions, particularly prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence including psychosocial services, are critical,” he added.

Development of newly opened settlements areas will also require significant additional investment, and some sites that were opened earlier this year, have now been put on hold due to lack key basic infrastructure and services.

Mr. Edwards also stressed that the high numbers of refugees are creating a burden on local health and education services.

“There are fears that in the event of outbreak of disease, existing capacities and resources will be inadequate to respond effectively,” he said.

Neighbouring countries praised for their support

“[We] commend the generosity of countries that are keeping their borders open and providing South Sudanese refugees with land for settlement,” expressed the UNHCR spokesperson.

“In particular, we applaud Uganda’s generous refugee law and policy regime, which among other benefits grants refugees freedom of movement, the right to seek employment and provides them with plots of land on which to build new homes and to grow agricultural crops,” he added.

Mr. Edwards further noted that the agency appeals to the international community to support countries of asylum to protect and assist South Sudanese refugees.

“Continuing funding shortages will further disadvantage women, children and men who need urgent sustained help to overcome the trauma of forced displacement and get on the path to recovery, self-reliance and human dignity,” he concluded.

(Article copied from UN News: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54671#.V6-2RIUrLnA>)