

ST. MARY'S CODE OF CONDUCT

A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Participation in extracurricular activities at St. Mary's should enhance and complement the school's education program. The elements of competition and winning should always be secondary to academics. Participation is a privilege that carries responsibilities for the student. Set academic goals high and become a part of a winning team.

St. Mary's is fortunate to have so many caring individuals who give their time to help the students. Without parent and player commitments, the dedication of coaches, and the support of the staff of St. Mary's, the students would not have the opportunity to compete in forensics or music competitions, play basketball or volleyball, or practice in track and field.

As the new school year begins, let's remember grades and conduct determine eligibility to participate.

WHAT ARE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

An extracurricular activity is defined as "participation in an activity that is not academically required by the curriculum." St. Mary's extracurricular activities are:

- Volleyball
- Football (through Marathon High School)
- Cross Country (through Marathon High School)
- Wrestling (through Marathon High School)
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Cheerleading (if enough interest)
- Music Solo/Ensemble Competitions
- Brains and Brawn Competition
- Forensics Competitions
- Academic Competitions

INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPANTS POLICY

Athletics and extracurricular activities should enhance and complement the school's activities which provide experience to help boys and girls develop a Christian attitude toward cooperation and competition as well as to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, should always be secondary to striving to create a Christian environment, exemplified by the following:

- Friendship exchanges before and after games.
- Respect and positive sportsmanship when speaking to coaches, referees, judges, parents, players and spectators of all teams.
- Encouragement given to teammates and opponents when mistakes are made.
- Willingness to improve team play by having all players participate.
- Acceptance of all players regardless of ability level.
- Promotion of team and school spirit.
- Graciousness in winning or losing.

Participation in athletics/extracurricular activities, both as a competitor and as a spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experience. Participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community, and to the student.

All spectators of school sponsored athletic/academic activities are expected to model and uphold the values of Christian sportsmanship.

PARENT/PLAYER CONCERNS – ADMINISTRATIVE RECOURSE

Please respect the order of discourse when addressing concerns:

1. Step One: contact the coach.
2. Step Two: contact the athletic director. Miss Wirkus, the athletic director, is in charge of all school athletic programs and should be contacted concerning issues not able to be resolved at a lower level. Meeting between the parties involved may be required.
3. Step Three: contact the principal. Again, a meeting between the parties involved may be required.
4. Step Four: contact the Pastor.
5. Step Five: in situations when a parent/student is not satisfied with decisions made by those listed above, the process of administrative recourse as outlined on the last page of the Parent/Student Handbook should be initiated.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

Each student must have an up-to-date physical examination card on file in the school office prior to beginning practice for any athletic activity.

Students are required to keep their school work up to acceptable academic standards. A student can be suspended from the above activities for three reasons:

1. Grade Eligibility

Academic eligibility is determined as follows:

- Not having more than two unacceptable grades (defined as a "D" or "U").
- When filing for reinstatement, all late work in the courses where there is an unacceptable grade needs to be completed and acceptable, as well as fulfilling the grade requirements in this section.

Eligibility Basis

Activities Eligibility will be based off of grades during the activity's season:

Fall (Cross Country, Football and Volleyball) – Q1 midterms

Fall and Winter I (Boys' Basketball) – Q1 grades, Q2 midterms

Fall and Winter II (Wrestling) – Q2 midterms, Q2 grades

Winter eligibility (Girls' Basketball) – Q2 grades, Q3 midterms

Spring (Track) – Q3 grades, Q4 midterms

Solo Ensemble, Forensics, and Academic Bowl – midterm and quarter grades during practice and meet dates.

Eligibility Communication

The notification of ineligibility will be given to the parents and coaches, and a private conversation will happen with the student. During that conversation, the student will be given a reinstatement form. The student will need to hand in all late work in the courses where there is an unacceptable grade (defined as a “D” or “U”) and not have more than one unacceptable grade. When a student feels this has occurred he/she will hand the reinstatement form to the teacher(s) of the courses they are getting a “D” or “U” in who will then mark the current grade and then sign and date the form. When the form is completed it will be returned by the student to the AD or principal who will determine if the student should be reinstated. If reinstated, that student can participate immediately in activities. When a student gets reinstated, the parent will be contacted as well as the student and coach.

Ineligibility after a midterm grade can be regained any time all late work is handed in and the current grades are acceptable. Students cannot regain eligibility after a poor quarter grade until two weeks into the next quarter when a sufficient amount of work is attained to gain a quarter grade.

2. If a student receives three (3) check marks within a semester, the student will serve detention and may be suspended from participation. (The check mark system applies to 6, 7, and 8th grade students **only**.)

If a student is continually disruptive in class, destroys school property, harms a fellow student or has blatant disrespect for authority, a student may be suspended from participation.

**The principal and athletic director will determine if a suspension is to occur and the length of time to be served.*

3. A student must be in class for 4 consecutive periods (not including lunch), unless they have a pre-excused absence (mainly for appointments).

DISQUALIFICATION FROM PARTICIPATION

A student disqualified from participation in a sports activity:

- May attend practice for the sport, but may not physically participate in the practice.
- May attend the game, but may not suit up or play in the game.

Parents will be supported if they decide to remove an athlete from practice or games for standards set at home or school.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS – COACH AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

There is NO practice, nor competition without proper adult supervision.

- 1) **Coaches** are responsible to supervise students following practices and games.
- 2) **Parents** are responsible to drop off and pick up their child at the designated times. Parents are asked not to leave their child unattended. Parents are reminded to be prompt in picking up their child following practices and games so as not to impose extra duty on the coach. In situations when parents are chronically late in picking up their child from practices or games, or are consistently bringing their child earlier than the designated time, a conference with the parent will be required and a possible suspension from future participation may be implemented.
- 3) Students are allowed to stay after school only if the practice/game is scheduled for the time immediately following the end of the school day, 3:00 or 3:15 PM. However, a coach needs to be present for the athletes to go in the locker room and begin practice. Students are not allowed to stay after school to wait for later practices.
- 4) On days that school is closed due to severe weather conditions all games or practices are to be cancelled.

REGULATION OF PARTICIPATION

Tournament Teams

Notification will be sent to parents/guardians of students selected to play on a St. Mary's Sports/Academic Tournament Team. Teams are selected by recommendations of coaches, teachers, and the athletic director. Consideration is given not only to skill level, but also to cooperation, sportsmanship and positive attitude. Parent permission must be obtained for a child to participate on a tournament team. Participation on a tournament team may require additional practices. Tournament team members are subject to all athletic eligibility requirements concerning academics, conduct, etc.

Absences from Practices

Any absence from practice may result in loss of playing time for the next scheduled game or meet. Parents are required to contact the coach prior to absences from games or practices. Students are expected to be at all practices. Conflicts with practice schedules should be resolved between the coach and the parent.

GUIDELINES FOR PLAY TIME

All students in Grades 5 – 8 should start at least two games, provided they do not miss practice and are attentive and cooperative during practices. This applies to regular season games and not to tournaments.

Basketball Grades 5 and 6: Every player should be playing in one of the two 20 minute halves in regular season games, provided practice, attendance and behavior expectations are met. This is the ideal, but may not always be possible during tournament play.

Basketball Grades 7 and 8: Each player should receive some playing time in regular season games, as determined by practice attendance, attitude and effort.

Tournaments: Due to the competitive nature of a tournament, winning is our goal. Each player should receive some playing time in the tournament, provided practice requirements were met, but there will not be equal playing time.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENT

Work Requirement: It is school policy that all parents of athletes in grades 5 – 8 are required to work at school sponsored athletic events. Parents with athletes at these levels are asked to sign up on a workers schedule. Parents will be assigned a shift and specific duties such as admissions, concessions, etc. This is a *mandatory* requirement. Parents are responsible to find appropriate **adult** substitute workers in the event they are unable to fulfill this obligation.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I give my son or daughter permission to participate in extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

I will assume responsibility for the equipment issued to my son or daughter which shall be returned to the school after completion of the extracurricular activity.

I fully realize that the school does not provide any insurance coverage. I have read and understand St. Mary's Code of Conduct and I have explained the Code of Conduct to my son or daughter. Please complete the next page and return to the school office.

Return Signed Permission Slip before start of season

PERMISSION FORM

I have read and understand St. Mary's Code of Conduct and I give my son/daughter,
_____ homeroom _____ permission to
participate in the following extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

- _____ Cheerleading (Grades 7 and 8) (If enough interest)
- _____ Cross Country (Grades 6 – 8) *Offered through High School*
- _____ Volleyball (Grades 6 – 8)
- _____ Football (Grade 7 and 8) *Offered through High School*
- _____ Wrestling (Grades 5 – 8) *Offered through High School*
- _____ Basketball (Grades 5 – 8)
- _____ Track and Field (Grades 6 – 8)
- _____ Solo/Ensemble Music Contests (Grades 7 and 8)
- _____ Forensics Competitions
- _____ Academic Teams

Parent Signature _____
Date

Phone

Please let us know if you might be interested in coaching:

Name _____

Sport _____

Grade _____ **Boys** _____ **Girls** _____