

WAINWRIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL



2024-2025 Athletics Handbook for Students and Parents

**Wainwright Middle School
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Welcome to Mustang Athletics!

A message from the Athletic Director.....

Dear Student and Parent (s),

The Wainwright Middle School Athletics Department would like to extend an invitation to all students to participate in the many athletic programs offered. We believe that the mental, physical, and emotional growth of a student can be greatly enhanced by participating in a well-organized sports program.

At Wainwright Middle School, we believe that an athletic program is an extension of the classroom. Wainwright athletics offer students an opportunity to develop and grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. The positive benefits that participation in athletics offers include, but are not limited to self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, and the development of team spirit. Participants in Wainwright athletics learn the values associated with competition and benefit from the experience of both winning and losing.

We count on the support of parents in reinforcing that academic responsibilities come first and that each student-athlete must learn to manage his/her time, energy, and talents in such a way as to excel in the classroom as well as athletics.

This Athletic Handbook is to inform each of you of valuable information relating to participation in athletics at Wainwright Middle School. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Moody
Athletic Director
765-269-8350 X:7294

Policies and General Information for Participation in Athletics

Available Sports

Wainwright Middle School offers: football, volleyball, cross country, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and track and field.

Participation

Participation in athletics at Wainwright Middle School is a privilege earned by meeting the rules and standards set by Wainwright and in conjunction with the Tippecanoe School Corporation. Students who have questions concerning eligibility should contact the Athletic Director or Principal.

Since it is a privilege to participate in athletics at Wainwright Middle School, the student-athlete will be kept accountable for their actions during the time they are a student-athlete. This also extends to when a student is in and out of the school building. Coaches can take disciplinary action (possible suspension for quarter, half, game, etc.) if they feel necessary due to student-athletes actions.

Requirements for WMS Athletic Participation

- 1. A completed IHSA Physical Examination form must be on file in the athletics office before the first day of tryouts/practice. This form is available in the office at Wainwright and on Wainwright's athletic website. Physicals dated prior to April 1, 2024 are not valid.**
- 2. Each participant must pay a one-time fifty dollar (\$50) athletic fee per school year to be used to pay for officials and costs of athletics.**

Conduct and Character

Athletes' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as

- **not to reflect discredit upon our school or**
- **not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, or environment in the school.**

Athletes who violate this rule may be excluded from representing Wainwright Middle School in athletic participation.

It is a privilege to represent Wainwright and our community in athletic competition.

Wainwright Middle School athletes and fans must understand that the primary focus of our athletic program is not winning games. Although we have been very successful over the years and have won games and championships, our primary function is to use athletics as an extension of the classroom. Wainwright believes that having an understanding and respect for sportsmanship is just one of the many benefits of athletic participation. Great sportsmanship shows: respect for the opponent at all times, a dedicated work ethic, exercises self-control at all times, and respect for officials.

Poor sportsmanship displayed by any of our student-athletes may result in suspension from a team and/or athletic probation.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for athletics, a student-athlete must maintain grades to where there is not one failing mark (F) during a grade check period.

- If the student-athlete receives a failing mark (F) during a grade check the student-athlete will be
 - unable to participate in the sporting event for the two week probationary suspension status.
 - required to attend all practices during the two week probationary suspension.
 - required to attend the teams sporting event and sit with the team, but cannot wear the team uniform.
 - be expected to meet with his/her teachers to discuss academic progress and seek additional help.
 - meet with their athletic coach to create a plan as to how to raise their academic achievement.

GRADE CHECKS

For the purposes of determining athletic eligibility and in accordance with TSC policy, grade verifications will be conducted on the predetermined dates listed below. Students must have a passing grade in all subjects. If, during the grade verification, a student is not passing all classes, they will be ruled ineligible. During the first two-week period of ineligible status, athletes are still required to attend all team functions. Students will be able to earn an eligible status only during the next scheduled verification check. If a student is ruled ineligible for a second time during any one sport, they will be removed from the roster and must turn in their equipment.

Any student participating in an after-school activity will be included during the season of their participation. Events that shall be included (but not limited to) are

football, volleyball, golf, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, track, tennis, intramurals, dance, and cheerleading.

Grade checks will take place on the following dates. Grades will be pulled the morning of the scheduled grade check. Student-athletes will be notified that day. Exceptions may be made for students who are absent on the last day to turn in assignments of the grade check.

During the 2024-2025 school year, verifications will be conducted on the following dates:

Football/Volleyball/Cheer

8/30/24

9/13/24

9/27/24

Girls Basketball/Wrestling

1/31/25

2/14/25

2/28/25

Boys Basketball and Cheer

11/8/24

11/22/24

12/6/24

Boys and Girls Track

4/4/25

4/18/25

5/2/25

Attendance

Student athletes are expected to make school attendance a priority. Students must be in attendance by 9:00 a.m. and attend all afternoon classes to be eligible for extracurricular events that day. Exceptions to this would be an excused absence with a note.

An athlete who is unable to participate in physical education class may not participate in athletics.

Parent Meetings

A parent or guardian is expected to attend an informational meeting conducted by the Athletic Department for each sport that their child participates in. The meetings are held after teams have been selected but before the first game or event. Meetings are usually held after or before a teams practice so parents are already at the school when they pick up/drop off their child.

Football / Volleyball / Cheerleading	August TBA
Boys Basketball	October TBA
Girls Basketball / Wrestling	January TBA
Track and Field	March TBA

Tentative Athletic Starting Dates

<u>Sports</u>	<u>Tentative Starting Dates</u>
Football/Volleyball	Monday August 5, 2024
Boys Basketball	Monday October 14, 2024
Girls Basketball/Wrestling	Monday January 6, 2025
Track and Field	Monday March 10, 2025

Participation on Teams outside of Wainwright

Participation in an athletic contest/practice on any other similar team during the same season in which they represent their school in that sport is strongly discouraged. Participation on a non-school team, during the same season, should only be done with knowledge of the middle school coach. Participation on a Wainwright Middle School athletic team will take precedence over a non-school team if conflicts arise during the same sport season. Participation with a non-school team that results in a conflict with any practice, game or scheduled meeting of the Wainwright athletic team may result in an unexcused absence, suspension of the team, or removal from the school team.

Pick Up and Drop Off of Athletes

Parents should pick-up their son or daughter at the South Entrance (Door #C7) following a game or practice. It is very important to pick-up your child on time. Coaches are expected to remain at school until all athletes have been picked up. Please be considerate of your coach's personal time.

Practices

All student-athletes are expected to attend all practices unless there is a serious circumstance. If a circumstance comes up, the coach must be notified. If you can not contact the coach, contact the athletic director and the message will be relayed.

Team practices are open to team members and school staff only. Most teams practice each day of the week Monday – Friday.

Equipment Issue and Return

Wainwright Middle School provides each team member with equipment. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (excepting normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic department for the lost or damaged equipment.

Team Schedules

Team practice and game schedules are created weeks and months in advance. Things happen, and sometimes changes might occur. The team's coach will communicate any upcoming changes. Also be sure to check the Wainwright Athletic Website for any changes.

Awards

Athletes that complete their season in good standing will be awarded a certificate of participation by the Athletic Department.