



RONAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK
2017-2018

A) Introduction

Ronan Middle School strongly believes in the middle school philosophy of education which is a child-centered approach and allows for each student to experience a variety of opportunities without having to specialize in one area.

Our goal in athletics is to have a no-cut policy in all sports whenever possible.

- 1) The nature of some sports prohibits full participation, such as basketball and volleyball. Basketball allows for only 5 athletes to play at one time and volleyball allows for only 6.
- 2) Gym space and availability are restrictive.
- 3) Scheduling of practices, home games, concerts, and plays often interfere.

Middle School Athletics Guidelines

The philosophy of the middle school athletic programs is that all players will have the opportunity to participate and learn basic fundamental skills in each sport.

Games are not the only time that players get better. It is important that at practice, players earn their right to play. Players are encouraged to be part of the team and have team membership, which is as important as their actual playing time.

There are several reasons that a player's time may be limited. Examples of these reasons include, but are not limited to: missed practices, showing disrespect to teachers, coaches, players, etc., ineligible because of grades, poor attitude, and/or player has been disciplined at school. The immediate coach, the supervising coach, activities director, and administration can suspend students from practice and / or competition. If a student is going to be permanently removed from the team, an investigation will take place and the final decision will be made by administration.

Boys and Girls Basketball: There are teams that make up the middle school programs and each team will have approximately 12 members per team. How the teams are broken up will vary year to year. Teams will be known by the last name of the coaches.

As program directors, head coaches will have input in decisions pertaining to MS activities. Grades 5-8 game management will be covered by the RMS VP/AD and RMS Principal.

B) Participation Policy

The coaches, administration, and Board of Trustees have agreed upon the following participation policy for middle school athletics:

- 1) Football, Cross Country, Track, Tennis, and Wrestling
 - a) All students who comply with the eligibility policy may participate.
 - b) Football, for grades 5-6-7-8, will be contact. Sixth Graders are allowed to travel.
 - c) Wrestling includes grades 6-7-8. Sixth Graders are allowed to travel.
 - d) Track, cross country, and tennis include grades 6-7-8. Sixth Graders are allowed to travel.
- 2) Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball
 - a) Consists of three to four teams comprised of 6-7-8 grades. Sixth Graders are allowed to travel.
 - b) The make-up of these teams will vary from year to year.
- 3) Volleyball
 - a) Volleyball includes grades 6-7-8. Sixth Grades are allowed to travel.
 - b) There will be a maximum of 4 teams at the 6-7-8 grade levels.
- 4) All students participating in middle school athletics must purchase an activity card.

C) Attendance on days of Activities

In order to participate in an extracurricular activity including practice, students must be in school 75% of the instructional day (5.25 class periods) on the date of the event or on the last school day prior to the activity if the activity falls on a non-school day. Prior to the absence, pre-approved exceptions may be made by the administration.

It is the responsibility of the coach or sponsor to enforce this rule. A list of all the participants in a co-curricular activity must be turned in to the office prior to the activity.

D) SPORTSMANSHIP (SB Policy #2150P)

We recognize that as coaches, one of our duties is to instruct our students about the lifelong skills that one learns through participation in extra-curricular activities. Two lifelong skills learned are appropriate behavior and sportsmanship. As coaches, we must address and teach appropriate behavior and sportsmanship through our words and actions.

The following actions would be unacceptable and would be dealt with by the respective coaching staff and Activities Director:

- 1) Inappropriate language or conduct or ejection from any contest.
- 2) Unsportsmanlike conduct while a member of a RMS co-curricular team.

Consequences for exhibiting this unacceptable behavior will follow progressive steps, be well documented and communicated to parents/guardians. The consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- *Letter of apology written to school, officials.
- *Consequences by coaching staff.
- *Suspension from competition for a minimum of one competition.
- *Suspension from competition for the remainder of the season.

Any criminal behavior reported to the district may result in a student's removal from any co-curricular or school sponsored activity for an amount of time to be deemed appropriate by school administration and coaching staff.

These measures are not meant to be punitive. However, we believe our student-athletes represent our school, community, and families. We expect them to represent us in the best possible manner.

E) EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR ALCOHOL, DRUG, AND TOBACCO USE (SB Policy #3340)

Prohibited Conduct:

Students participating in extra or co-curricular activities, whether sponsored by the MHS or not, shall not be under the influence of, or use, have in possession, illegally sell

or distribute alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

Students will not be allowed to attend any gathering or function (either school-related or not school related) where illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present without being accompanied by their parent/guardian. Non-compliance with this prohibition will invoke all of the stated consequences for disciplinary actions.

Should a student attend a gathering or function without prior knowledge that illegal drugs and/or alcohol will be present and, thereafter, learns that illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present; the student must leave the gathering or function, **“immediately.”** The School District No. 30 Administration team will define **“immediately,”** when necessary. If students attend such gatherings or functions after having knowledge that illegal drugs and/or alcohol are present, the students will be subject to disciplinary action. This does not restrict students from attending a gathering or function where tobacco products are present, however, under the Chemical Use Policy students will not be allowed to use any tobacco product during a student’s participation in a school activity.

Consequences:

All related consequences for violations for this policy shall carry forward to the participants next activity/season if sufficient time does not remain during the current activity/season to serve the appropriate time.

First Offense:

- A. Immediate suspension from participation in extra/co-curricular activities for five (5) calendar days following the investigation and verification by an administrator of the infraction.
- B. To remain eligible after the initial five (5) day suspension from participation, a student must participate with the team/group for ten (10) calendar days. The student will be allowed to participate in extra/co-curricular competition on the day following the tenth (10) calendar day.

Second Offense:

- A. Immediate suspension from extra/co-curricular activities for forty (40) calendar days.

Third Offense:

- A. Immediate removal from all extra/co-curricular activities for eighty (80) calendar days.

Due Process:

Parents/guardians will be notified of violations of these policies by phone, when

possible, and by mail. At this time, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified of the consequences of such violations. The student or parent/guardian shall have the right to an informal conference with the appropriate administrator, for the purpose of discussing the disciplinary action. At such a conference, the student and the parent/guardian may be subject to questioning by the appropriate administrator.

F) Physicals

Middle school students are required to have a physical on an MHSA approved form each year to participate in middle school athletics.

G) Valuables

Students are strongly encouraged to lock up all valuables or give them to their coach during practice and games, both home and away.

H) Eligibility Policy for Middle School Students

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of the educational process and students are encouraged to participate. But it is an accepted fact that academics must come first. Student-athletes must remember that they are a student first and an athlete second, and that getting a good education is the highest priority. It is the intent of Ronan Middle School to ensure that the student's academic status is maintained to a sufficiently successful level in order to compete as a member of any interscholastic athletic team or school club. Students must be in compliance with this eligibility policy in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The Activities Director and Administration will determine and rule on eligibility.

Head coaches and activity advisors are responsible for monitoring participants' progress toward academic eligibility for competition/participation in any activity sponsored by School District No. 30.

Student's eligibility status shall be determined at the end of each quarter as follows:

A participant must be registered and enrolled in School District No. 30.

Each participant is required to pass five classes each quarter.

Student-athletes who received a failing grade at the end of the previous quarter, including the last quarter from the previous school year, or receive any grade lower than 60% in a course during midterm are:

Students are required to attend and study during two after school study halls

(Monday – Thursday, 3:30-4:00 p.m.) each week in order to maintain eligibility. During shortened school weeks, student-athletes must attend two after school study halls during 4-day school weeks, and one after school study halls during 3-day school weeks. Student-athletes are welcome and encouraged to attend any study hall sessions to keep up their grades, however only attendance at after school study hall will count toward maintaining eligibility. Exceptions to this procedure may only be obtained through RMS Administration.

Required to submit the Athletic Eligibility Weekly Sign-off Form to their coach. If the form is not filled out completely or is not turned in, the student will be ineligible for play for the next week.

If a student-athlete is struggling in a course at any time an administrator may require the student to fill out the Athletic Eligibility Weekly Sign-off Form temporarily until the student's grades are improved. Students and coaches are responsible to monitor the academic eligibility. If a student-athlete participates while academically ineligible, consequences will be given which will include, but are not limited to, at least a one week suspension from competition.

Sixth graders entering Ronan Middle School are eligible for first semester.

Eligibility for fall sports is based on 4th quarter grades from the previous year.

Transfer students eligibility will be determined by grades from last school attended.

I) CELL PHONE/VIDEO CAMERAS/CAMERAS

No cell phones, video cameras, or camera capable devices are allowed in the locker rooms or hotels. Any use of a camera or camera capable device in the locker room may result in disciplinary action up to/including out of school suspension.

Inappropriate or improper cell phone use during school sponsored events (including to and from the event on school transportation) may result in disciplinary action.

J) COMMUNICATION

PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communications you should expect from your child’s coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team/season.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs.
5. Procedure if your child is injured during participation.
6. Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions.
7. Team selection process.

Communication coaches expect from athletes/parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in the programs at Ronan Middle School, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As may be noted from the listed items, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child’s coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is beneficial when all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person’s position.

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

Following the proper chain of communication will help ensure that issues get resolved in the most effective manner:

1. Talk to the Coach
2. Talk to the Athletic Director

3. Talk to the RMS Administration (Vice-Principal / Principal)
4. Talk to the Superintendent
5. Talk to the School Board

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: RMS Middle School Coaches

Qualifications:

1. The ability to work with young athletes.
2. Knowledge of the fundamentals of the sport.
3. Dedication to the program and loyalty to the head coach.
4. Current first aid card.
5. Completion of NFHS & MHSA coaches' certification programs.
(National Federation of State High School Association Coaches Education Program Coaches Rules Clinic)
6. Pending hire will be determined by passing background check.
7. All hiring will be done by School District No. 30 on an annual basis.

Reports to:

Head Coach and Activities Director

Supervises:

RMS student athletes

Job Goal:

To assist the Head Coach in developing a viable program.

Performance Responsibilities:

1. Assume full responsibility for the team you are to coach.
2. Instruct, prompt, and supervise student-athletes/students for whom you are responsible during practices, games and trips.
3. Inform student-athletes of scheduled practices and games.
4. Assume responsibility for the care of equipment issued to your team members.
5. File a completed Accident Report with the Activities Director for any injury to your team members.
6. Assume any additional responsibilities assigned by the head coach.
7. Is required to create and print certificates for all RMS Student Athletes who participated that season. Certificates will be handed out during quarterly House Meetings.
8. Coaches are responsible for his / her keys. Keys are not to be given to students or student athletes.