

Columbus Middle School
Co-Curricular Code of Conduct



Statement of Philosophy

Age appropriate co-curricular activities are an integral and valuable part of a student's middle school experience and the Columbus School District is committed to sponsoring a wide variety of opportunities for student participation. The district is committed to supporting the cognitive, social, and emotional growth of students through participation in co-curricular activities. Students will develop a variety of skills through participation in co-curricular activities including activity specific skills, teamwork, positive social values, and behaviors they can transfer to their lives now and in the future. The focus of co-curricular activities at Columbus Middle School is focused on maximizing participation for all students in support of developing the skills outlined above.

All activities in life place expectations upon participants. This handbook details these expectations as they pertain to all co-curricular participation at Columbus Middle School. Participation in activities is a privilege, earned in part, by accepting and following the regulations contained in this co-curricular handbook. The primary enforcement and responsibility of this code rests not only with the students, as they should be self disciplined, but also with their parents/guardians. This policy will be enforced all twelve months of the year.

Definition of Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities at Columbus Middle School are defined as those activities in which students serve, perform, or compete as representatives of Columbus Middle School. All students who participate in the various categories of activities or any additions are required to abide by this co-curricular handbook.

The Goals of Co-Curricular Programs

- Mere participation in co-curricular programs does not guarantee the following goals will be achieved. Students must participate in a manner so as to make the activity a beneficial influence in their lives. What the participant realizes from the activity depends on the positive effort s/he puts into it.
- To teach attitudes of responsibility and cooperation and to help students realize that participation in cocurricular activities is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
- To provide activities for learning self-discipline, loyalty, team play, personal pride, pride in the organization, respect for the rights of others, and the will to be successful.
- To provide the opportunity and to encourage all students to participate in order to meet the healthy need for competition, which is a basic American tradition.
- To encourage all students who participate in co-curricular activities to reach new potential(s).
- To provide a "whole school" interest and activities for which all students may rally around to develop school spirit and commitment.
- To place the unit, team, class, squad, and school above personal desires

Responsibilities of Co-Curricular Participants

Participation in co-curriculars is a privilege. The opportunity to present oneself to the public, and represent one's family and school should not be taken lightly. This privilege is extended to all students who meet school requirements and are willing to assume the following responsibilities: Each participant must be issued a Columbus Middle School Co-curricular Handbook from his/her coach/advisor/director. Students must return the Co-curricular acknowledgement form to their coach/advisor/director with their signature and the signature of their parents/guardians indicating that they understand the handbook and agree to abide by all rules governing their co-curricular activities at Columbus.

- Be a credit to yourself, your parents/guardians, your school, and community.
- Demonstrate high standards of social behavior.
- Demonstrate respect for, and acceptance of the rules of competition.
- Demonstrate respect for those in authority, including advisors, coaches, teachers, and officials.
- Display a strong spirit of cooperation.
- Use language that is socially acceptable and not offensive to others.
- Be considerate of all others you interact with.
- All members of co-curricular activities will be neatly dressed and well groomed while representing Columbus Middle School.
- Student-athletes have a responsibility to be role models to other students and younger children.
- Be responsible for taking care of uniforms and equipment

MEDIA/PHOTO Release

Certain co-curricular activities have events that are open to the general public to watch. Co-curricular activities is also a great way for the school district to promote our students and the great talent that they possess. By participating in co-curriculars and signing the co-curricular agreement, students and families recognize that pictures and names of students might be published in newspapers, online postings, and other school or media outlets.

Purpose of the Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint students and parents/guardians of students in co-curricular programs at Columbus Middle School with the expectations, regulations, and procedures of the school district. It is very important that both the students and parents/guardians read and understand this handbook before signing the student pledge and parent/guardian permission section of the handbook.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Columbus School District is committed to equal educational opportunity for all students in the district.

It is the policy of the Columbus School District, pursuant to s.19.13, WI Stats, and PI 9 that no person, on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, may be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreation, or other program. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Columbus School District has adopted a policy and procedure on non-discrimination. If you believe the District is discriminating against one of the protected classes listed above, please obtain a copy of the policy, procedures, and complaint form from the Athletic Director.

Individuals requiring the assistance of auxiliary aids or special accommodations because of a disability are asked to contact the school office at 920-623-5954 at least twenty-four hours prior to the event to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

CMS CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the co-curricular activities of the school is an effective way to make school a rewarding and enjoyable experience. You are urged to become involved in the activities that interest you and to play an active role in their success. (Board Policy 2430). The athletic program aims to develop in students an understanding of sport fundamentals and give each interested student an opportunity to participate.

ATHLETICS

- ❖ Activity Fee of \$25 per sport submitted to the **Main Office** or Activities Director **and** must be paid prior to the first date of competition.
- ❖ Proof of Physical Examination on file with the **Main Office** or Athletic Director **prior to the first practice.**
 - Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade who have not played a middle school sponsored sport, have skipped a year of participation, or turned in a pink alternate year card in the previous year must provide a GREEN physical card
 - Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, who have played a middle school sponsored sport the previous year, must provide a PINK alternate year card
- ❖ Code of Conduct on file with the **Main Office** or Activities Director **prior to the first date of competition.**
 - Signed by parent and athlete
 - Completed once each school year

Activities

- ❖ Code of Conduct on file with the advisor turned in prior to the first competition.
 - Signed by parent and member
 - Completed once each school year.
- ❖ Students who have outstanding fees may not participate in another activity until balance has been paid.

COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY OFFERINGS

ATHLETICS

- ❖ Girls Volleyball: 7th and 8th
- ❖ Cross Country (Boys and Girls): 7th and 8th
- ❖ Boys Basketball: 7th and 8th
- ❖ Girls Basketball: 7th and 8th
- ❖ Wrestling (Boys and Girls): 6th, 7th, and 8th
- ❖ Track and Field (Boys and Girls): 7th and 8th

CLUBS

- ❖ Project Unify: 6th, 7th, 8th
- ❖ Student Council
- ❖ Forensics: 6th, 7th, 8th

Community Learning Services Offerings *These might have different requirements

- ❖ Chess Club
- ❖ Art Club
- ❖ Running Club

General Information

Starting Times

Most middle school athletic competitions are scheduled to start at 4:15 p.m., unless otherwise stated on the schedule. Please check the schedules provided by advisors, coaches, and directors for all activities.

Practice during School Closings

When Columbus Schools are closed due to inclement weather or other emergency, all co-curricular practices and contests are also canceled or postponed to a later date. The Activities Director, Principal, Director of the event, and the Transportation Supervisor (with input from the other school(s) involved) will determine if Saturday events will be held during inclement weather.

Travel to Events

Each student must ride and return from practices, contests, performances, and events with their club, group, or team, unless proper arrangements are made before leaving on the trip.

Arrangements are as follows:

1. Completion of the Columbus [Travel Release](#) form.
2. The parent/guardian must pick up the student in the presence of the coach/director, sign them out, and can only transport their child to/from the games or activities.
3. When picking up students after events, please arrive directly after the competition. Students will contact parents and communicate the estimated arrival time.

Co-Curricular Participation Fees

Students participating in athletics or club activities pay a \$25.00 fee prior to participating in athletic activities. Families who have difficulty paying the fees should contact the Middle School counselor or Activities Director.

COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 1 – School Behavior

Student participants are expected to meet the expectations for school behavior described in the handbook and Board of Education Policies.

- Students suspended during a season or activity will be ineligible to participate in practices, performances, competitions, or activities for a length of time determined by the AD/Asst. Principal/Principal until deemed eligible.
- Participants are encouraged to do their best in the classroom, strive to get the highest grades possible, and display a service attitude in their conduct throughout the school and community.
- If a student misbehaves in a class or general school area, the student will make up time at the teachers or principals convenience (this may be before the school day, during noon, or after school) before they may participate in co-curricular activities. Students

failing to make this time up for a staff person will be considered for suspension from co-curricular activities.

- Students removed from a class or general school area for inappropriate behavior the day of an after school event may not be allowed to attend the event depending on the severity of the situation. A student may be denied involvement for serious inappropriate behavior at any time prior to an activity.
- Any student dropped from a co-curricular activity for disciplinary reasons, is ineligible for any sport/activity during the current season, or may be ineligible for the entire school year.
- Any student, who wishes to quit a school activity before the end of the activity season, should, out of courtesy, notify the advisor/coach. Refunds will not be given.

Social Media & Online Representation

- The same rules of appropriate, respectful behavior which apply to Columbus Middle School Students, also apply in online environments such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, message boards, and any other social media site. CMS students are to conduct themselves in a manner that is representative of their pride and respect for themselves, their families, their school, and their community at all times, whether in person or online.
- Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to: indecent language, racism, sexism, homophobia, indecent pictures or videos, bullying, trash talking, and criticism of opponents, coaches, teammates, or game officials. Students who re-post inappropriate material originally written by others are subject to the same consequences as if they had posted it themselves. Students who fail to meet this expectation and who violate the code of conduct online are subject to the same consequences as if they did them in person.

Equipment

Each student is responsible for the proper care of all issued equipment, and for the school and community facilities where they practice/perform. The students and their parents/guardians will be held financially responsible for any lost, misplaced, or damaged items and for supplies or property that have been maliciously damaged.

Loss or damage to property

The District assumes no responsibility for such loss or damage, but will assist students and parents/guardians in recovering lost or damaged property, or the cost of replacement.

Section 2 – Attendance

- There will be no mandatory practices on Wednesday. Special practice needs will be given consideration by the principal and superintendent.
- No practice session will be started and/or held without a qualified director/advisor/coach present. No school facilities and/or equipment will be used without a director/advisor/coach present.

- Participants are expected to be at practice and performances on time unless there is a valid excuse for missing.
- Unexcused absences will be dealt with by the director/advisor/coach.
- Students who need academic help after school WILL NOT be penalized if they contact the advisor/coach/director before the practice or provide them with a pass from the instructor when arriving late for practice.
- Participants must be in attendance at school by 11:30 a.m. Students absent due to illness in the afternoon (after 11:35 a.m.) or absent for the full day of school, cannot participate without permission of the principal, or activities director or his/her designee.
- Students who have been absent (and excused) in the morning of an activity, but return prior to 11:35 a.m., may participate in the activity.
- Any student, who is unexcused (truant) and misses part or all of a class period or the full school day during the season, will not participate in the next scheduled event/competition. Arrangements to make up missed time due to truancy will be made with the teacher, advisor, director, coach, and player. The student will make up time at the teachers' convenience (before school, during noon, or after school).

Section 3 - ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be passing all subjects to be eligible for a co-curricular activity.
- Grade checks will be performed every Thursday or Friday.
- If a player is failing class as of Thursday or Friday, they will be given a [Grade Eligibility Form](#). In order to participate in the following week's games, they must have that form approved by the teacher(s) of the failing class and turned in to the office by the following Monday by 3:15 pm.
- Failure to turn in the approved form means they will be ineligible for that week's competitions.
- Students who are deemed ineligible will still be expected to attend all practices (after seeking academic help) and may be present for home activities.
- They may not, however, travel to any away activities.
- Parents will be notified of their student's ineligibility by Infinite Campus message or email.
- Students may become eligible the following Friday if all grades are passing.
- Students failing a class at quarter or semester will not be eligible for the next week and do not have the opportunity to fill out a grade check form.
- The teacher of any student having academic problems should confer with the student's advisor/coach to ensure the best learning situation for the student. The satisfactory completion of classroom work is very important. Co-curricular activities are secondary to the completion of classroom work.
- If a student is having academic difficulties before the first grading period, the teacher and coach/advisor may take appropriate action to better monitor the student's classroom progress.

USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

Any student using or possessing alcohol , vaping, e-cigarettes, Juuling or tobacco products, or using, possessing, buying, or selling illegal controlled substances look-alike drugs/alcohol, and performance enhancing substances shall be suspended from participation in interscholastic athletics. This rule is in effect and enforced for the school year. Any student, unsupervised by their parent or legal guardian, present where alcohol is being served to underage individuals, who does not leave in a reasonable amount of time (10-15 minutes), will be subject to the penalties stated under Co-Curricular Code violations. This rule is in effect and enforced for the school year.

Appeals

There is no formal appeals process since we are not sanctioned under WIAA regulations.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THEIR SCHOOL, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS. JOIN IN! HAVE FUN!

PARENT & STUDENT ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

Columbus Middle School expects students involved in any of the activities programs to represent their school, their community, their parents, and themselves in a positive fashion at all times. The expectations detailed in the *Columbus Middle School Co-Curricular Activities Handbook* are designed to promote that kind of positive behavior.

School activities play an important part in the life of Columbus Middle School students. The major objectives of the activities program are to provide wholesome opportunities for students to develop favorable habits and attitudes. Through participation in activities, students should develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. To insure these objectives, the expectations included in this handbook have been developed. The information on the preceding pages of this handbook is designed to provide clear understanding of the expectations that are held for a student's participation in any part of the activities program.

Parents, students, coaches/advisors, faculty and administration must support the philosophy of the activities program as stated in this handbook if the program is to meet its goals. It is essential that all of the individuals involved take the expectations included in this handbook seriously and report violations of the eligibility rules to the Middle School administration.

Parents must also be aware of the inherent risk of injury present through participation in activities. In particular, when involved in interscholastic athletic practice and performances/contests, the risk may be severe, including serious physical injury and even death. Injury may occur during transportation to and from performances/contests. Even with qualified coaching/advising, the use of adequate protective equipment, and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility.

We, as parents, have read and understand all the information contained in this handbook and grant permission for our student to participate in the Columbus Middle School activities program and support our student's adherence to the expectations contained within.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
Parent/Guardian

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
Parent/Guardian

As a student and participant in the Columbus Middle School Activities Program, I have read, understood, and agree to follow the expectations contained in the Co-Curricular Activities Handbook.

PRINTED NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
Student

***A student may not participate in an activity until this agreement is signed by both parents/guardians and student and returned to the Main Office.**