



FORT SETTLEMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL · 2025-26

Digital Design Club

Founded, taught, branded, and run by **Aariv Patel**. A sixteen-meeting design program for students in grades 6 through 8.

And a proposal to build the same program at Dulles High School.



AARIV PATEL

I'm ready to run this club at Dulles High School, where I'm now a freshman. All it needs is **a DHS teacher willing to sponsor it.**

71

applications received, grades 6-8

16

meetings held, August to March

167

slides written, across 14 presentations

100%

of surveyed students would recommend the club

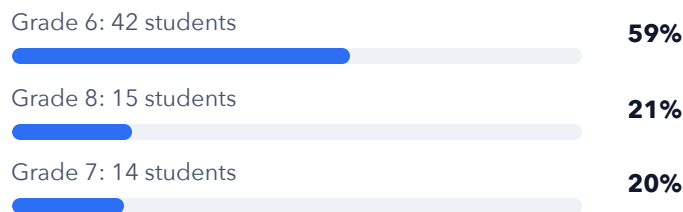


I wanted a design club at my school, so I built one.

In the summer before eighth grade I wrote a proposal, found a teacher willing to sponsor it, and started recruiting. I designed the logo, the poster, and the interest-meeting presentation myself.

Seventy-one students applied. Most were sixth graders, and 34 of the 71 had never used a design tool or called themselves beginners. I selected 20 to 25 and kept the club that size on purpose, so every member got real feedback on their work.

WHO APPLIED



29

called themselves
beginners

18

had never used a
design tool

40

came to the interest
meeting

Out of 71 applications, self-reported.

SIXTEEN MEETINGS, BUILT TO STACK

AUG-SEP	Foundations. Composition, colour, type, hierarchy, grids, export and accessibility
OCTOBER	Canva. Core tools, brand kits, social graphics
NOV-DEC	Image editing. Retouching, cutouts, clipping masks, and a timed winter challenge
JAN-FEB	Brand and interface. Logos and colour systems in Canva, then that same product's website in Figma
FEB-MAR	Final project. Four briefs on one shared rubric, a work day, peer judging, then a showcase

- The **whole year was scheduled and published up front**
- A **Schoology group** held materials and assignments
- **Permission slips** collected before students took part
- **Attendance every meeting**, and a **survey every quarter**



The recruitment poster I designed and posted around the school. The sign-up QR code and short link have been removed from this copy.



They told me what they wanted. I changed the program.

I surveyed the club three times and changed it after every one. Each of these changes is visible in the published calendar.

STUDENTS SAID

Asked what they wanted to learn next, **13 of 16** chose Figma, more than every other option combined.



SO I

Added **two Figma workshops** to the spring calendar, in January and February.

STUDENTS SAID

The most repeated request across all three surveys was **more time to build**.



SO I

Scheduled a dedicated **Work Day** with no new content, just build time and one-to-one help.

STUDENTS SAID

They wanted **more choice** and more chances to work with a partner.



SO I

Wrote **four final-project briefs**, all scored on one shared rubric so the choice stayed fair.

100%

of surveyed students would recommend it to a friend

100%

of surveyed students felt ready for the final project

4.47

highest-rated workshop, out of 5

14

final projects submitted and judged

ADVISOR ENDORSEMENT

"One of the most outstanding student leaders I have had the privilege to work with... [He was] not only responsible for starting and leading meetings, but [he] also ensured that each session was purposeful, engaging, and well-structured."

Talton Edmond Sr., CTE Instructor and Digital Design Club Advisor, Fort Settlement Middle School · May 2026

Excerpted from the signed recommendation letter. Contact details removed.

[READ IT IN FULL](#)

aariv.studio/recommendation.pdf

The complete signed letter.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION



The club was given its own dedicated page in the Fort Settlement yearbook. Cropped to the section showing me teaching a Figma layout lesson.



I'd like to do it again at Dulles, and do it better.

The program below is written, tested and ready to run. I need a faculty sponsor and the club application form, and I can take it from there.

THE PROGRAM

WHEN	Every other week after school, 60 minutes
WHO	Grades 9-12, all skill levels, no experience needed
TOOLS	Canva and Figma only. Both free in a browser, both free for education
ARC	Brand a product in Canva, then design its website in Figma
COST	\$0 in software and materials
ENDS	A final project on a shared rubric, then a showcase

WHAT'S DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR

- **Two tools instead of three**, with more time on each
- **More build time** in every session, which is what students asked for most
- **Attendance and completion recorded** from the first meeting

IF THIS MOVES FORWARD

STEP 1

A **faculty sponsor** identified, and the club application form

STEP 2

The application **submitted and approved**, a room and a day confirmed

STEP 3

Recruitment, an **interest meeting**, sign-ups, permission slips

STEP 4

First session, then **every other week** through the year

What I'd need from Dulles

- A **faculty sponsor** in the room, holding supervision and approval authority
- A room with student devices, every other week after dismissal
- The school's standard club approval and any required forms

What I bring

- The **full curriculum**, already written and already taught once
- Every lesson shared with the sponsor **before** the session
- The identity, briefs, templates, rubric and survey system, plus a **quarterly written report**

What the club gives back

Once trained, members take on real design work for the school: posters for other clubs, event graphics, logos. They build portfolio pieces for a real audience instead of practice files.

WANT THE DETAIL?

aariv.studio/portfolio-full.pdf

Full survey data and the whole curriculum.