



## St. Francis High School Model United Nations Academic Team 2017-2018 Information and Application Packet

### **What is SFHS Model United Nations (MUN)?**

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 pre-conference 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 academic training, enhance life skills, and 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
- Understand critical international issues and gain expanded knowledge of political, historical, economic, and sociocultural issues affecting international member states
- Integrate information across disciplines (geography, government, environmental studies, etc)
- Learn the structure, functions, successes and limitations of the United Nations
- Enjoy a very polished addition to college resumes
- Gain experience for college-level research, writing and discussion, as well as college MUN teams

### **Leadership**

Coach: SFHS Registrar, Former MUN Team Member - Ms. Evanne Torrecillas, [etorrecillas@stfrancishs.org](mailto:etorrecillas@stfrancishs.org)

### **Trying out for the 2017-2018 Team**

Team tryouts will be held August 21st, 3:30pm-6:00pm 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 21st and complete the MUN 2017-2018 Team Application. Application follows in this packet and is due on August 21st. If you cannot attend the tryout on August 21st, the application is still due THAT DAY. Email it to Ms. Torrecillas or drop it off in the Guidance office. Individual tryouts involve an interview, impromptu speech exercise, and pre-written essay assignment. All team spots (minus team captain positions) are open. Interested students, including those who have previously served on the team, must tryout for a place on the SFHS MUN team. Team will be announced by Friday, August 25, and the first meeting will be held Monday, August 28.

### **Approximate Costs Associated with the Team**

SFHS MUN Fees to cover Conference Costs (+ meals/snacks)	\$400
Optional SFHS MUN Academic Team Tee Shirt & Sweatshirt	\$28-30, \$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 2017-2018 SFHS MUN Team practices Mondays, beginning August 28, 2017. Students who cannot commit to these weekly meetings cannot participate. Additionally, team members may meet Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 pm for two weeks prior to each competition (TBD). Both conferences are mandatory to pass the class (dates provided below). Team members are also required to attend the Stanford Model UN Conference (November 10-12, 2017) and the UC Berkeley Model UN Conference (March 2-4, 2018). Attendance at these conferences is not only mandatory but also integral to membership on the team and participation in weekly meetings. One capstone project in Spring 2018 will also be required (TBD). Meetings are 3:15pm-5:00pm during Fall semester, and 3:15pm-5:30pm during the Spring.

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. Team captains, determined in spring 2017, are exempt from tryouts.

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 a student know of conflicts in advance, she should contact Ms. Torrecillas as soon as possible to discuss make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to communicate to Ms. Torrecillas the potential conflicts between any extra-curricular 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 10-12, 2017) Participation and Engagement – 25%
- Stanford MUN Position Paper and Research - 15%
- UC Berkeley MUN Conference (March 2-4, 2018) Participation and Engagement – 25%
- UC Berkeley MUN Position Paper and Research - 15%
- Homework, Meeting Attendance, Meeting Participation – 20%

## 2017-2018 SFHS Model United Nations Application (Page 1 of 2)

Complete and bring these pages AND YOUR WRITING SUBMISSION to the 2017-2018 SFHS MUN team tryout on August 21, 2017. Late applications will not be accepted. See the team website at <https://www.stfrancishs.org/page/academics/academic-teams/model-united-nations>.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student *TroubieMail*: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade:  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

**For Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors:** Weighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you don't know it, it's okay)  
(2.0 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:**

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

List all anticipated extra-curricular involvement during the 2017-2018 school year:

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**Please list any food allergies below:**

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**Students—Check the True Statement(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_ I can attend the Stanford MUN Conference November 10-12, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can attend the BMUN Conference March 2-4, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not foresee missing any Monday (3:15-5:30pm) MUN meetings, and I understand that meeting will be held as late as the last week of April 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not foresee missing any Thursday (3:15-5:30pm) MUN meetings in the weeks preceding a conference.

\_\_\_\_\_ I may need to miss at least two Monday MUN Meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to complete a capstone project (service, research, or conference preparation) in Spring 2018.

## 2017-2018 SFHS Model United Nations Application (Page 2 of 2)

### Parents—Check the True Statement(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that, by joining the SFHS Model UN 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. (Parent hours provided)

### Student Initials the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ If accepted onto the SFHS MUN team, I will attend Monday practices, 3:15pm-5:30pm and additional Thursday practices, 3:15pm-5:30pm during weeks preceding competitions. I will be on time and will stay until practice ends. (5:30 ending time begins in January 2018; before that meetings end at 5:00.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand a 2.0 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. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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

**\*\*\*Students: Please ensure your essay response is attached to your application!!\*\*\***

## Essay Instructions

MUN team members demonstrate skills in analysis, research, and writing...and they can follow directions. **Please read these instructions!** Read **ONE** of the articles below. Compose a **short essay (2 pages maximum)** which **briefly summarizes** the article and then answers **2 of the associated questions**. Research to **find at least ONE additional source** which informs your essay. Use footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations as needed--I don't care *how* you cite your source, just cite it! Stick to the page count, as I will **NOT** read past the second page. I'm looking for concise and well-written answers to the questions, evidence of some outside research, and a basic understanding of the article. Please use Times New Roman font, size 12, and double-space the essay. Attach your submission to your application. If you have questions, email me!

### **Article 1: [DR Congo: UN refugee agency sounds alarm as displacement sees no end in Kasai region](#)**

The United Nations refugee agency has alerted the humanitarian community about the violence and continued displacement of civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from the Kasai region where the estimated number of displaced people now exceeds 1.3 million.

"Delivering assistance and protection to internally displaced people is a huge challenge, given the size of the area impacted – the Kasai region is about the size of Germany – but has difficult road conditions and lacks security," said William Spindler, spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the press briefing in Geneva. The conflict in the Kasai region, which started in late 2016 between a local traditional leader – the Kamuina Nsapu – and state authorities, continues to expand, with other armed groups springing up and committing severe human rights abuses against civilians.

Mr. Spindler noted that during recent missions to two provinces bordering the main conflict region, Kwilu and Lualaba, UNHCR's team met some extremely vulnerable new arrivals. "Many said that they spent weeks fleeing through the dense forest without food, drinking water, medicine or clothes and saw people dying on the way, including women and children," he said. He warned that the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation makes the situation particularly worrying, as many children and women fled on their own and some unaccompanied minors are without proper foster care arrangements. The majority of those displaced are being accommodated by host communities, despite limited resources.

UNHCR is strengthening its response on the ground, closely working with national partner organizations to distribute more than 267,000 hot meals daily in five provinces affected by the displacement, namely Kasai, Kasai Central, Kwango, Kwilu and Lualaba. A first distribution of essential household items to some 20,000 vulnerable people in Lualaba province will also start in the coming days, Mr. Spindler said.

#### Article 1 Questions:

- 1) What is causing the "displacement" discussed in the article?
- 2) What steps is the UN taking to address this issue, if any?
- 3) Are there any other countries experiencing similar levels of displacement at this time? Where? Why?

### **Article 2: [Asia-Pacific moving in 'wrong direction' on some development targets, notes UN regional report](#)**

Despite an impressive track record, the Asia-Pacific region will need to scale up development efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the target envisioned, the United Nations development arm for the region has said. "The region is making progress towards achieving the Goals on poverty, education, economic growth, industry and infrastructure, and life below water," Shamshad Akhtar, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), launching a report assessing regional development since 2000. "[But] progress [has been slow] towards achieving food security, agricultural sustainability, good health and well-being for all, and gender equality," she added.

The Asia-Pacific SDGs Baseline report, the first regional measurement methodology of its kind, was launched at the side lines of the ongoing 2017 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at the UN Headquarters, in New York. The report has established a "baseline" for the SDGs through the assessment of regional progress since the turn of the millennium and has identified development gaps still need to be addressed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the key aspects highlighted by the

report is that the region is moving in the “wrong direction” in terms of the targets related to on reducing inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, and ensuring responsible consumption and production. “[This] trend must be reversed to achieve the Goals by 2030,” underscored ESCAP.

Furthermore, the report also noted the areas where data is insufficient or not available to accurately measure progress, such as in areas such as those to analyze the level of inequality. “Data scarcity is a major challenge,” noted Ms. Akhtar in her foreword to the report, highlighting the need for a more integrated and inclusive approach for generating statistics. “Addressing systemic data and statistics gaps for monitoring the SDGs will only be possible if resources are mobilized in a targeted and sustainable way to support the implementation of national strategies for statistical development,” she added.

#### Article 2 Questions:

- 1) What is an example of a country in the Asia-Pacific region which is on track to achieve the Goals on poverty, education, economic growth, industry and infrastructure, and/or life below water? Explain.
- 2) What are the Sustainable Development Goals, and why are they important to the UN?
- 3) What is “data scarcity” and how does it impact the subject of this article?

#### **Article 3: [Aid agencies in Yemen forced to shift resources from fighting hunger to cholera – UN](#)**

Unless the international community contributes \$200 million to address the cholera outbreak in Yemen, the United Nations humanitarian arm will be forced to “reprogram” more resources tagged for malnutrition in the country already facing famine, a senior official today said.

“This unprecedented cholera epidemic would further weaken the resources, and the resilience that people had had over the last two and a half years of this war,” Jamie McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, told journalists in Geneva. There were now 313,538 suspected cases of cholera and 1,732 deaths, according to figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). About 40 per cent of the suspected cases and a quarter of the deaths were among children younger than 15 years old, particularly the malnourished. Older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic health conditions were among the greatest risk for death. “All of this is entirely man-made, as a result of the conflict,” Mr. McGoldrick said by phone from Amman, Jordan. He noted that two million additional people were added to the humanitarian caseload since the start of the year as a result of the cholera outbreak, the looming famine, and the economic collapse.

Humanitarians were not as far ahead as they should be in terms of the cholera response, he noted, mainly due to the fact that they did not have enough resources to expand their operations into areas where health workers were working without pay. “The actual system is in complete collapse,” he said. The UN has received only one-third of the \$2.1 billion it sought to provide food to the millions people facing famine in Yemen; separately, a \$250 million funding appeal on cholera received only \$47 million. “Agencies have had to use resources which they had programmed otherwise, for example for food security or malnutrition,” said Mr. McGoldrick.

Meanwhile, the UN World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) is considering not shipping vaccines tagged for Yemen. “A vaccination way ahead of an outbreak would be useful, but that would imply a huge amount of vaccines, taking into account all the countries where cholera was endemic,” Christian Lindmeier, WHO spokesperson, told journalists.

#### Article 3 Questions:

- 1) How is the UN working to address the outbreak? Name at least one agency involved.
- 2) Are there any other countries currently experiencing or recovering from a cholera outbreak? Briefly summarize the experience of one such country.
- 3) How is the current conflict in Yemen impacting the fight against cholera?