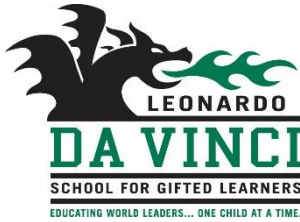


**ALDO
LEOPOLD**



**COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**



Green Bay Area Public School District



Middle School Activities & Athletic Parent Handbook

Green Bay Area Public Schools

Middle School Activities/Athletics Parent Handbook

PHILOSOPHY

The development of the young adolescent's self-esteem, citizenship, responsibility, and skills in cooperative and leadership behaviors are positive outcomes of appropriate middle school athletic/activity programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous, and safe and should occur in a positive climate with appropriate adult role models, leadership and support. Effective middle school athletic/activity programs are coordinated with other school and community activities to offer additional opportunities for young adolescents to explore varied interests. Middle school athletics & activities are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school, and community to work together.

The athletic/activity programs offered to the students by the Green Bay Area Public School are designed and implemented with the belief that students should develop physically, socially, mentally and emotionally. Recognizing athletics and activities as a vital part of the public education, the middle school athletic/activity program exists to provide opportunity for all students to develop responsibility, self-reliance, self-esteem, and heightened cultural awareness. Thus, success of any athletic/activity program is measured, not only by well-coached students performing optimally, but also by degree to which sportsmanship and leadership goals are nurtured and realized. The Green Bay Area Public Schools takes pride in supporting an athletic/activity program, which continuously reinforces the values of good sportsmanship, sound mental health, self-discipline, personal commitment, and team pride, enthusiasm, loyalty and school spirit.

Goals of the Athletic/Activity Program:

- To build self-esteem
- To develop skills
- To expand interest in participating in high school athletics
- To love to compete and honor their opponents, the officials, and the rules of the game
- To provide opportunities for personal and social growth
- To encourage all students to participate
- To persist in the face of failure
- To develop self-discipline
- To care about excellence, both excellence of athletic performance and excellence of character
- To develop leadership

Objectives of the Athletic/Activity Program:

- Participation in athletics and activities shall be available to any student expressing a desire to be involved.
- The values of good sportsmanship and dynamics of teamwork shall be stressed constantly.

- The importance of teaching young students how to give and receive recognition shall be incorporated into practices and competitions.
- The interaction of special friendships and the impact of adult role models should always be a part of the awareness of those working with young students.
- Students shall be challenged to strive for the highest level of excellence for each student as they participate and compete.
- Students shall be given the opportunity to explore the capabilities of their changing physical make-up, with the recognition of the potential for further physical growth.

ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY PROGRAMS



Fall Sports

7th & 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball
 6th - 8th Grade CO-ED Soccer
 6th - 8th Grade CO-ED Cross Country
 7th & 8th Grade Football

Winter Sports

7th & 8th Boys' Basketball
 7th & 8th Girls' Basketball
 6th - 8th Grade CO-ED Wrestling



Spring Sports

6th Grade Boys & Girls' Basketball
 6th - 8th Grade Track
 6th - 8th Grade Girls' Softball



Clubs/Activities

Art Club
 Battle of the Books
 Book Club
 Board Game Club
 Cheerleading/Dance
 Forensics
 Honors Band

Link Crew
 Musical/Play
 Running/Strength Club
 Sting Cancer
 Student Council
 Talent Show
 Tech Crew

For the complete list of Co-curricular Activities available at your school, please go to your middle school's Athletic and Activities website.



EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!!!

The nature of interscholastic athletics & activities creates the opportunity for a special relationship between parents and their sons or daughters, as well as between the parent, student, coach/advisor and school. Parent support and encouragement are vital to students' learning and success. Responsible parents make a key difference in their child's athletic & activity experience. When you look back on your experience, what do you remember? What do you think your kids will remember when they look back on their experience? As it turns out, many children remember their parents. You play a larger-than-life role in your child's co-curricular experience. They look to you in the stands for your approval - and check your face to see if you're disappointed when they make a mistake. They look for you when they win, and they seek your solace when they lose. You have enormous power to help your kids translate the lessons of sports to valuable life lessons - if you seize the opportunity.

- Use athletics & activities to talk about goal setting.
- Use athletics & activities to talk about how to handle disappointment.
- Use athletics & activities to focus your kids on getting back up and trying again.
- Use athletics & activities to teach your kids about teamwork and teammates.
- Use athletics & activities to teach perseverance.
- Use athletics & activities to help kids understand that feedback does not equal failure.

What Children Want From Their Parents During Competition/Performance:

- Support and encouragement
- To let them know you are proud of them
- Tell them "You love watching them play or perform," no matter the outcome
- Praise for their efforts
- Understanding of their sport/activity and show an interest in being involved
- Have realistic expectations of their abilities
- Give the athletes time and space after games or activity

What Children Don't Want From Their Parents

- To yell at them during or after the game
- Swearing
- Abuse of the referee or coach
- Being pushy and pressuring
- Being critical
- Inappropriate behavior, "don't embarrass me"

What Children Want From the Activity:

- To have fun
- To learn and improve
- Being with their friends

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES AND ADVISORS

The role of the coach/advisor in the Green Bay Area Public School District is first and foremost to teach. The principles of instruction, which are emphasized in the classroom, are also emphasized in all school programs. These include attention to respect, honesty, self-esteem, self-confidence, discipline, sportsmanship, integrity, teamwork, and skill building.

- Coaches/Advisors are responsible to provide the training and development necessary to allow each student the opportunity to learn and perform at his/her highest potential.
- Coaches/Advisors are responsible for all school equipment assigned to them
- Coaches/Advisors are responsible for the behavior and discipline of themselves and their teams at practices and games
- Coaches/Advisors are to ensure that their teams abide by current athletic and school policies.
- Coaches/Advisors are expected to have open communication with parents as needed.
- Coaches/Advisors are responsible to ensure that eligible student athletes/participants who suit up for a contest have playing time except for illness or disciplinary reasons.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

GBAPS Middle Schools will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct by ANY of its participants. This includes spectators, coaches, athletes and student spectators.

If a spectator, parent, or student is observed acting inappropriately, the administration will respond accordingly. If the situation can't be resolved amicably, that spectator may be asked to leave by an official, school personnel, administrator, or school resource officer (SRO). That spectator may forfeit his/her privilege of attending future contests - either home or away. If removed from a game, the spectator MAY have an opportunity to meet with school administration to try to resolve the issue. If the spectator attempts to attend future contests without resolving the issue, he/she may be ask to leave the premises until the meeting occurs.

If an athlete or participant acts inappropriately the coach/advisor is expected to take immediate action. This may include suspension for the remainder of the game/contest or longer. Behavioral expectations and team rules will be outlined and discussed prior to the season or activity.

If a coach/advisor acts inappropriately, the coach/advisor will be dealt with by the Activities Director (AD) or administrator. If an assistant coach/advisor acts in an improper manner, he/she will be dealt with by the head coach/advisor first, then if needed, the Activities Director or administration. Coaches/Advisors are expected to set strong examples and should model expected behavior at all times!!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL AND PRACTICE

Students are expected to be at practice every day. If for some reason students must miss practice, they are expected to inform the coach/advisor **AHEAD OF TIME!**

Missing Practice

Athletes/participants should consult his/her coach/advisor before missing practice. Unexcused absences from a practice or contests may result in reduced playing time or performance in future contests or suspension or dismissal from the team/group. When a participant has not been excused and doesn't show for a practice, you will be notified by phone that same evening informing you that your child didn't attend practice for safety reasons.

Conflict with Other Activities

Students participating in several co-curricular activities may be in a position of conflicting obligations. The Activities Director recognizes that students should have a broad range of experiences and, as such, will attempt to schedule events to minimize conflicts. However, students may be required to make choices in the event of conflicting activities to get the most benefit from all aspects of the educational experience.

TRYOUTS/CUTTING

It is GBAPS philosophy that **NO** athlete or participant will be cut. We want **ALL** of our co-curricular participants to have an opportunity to experience the sport or activity they choose. Each activity is unique and there may be limitations to the extent that budget, facilities, quality of experience or type of activity allows, but every attempt will be made to include each student in that activity. Every coach/advisor has the responsibility and authority for selecting his or her team/group. The criteria for selecting the team/group are developed by the coach/advisor. The coach/advisor will be able to provide you with what is required for your specific sport/activity.

PLAYING TIME

The amount of playing/participation time for any individual student-participant is at the discretion of the coaching/advisor. This is often determined by hard work, motivation, and positive attitude displayed during practice. Coaches/Advisors will make every effort to maximize participation, but this might not be possible for every contest. Participants concerned about their amount of playing time should speak directly to the head coach/advisor.

GRADES/GRADES ELIGIBILITY/GRADING SHEETS

We expect our co-curricular participants to be responsible students. Two or more F's will result in not being able to play in a game or activity, until **ALL** F's have been brought up. Students will

not be eligible to practice if they have 3 or more F's, until at least 2 are D's. Grades will be checked every week! It is the player's responsibility to have the grade sheet turned in by practice on Friday. Not turning in a sheet will result in a loss of playing time or participating in their activity.

GOOD PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION - WHAT TO DO WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE

Communication is the key link among students, parents, coaches, advisors, and administration. To maintain good lines of communication, we ask that you consider the following guidelines. The first contact should be for the student to talk to the coach or advisor regarding his/her concern. If the concern or issue is not resolved, then we ask that you contact the persons listed below when working through a concern or issue in the order provided:

1. Coach of the Sport/Activities
2. Activities Director
3. Building Principal

Topics of a Meeting:

- How your child is feeling mentally and/or physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Advanced notice of schedule conflicts
- Understanding your child's playing or participation time

Please call the school and set up a meeting with the coach/advisor.

SUSPENSIONS/REFERRALS

It is District policy that if a student has been suspended, whether in-school or out-of-school, the student is not allowed on any Green Bay Area School campus. With that said, when a student is suspended, that student is NOT allowed to participate in practice or games. They are also NOT allowed to travel with the team or sit on the bench when a contest takes place either on the road or at home. The student will miss the NEXT game; whether it is on the same day of the suspension or the upcoming contest. When participant receives a 2nd suspension, the participant can no longer participate on the team or club. When the participant receives a referral or multiple referrals, coaches & advisors are expected to limit the participant's playing time in a game or contest. It is up to the coaches' or advisors' discretion of how the time will be limited.

CONCUSSIONS

Head safety and concussions have become an ever-growing concern. If there is any suspicion of a concussion or other head injury, the coach will remove the player from play and ensure there is no return to practice or games until the Bellin Athletic Trainer or a doctor has cleared the student for further participation.

RETURN TO PLAY AFTER INJURY

If an athlete is injured or has a concussion and sees the Bellin Athletic Trainer or a doctor, a "return to play" form signed by the Bellin Trainer or the physician is required before allowing the athlete to compete in practice or games.

TEAM TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Students are transported to all games by school district buses. Students are expected to ride the bus to and from the game. Coaches are responsible for all students traveling on the school bus. For contests outside the school district, transportation will also be provided for the return trip to the school.

Taking Children from the Game/Performance Site

If parents want to transport their son/daughter home following a contest, permission must be granted in writing prior to the day of the game. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to fill out a Transportation form, available in the office, before the day of the contest and return it to the school office.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

When the students are sent home during the day due to inclement weather, all after-school activities will be cancelled. When schools close due to inclement weather, all games, practices and activities will be cancelled and rescheduled for a later date. Please check with the main office if concerned that weather may affect team practices or games. Decisions are usually made by 1 pm if weather is a concern.

- - - GAME/PERFORMANCE DAY TIPS FOR PARENTS - - -

Before a contest:

- Tell your child "I love watching you play/perform".
- Tell your child you love them regardless of outcome.
- You don't need to tell your child that winning doesn't matter because they know it has some meaning. Instead, help them to develop a healthy competitive attitude for trying hard and having fun.
- Tell your child to "go for it, give it your best shot."

During the contest:

- Don't yell instructions at your child during the game/contest. The coach/advisor has given them instructions; too much input is confusing. They need one "instructional voice".
- Cheer and acknowledge good play by both teams.
- Never criticize a mistake, only make motivational comments.
- Respect the decisions made by the officials. Your child will learn to respect authority by seeing you do the same

After the contest:

- Thank the officials and the coaches
- Congratulate your child and his/her teammates on their efforts and hustle.
- Compliment individual players on good plays they made during the game.
- Focus on the way your child played rather than winning or losing.
- If your child is upset with losing, help them not to focus on the outcome.
- Give your child the time and space they need to recover from the game or contest.

During the car ride home:

- Point out a good play your child made during the game.
- Avoid criticizing or correcting mistakes
- Let your child TELL YOU about the game or contest.
- Ask questions like:
 - Did you have fun and give your best effort playing today?
 - Did you play better this week or what do you need to work on?