

Thornton Academy Middle School

Athletic Handbook for Students and Parents



At the beginning of each sports season you will be asked to review this handbook. All forms must be signed and returned before your child can participate in any extracurricular activities. Your signature signifies that you have read, and understand this Athletic Handbook and you will help support your child meet all extracurricular requirements.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school at 282-3361, ext 332 or any of the following:

Gary Stevens, TA Athletic Director gary.stevens@thorntonacademy.org

Tiffany Robert, TAMS Principal tiffany.robert@thorntonacademy.org

Kirk Agreste, TAMS Athletic Coordinator kirk.agreste@thorntonacademy.org

Please visit our web site for more information
www.thorntonacademy.org

Message to Parents

Thornton Academy wants all students to be healthy individuals so, in addition to the school's wellness curriculum, Thornton provides extensive opportunities for students to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities during middle school.

The interscholastic athletics program has the following purposes:

- To encourage students of all skill levels to participate in extracurricular athletics.
- To provide sufficient opportunities for students to develop individual playing abilities.
- To teach the fundamentals and technique of each sport.
- To encourage school and team spirit.
- To foster pride, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- To maintain a good relationship between teams, the school and the community.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. Athletes must meet all pupil eligibility requirements and abide by all of the rules set forth in Thornton Academy's interscholastic athletics policy.

Sportsmanship Code and Creed

The player should:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward the opponent's teammates and coaches and treat them with respect.
- Exercise self control at all times.
- Win without boasting, lose without excuses, and never quit.
- Respect officials and accept their decision without question.
- Never forget that he/she is representing his/her school.
- Be responsible for communicating all team information to your parents.

General Rules and Regulations:

- All school rules stated in the School Handbook are always in effect.
 - Students missing half a day or more of school cannot participate in any practice or game without full sanction of the principal and athletic director.
 - Athletes should always remember they are representing our school and community and should act and dress accordingly.
 - Athletes are required to travel to and from out-of town games with their team. Permission to travel with a parent may only be granted by the principal with an advance written note from their parent.
 - Any athlete ejected from an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will miss the next regular athletic contest. Athletes ejected a second instance from a game will be taken off the team for the remainder of that sports season.
 - Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent a coach from suspending an athlete from participating for reasons other than those listed above (Ex: skipping practice, poor sportsmanship, repeated school behavior problems).
 - All coaches have their own set of rules and regulations with regard to excused absences.
 - Athletes are expected not to loiter before or after practices.
 - First offense: Warning and dealt with by the coach.
 - Second Offense: Student misses next scheduled team day (practice or game).
 - Third offense: Student is referred to the principal for further disciplinary action.
- Students will be informed of a designated area to be dropped off and picked up.
- Students may be given (by their coach) team rules to be followed, in addition to all rules in our school and athletic handbooks.
 - On the day a student serves a detention he/she will be responsible for communicating the detention with the coach. It will be up to the coach if the student is allowed to practice or participate in a game.
 - On the day a student receives an ISS (in-school suspension) he/she will not be allowed to practice, participate or attend the sporting event or any after school activity of that day.

- A student who receives an OSS (out-of-school suspension) will not be allowed to practice, participate or attend the sporting event or any after school activity while the suspension is in effect.

All discipline actions are at the discretion of the Thornton Academy Administration.

While your child is involved in athletics at Thornton Academy Middle School, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding and inspiring moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve and develop
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. *Coaches are professionals.* They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for the team and all athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, should be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

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

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

1. Call for an appointment. Thornton Academy Middle School 282-3361
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call Gary Stevens, TA Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.

WHAT A PARENT CAN DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION

- Step 1 Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director
- Step 2 Call and set up an appointment with the principal

Academic Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics students must have passed seven of nine classes with a passing grade of at least a D- (70) during the first, second and third quarters. Fourth quarter grades will be considered for fall sports.

The intent of this eligibility rule is to ensure that participation in interscholastic athletics does not interfere with students' academics.

Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements

You are required to be passing seven out of nine subjects. If you are failing three or more subjects at progress report time or at the end of a quarter when report cards are distributed, you will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of up to two weeks (10 school days) and/or until passing. During the two-week period, you will be placed on academic probation. You may continue to practice but will not be allowed to participate in games.

If at the end of the two-week period if grade(s) have improved to passing, you will become eligible for participation. If not, you will be removed from the team or club roster for the remainder of the season. It is the discretion of the administration and the extracurricular leader to review grades throughout the extracurricular activity and to assist failing students in returning to passing grades.

Substance Abuse Policy

Drugs Alcohol & Tobacco

School rules and consequences for the possession and use of any drugs are explained in our School Handbook. Students in violation of this policy will be dealt with individually by school administrators. Any student who participates in extracurricular activities at Thornton Academy Middle School agrees to refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol, or any tobacco products. Any student violating this policy will be dealt with in accordance of TAMS Student Handbook as well as the following:

- 1st Offense: Student will be suspended from the activity for the remainder of the season. The student will participate in a Drug and Alcohol program before participating in another activity.
- 2nd Offense: The student is suspended from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS

Why Kids Play Sports

More than 20 million kids between the ages of 6-16 play organized sports.

According to studies they play to:

- Have FUN
- Improve skills and learn new ones
- Be with friends and meet new ones
- Feel the excitement of competition
- Succeed or win
- Exercise and become fit

As you encourage your child to participate in sports, keep in mind why he/she has chosen to do so. If these needs are not met, your child may drop out of sports.

Why Kids Drop Out of Sports

- Lack of fun
- Conflict of interest
- Lack of playing time
- Too much criticism
- Lack of success
- Little skill development
- Injuries
- Overemphasis on winning
- Competitive stress

Many children playing sports drop out before the age of 14. Help your child remain in sports by providing positive encouragement.

Hints for Parents Attending Athletic Contests

- Attend your child's contests
- Show interest, enthusiasm and support
- Model good sportsmanship and promote fair play
- Cheer for your child and team and leave the coaching to the coach
- Be in control of your emotions and comments
- Remember the game is for the players. Your good sportsmanship will enhance their educational experience.
- Refrain from distracting the players during a contest.
- Recognize and appreciate the skill in performance, regardless of affiliation.
- Treat officials with respect before, during and after the contest.
- Display good conduct and abide by our school's rules.
- Remember Administration has the authority to remove any spectator who does not behave appropriately.

**THORNTON ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PERMISSION SLIP**

Please remember: Being part of an extra-curricular activity is not only a commitment for your child but it is a commitment for families. We encourage families to communicate with coaches and administration should there be any questions or concerns.

Name of Student: _____

Home Address: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Contact Numbers: _____

Insurance Information (required):

Insurance Company _____ Policy # _____

I grant permission for _____ to participate in interscholastic athletics at Thornton Academy Middle School.

I have read and understand the contents of this handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date