

The Richmond Academy

Gay-Straight Alliance



What is a GSA?

- ∞ A GSA, or **Gay-Straight Alliance**, is a student-lead organisation meant to provide a safe and accepting environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students as well as their straight allies.
- ∞ A GSA is not a “gay club” meant for only gay students. Plenty of straight people join GSAs to help support students of all sexualities and gender identities. Just like you don't have to be a woman to fight for gender equality, **you don't have to be gay to join the GSA.**

The Richmond Academy GSA

⌘ Though exact responsibilities vary from school to school, here at Richmond Academy, the GSA's main focus is **creating a safe space to respect and celebrate difference.**

⌘ **Our mission statement reads:**

- “We the Richmond Academy Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) strive to unify the student body by providing a safe and respectful environment for all regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our mission is to protect the diverse group that is our school community through education and acceptance. We will aim to diminish homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism and encourage absolute equality.”

What Does a GSA Do?

- ☞ Most GSAs organize events to recognize important LGBTQ related dates.
- ☞ GSAs hold assemblies or make presentations to increase awareness in the school.
- ☞ We will sometimes meet with GSAs from other schools to exchange ideas and strategies.
- ☞ Last year, the RA GSA sold bracelets in recognition of the International Day Against Homophobia.

LGBT?

- ∞ LGBT, or sometimes LGBTQ, is the initialism for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, (questioning)”.
- ∞ **Lesbian/Gay:** Someone who is attracted to a person of the same sex; homosexual.
- ∞ **Bisexual:** Someone who is attracted to both sexes.
- ∞ **Transgender:** A person who changes gender identities (i.e. someone born male who lives as a female).
- ∞ **Questioning :** Someone unsure of their sexuality or gender identity.

Other Terms

- ∞ **Homophobia:** an illogical dislike of homosexuality and/or homosexuals.
- ∞ **Transphobia:** an illogical dislike of transgender and/or transsexual peoples.
- ∞ **Biphobia:** an illogical dislike of bisexuality and/or bisexuals.
- ∞ **Heterosexism:** a false belief that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities.
- ∞ **Heterosexual:** a person who is attracted to the opposite sex; straight.

Where to Find Us

- ∞ The RA GSA meets every Monday in the Youth Health Centre at lunch time.
- ∞ Stop by Mrs. MacMillan's (the guidance counsellor) office or come find one of the current GSA members.
- ∞ The GSA is a place for all students – gay, straight, gender questioning, and everything in between – to help make a change in our school. Everyone is welcome!

∞ **TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE =
Richmond Academy GSA**