

Greenville Middle School

Co-Curricular Code

Please sign last page of this form and return to the office!

I. Middle School Philosophy -

The mission of middle level athletics and other co-curricular activities is to provide an enjoyable educational experience for young adolescents based on their developmental characteristics and needs. The development of the young adolescents' self esteem, citizenship, responsibility and skills in cooperative and leadership behaviors are positive outcomes of middle level programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous and safe and should occur in a positive climate with appropriate adult leadership and support. Effective middle level programs are coordinated with other school and community activities to offer additional opportunities for young adolescents to explore varied interests. Middle level athletics/co-curricular activities are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school and community to work together.

II. Definition of Co-Curricular Activities -

Co-curricular activities include any school-related activity that is offered outside of academic class requirements. The following list is not exclusive:

Clubs and Activities:

Girls' Chorus,
Jazz Band,
Show Choir,
Forensics,
Student Council,
Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl,
Cheerleading,
Solo / Ensemble,
Newspaper,
Yearbook, and
Student Council sponsored activities:
Roller-skating, ski trips, fun nights, etc.

Athletics:

Football,
Volleyball,
Basketball,
Wrestling,
Track,
Cross Country

III. Goals of Athletic / Co-curricular Programs -

At the middle school level, all interested students are encouraged to participate and some performance time is assured. A "no-cut" policy applies except for music co-curricular activities where tryouts are necessary. Participation is emphasized; winning is not the sole objective. A student is covered by this code while he/she is a student at Greenville Middle School. The student is expected to follow all school rules and to display high standards of behavior, including good sportsmanship, respect for others, and use of appropriate language and dress at all times.

Program Goal 1

Athletics and co-curricular activities at the middle school are a privilege. In order to be eligible to participate, a student must meet district identified academic and behavioral standards. See Student Responsibilities A -F.

Program Goal 2

The developmental characteristics of young adolescents should provide the foundation for middle level athletic program philosophy and goals.

- A) Programs should provide a variety of activities that allow for participation and exploration. Emphasis should be on development of individual skills and cooperative group behaviors.
- B) Athletics/co-curricular activities should offer an opportunity for young adolescents to transfer and reinforce learning from academic areas while improving social, emotional and physical skills.
- C) "Fun" is an important reason given by young adolescents for participating in athletics and co-curricular activities. Young adolescents are not varsity level or professional athletics.
- D) Participation in all programs for young adolescents would build positive self-esteem.

Program Goal 3

Coaches, advisors, parents, athletic directors, administrators, school board members and community leaders need to be knowledgeable about the characteristics and need of young adolescents, as well as appropriate coaching strategies and role model behaviors for them. The program's philosophy and expectations would be supported by all those involved in the program.

- A) Adults who coach middle level athletics must support district wide policies and regulations.
- B) Middle level athletic programs should not be a "feeder system" for high school teams.
- C) The school district and/or community program must provide support for coaches, particularly when parents question coaching practices that follow the program's philosophy and objectives.
- D) Abusive and foul language has no place in athletic/co-curricular programs. Coaches, parents, participants and fans must recognize their responsibility to model appropriate behavior for young adolescents.
- E) Equipment and facilities should be specifically designed to provide for a safe and healthy athletic experience for the young adolescent.

Program Goal 4

Programs should promote behaviors that include cooperation, sportsmanship, and personal improvement. Winning is not the primary goal of the program.

- A) Middle level athletics should reward positive effort regardless of the outcome of the game.
- B) Awards and certificates should reward participation not individual accomplishments or team standings. All-star teams, most valuable player, trophies, plaques, and individual recognition will not be permitted. At the completion of the season coaches may report win/loss records but not conference standings.

Program Goal 5

The athletic/co-curricular program should be open to all young adolescents and provide a positive experience. All young adolescents should have the opportunity to

participate, play and experience skill improvement. Formation of teams should be determined by the number of young adolescents interested in the program.

- A) A well-designed athletic program responds to a variety of needs. Program directors, coaches, parents, community members and teammates need to know that youths participate in sports for many reasons. Coaches must be sensitive to the individual needs of participants.
- B) When large numbers of young adolescents are involved in an athletic program, coaches should include all team members as equally as possible.

Program Goal 6

Each activity should have a predetermined season. Athletic activities, including practice schedules, should be flexible with concern for student conflicts and family schedules. Schedules should allow young adolescents to participate in a variety of programs, including non-athletic activities.

- A) The length of seasons and number of contests per season should be designed to provide young adolescents the opportunity to participate in a number of different activities. At this age, young adolescents should not focus on any one activity, sport or other interest. Adolescents need experiences that encompass a wide range of activities. This should be a period of exploration rather than specialization.
- B) Scheduling activities for young adolescents during evening hours on school nights should not be a common practice.

IV. Student Responsibilities

In order to provide opportunities for personal growth, skill development, socialization, and competitive experience, the Greenville Middle School staff provides a variety of co-curricular activities and strongly encourages student participation. We feel that these supplemental activities are extremely beneficial to the whole educational process. Student involvement in co-curricular activities is considered to be a privilege that carries with it a number of expectations and responsibilities. Co-curricular activities are provided to all students who are willing to accept these responsibilities.

In order to be assets to school, the community, and themselves, students are expected to maintain appropriate academic performance levels, meet participation requirements, attend school regularly, dress appropriately and conduct themselves properly by displaying high standards of behavior. They must also meet the W.I.A.A. eligibility requirements.

- A) **Academic Requirements:** All students will be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities for the first 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks of school; thereafter, the following will apply:
 - 1. A student with 2 or more failing grades at mid-quarter or each nine week grading period will be ineligible to participate in any co-curricular activity for 10 regularly scheduled school days. The office will set the exact date ineligibility will commence for the mid-quarter. Ineligibility for the quarter will begin on the first school day of the new quarter.
 - 2. A student will be eligible for practice and /or participation on the 11th regularly scheduled school day provided the student has

completed the form indicating he/she is no longer failing any class. The student is encouraged to pick up the form in the office. During the 10 day time frame, the student must work to pass all classes and acquire the teacher's initials indicating the student is no longer failing. The student must turn in the completed form to the office.

3. If not eligible on the 11th school day, he /she will be ineligible for the remainder of the quarter.
4. Transfer students will be eligible. Ineligibility will be determined at mid quarter or end of the quarter.

B) All **WIAA regulations** will apply and are available upon request.

1. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in a non-school game, meet, or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school.

C) Participation Requirements:

1. The office must have on file the co-curricular form signed by the student and his/her parent(s) indicating they have read and understood the Co-Curricular Code.
2. Before practicing an athletic activity, we must have on file in the office the Athletic Physical Card or Alternate Year Athletic Permit Card signed by a licensed physician.
3. If co-curricular participants are on Honor Level 3, they may practice, but not participate in any games and/or contests until they are back on Level 1 or 2.
4. If co-curricular participants are on Honor Level 4, they may not practice or participate in any games and / or contests until they are back on Level 1, 2 or 3.
5. Only students who are on Honor Level 1 or 2 may be spectators at games / events.
6. Adhere to all school regulations regarding eligibility.

D) Attendance Requirements

1. Students must be in attendance for one-half of the school day to participate in that day's activity. Permission may be granted for extenuating circumstances.
2. Lack of attendance at practices may affect the student's eligibility to participate in scheduled competitions.

E) Dress Requirements

1. Appropriate dress and grooming for any student participating in home or away activities is the responsibility of the student and is up to the discretion of the coach / advisor.

F) Conduct Requirements - A participant must refrain from any conduct that would reflect unfavorably on him/her or the school.

1. Any student whose habits and/or conduct, namely the use or possession of controlled substances, alcoholic or tobacco products, and any other conduct which does not represent the ideals, principles, and standards such as respect, courtesy, and good citizenship of Greenville Middle School may be suspended from further participation by the administration for whatever period of time deemed appropriate for the misconduct. Any student with an AODA

issue will automatically receive at least a one game suspension.

2. Examples of conduct that would reflect unfavorably includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Drug abuse, including sale, possession or illegal use. Drug paraphernalia, possession or use.
 - b. Use, possession or purchase of alcoholic beverages
 - c. Use or possession of tobacco in any form
 - d. Profanity or obscene gestures
 - e. Insubordination while involved in an activity.
 - f. A criminal offense or violation of an ordinance having a statutory counterpart.
 - g. Acts of vandalism
 - h. Presence in a bar or tavern without the student's parents present
 - i. Knowingly present where alcohol is being served illegally.
 - j. Knowingly in the presence of illegal drugs or controlled substances
 - k. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. Incidents of minor misconduct or poor behavior while participating in an activity will be handled by the coach and / or advisor. Violations will be reported to the principal.
4. Any violation that is not addressed in this code will be dealt with appropriately by school authorities.

G) Process of Informing Participants of Ineligibility

1. Students will be notified of ineligibility from the office or coach / advisor.

H) Process of Regaining Eligibility

1. During the 10 day ineligibility time frame, students will obtain a form from the office and will acquire the teacher's initials which indicate the student is passing the class and will turn in the completed form to the office.
2. The office / coach / advisor will notify the student he/she has regained eligibility.

I) Concerns Procedure

1. Talk to the coach / advisor at an appropriate time. Please do not approach a coach during a game. The coach and athletes need to stay positively focused on the game. An intervention could be upsetting to the athlete, coach, or parent. An appropriate time would be before or after practice or call the coach and set up an appointment.
2. Talk to the principal. If necessary a meeting can be arranged with the child, parent, coach / advisor, and administrator.

