

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY / VISION

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Athletics is one phase of the total physical education program, along with the regular physical education classes and intramurals. It is the portion of the total program that provides advanced opportunities for those students with interests and ability in athletic activities.

Through a variety of graded and controlled athletic experiences, students should grow physically, emotionally, and socially. Involvement and participation in athletics should help students develop a positive and sportsmanlike manner during competitive situations.

The concept of competition and winning do exist, as in everyone's life; however, the degree of each depends on the level of the athletic program being considered. The nature of our athletic program is not based solely on winning but on the "readiness" level of the various age groups. Individual skills, team strategies, and participation time also vary with the level of competition.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE THAT CARRIES WITH IT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SCHOOL, TO THE TEAM, THE STUDENT BODY, TO THE COMMUNITY, AND TO THE STUDENT.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT VISION

The Pelham athletic department will offer a challenging, professional, positive experience where everyone strives for excellence and learns lifelong lessons because of being involved in our program. This includes a collaborative effort where we foster a connection between students, coaches, families, administration, staff, and community.

Explanation of Levels

Modified – This is an introductory level of participation for students in grades 7 and 8 only. This level is recognized as being primarily a learning and improvement experience. Focus is on the fundamentals of the game, team play, training, rules, and basic skills. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning and maximum participation is desired. Playing time will be linked to league rules, practice time, attitude, and effort. All team members should participate in all games, unless due to disciplinary actions.

Freshman – This level is for students in grades 7-9. The competition level and skill level expected is higher at this level than it is in Modified. It is a faster pace than modified and the emphasis on winning increases slightly. It is still a level where fundamentals, team play, rules, and skills are still emphasized, but it is expected that all skills will be at a higher level than they are for Modified B. Playing time will be linked to league rules, practice time, attitude, and effort, but also increased based on skill level.

Junior Varsity (JV) – Students in grades 9-11 can participate at this level. Students in grades 7 and 8 may be eligible for JV if they are recommended by the Head Varsity Coach of that sport and if they successfully complete the Athletic Placement Process outlined on page 8 of this handbook. JV competition is a transition experience from the learning and improvement focus of modified athletics to the greater expectation and intensity of varsity competition. The junior varsity level of competition is a program where there is an even further increased emphasis placed on team play, physical conditioning, and development of fundamental skills.

Varsity – This level of competition is the culmination of the commitment to high school athletic programs. Team plays, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation, and mental attitude are important aspects of competition at the varsity level. Athletes at this level participate in a highly competitive atmosphere. Furthermore, the number of roster positions is relative to the student-athlete's acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team's goals.

We expect our varsity teams to be competitive in performance and the team plays to win the contest within the spirit of the rules of the game and within our schools' core beliefs. It is recognized that not all participants will play in every contest.

Playing time is at the discretion of the coach or coaching staff and based upon their expertise and experience from collaborating with the team daily.

Students in grades 9-12 can try out for this level of competition. However, typically most of the participants at these levels are in grades 11 and 12. Students in grades 7 and 8 may be eligible for varsity if they are recommended by the head varsity coach of that sport and if they successfully complete the Athletic Placement Process.

Our varsity teams play to win and work hard to qualify for postseason play. At this level, it is recognized that athletes may not have equal playing time. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.