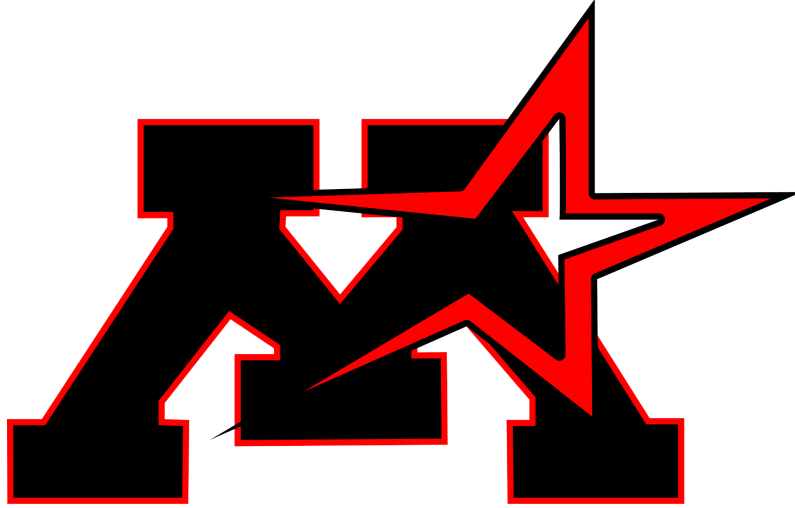


MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENT Activities/Athletics Handbook 2024-2025

Schedules

www.mississippi8.org
click on Monticello High School
click on view schedules

Updated 10/2024

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Beliefs

We believe:

- * Athletics/activities are an integral part of our educational program.
- * Athletics/activities teach positive values.
- * Athletics/activities show and teach real world experiences
- * Participation is a key to success after high school.
- * Athletics/activities provide positive experiences for students.
- * Athletics provide students an appropriate place to develop and use athletic skills in a structured environment.
- * Athletics enhance physical, mental and social well-being.
- * Meaningful competition and performance is healthy.
- * All students who are clearly progressing toward graduation and demonstrate good citizenship are eligible to participate in high school activities.

Philosophy

District #882 is of the belief that participation in activities at Monticello Public Schools is a privilege and an opportunity for both the student and the school. The student benefits in such areas of development as skills, character, physical conditioning, sportsmanship, school spirit, loyalty, pride, and the satisfaction of competing. The school district benefits with the opportunity to provide a more dynamic educational experience thus enhancing the total curriculum. These qualities for both the student and the school are instilled through the effective combined efforts of the school district and the activities staff.

Participation and skill development will vary throughout the spectrum in the 9-12 activity program. The 9th grade (“C” squad) through varsity activities will operate on a full interscholastic schedule. Less emphasis will be placed on participation at the “C” squad level, but will remain an important aspect of team and program development (playing time will not be equal/all students may not play every contest)

The “B” squad (primarily 10th graders), Junior Varsity, and Varsity activities programs shall concentrate more on “success”, playing the best students or teams available as determined by the designated coach/advisor. If high participant numbers are evident, a “tryout” will be held and available to all interested students. Cuts will be made at these levels when tryouts are necessary. Squad sizes will be determined by the “official squad” as recognized by the Minnesota State High School League.

It is our belief that regardless of the level of a student’s involvement in Monticello Public School Activities, such involvement will enhance the abilities of these individuals in meeting life’s challenges. Since life will demand much of the same qualities developed through activities, we believe our students will graduate better prepared to meet life’s challenges.

Objectives

The student participant will learn:

1. Respect for the rights of others.
2. Respect for authority.
3. The value of conforming to rules.
4. Social competence.
5. Self-discipline and emotional maturity.
6. Moral and ethical standards.
7. To excel.
8. An appreciation of wholesome recreation.
9. The value of health and physical fitness.
10. How to improve motor skills.
11. The value of group ideals.
12. To think as an individual and contribute to the decisions of a group.
13. Time Management
14. Organization.
15. Goal setting.
16. Team-work.
17. Sportsmanship.

18. Leadership characteristics.
19. To compete.

Opportunity to Participate

The philosophy of the Monticello Public Schools is to encourage the emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each student. Student participation in a variety of activities will be encouraged and supported by the staff and administration.

Each participant must accept the responsibility of representing Monticello High School in the best possible way personally, academically, and in a sportsmanlike manner. Each student is given an opportunity, if eligible, to try out for any team. Continued participation depends upon the coach or advisor's perception of the individual's attitude toward the rules and regulations governing participation. Frequent displays of an uncooperative attitude, including unexcused absences from classes, practice, meets and contests, or displays of unsportsmanlike conduct may result in removal from the team. All rules and regulations of the Minnesota State High School League concerning academic eligibility, prohibitive use of drugs and tobacco, hazing and harassment are followed and enforced.

Guidelines For Student Activities

We encourage our parents, participants and advisors/coaches to recognize that student activities require a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding as well as an appreciation for the experience offered.

For these programs the following guidelines have been developed:

1. Be aware of the time demands and commitments of the activity and accept the responsibility for being prompt and in regular attendance at practices and performances.
2. Demonstrate a sincere interest and consistent effort to improve skills commensurate with ability.
3. Demonstrate an attitude of cooperation and concern for the total group or team.
4. Take proper care of and have respect for equipment, uniforms, instruments, props, etc. used in the activity.

Expectations and Philosophy of a Competitive Program

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for team selection and playing time. The head coach establishes criteria for selection, possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. *Team selection, practices, line-ups, playing time and decisions regarding game situations are the sole responsibility of the coaching staff.*
2. The Monticello School District athletic program has become highly competitive. Due to school enrollment and limited opportunities, we are not able to place every child on a team who wishes to participate. While this is not our desire, it is reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is to tell young people they will not be on a team.

Please be sure when your child tries out for a team, both you and he/she understand there is a very real possibility of not being selected. If selected, both you and your child should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, i.e., 9th grade, B-squad, junior varsity and varsity. It is disturbing to have a student try out for a team and then quit because they were not placed where they thought they should have been. By doing this, they have taken away someone else's opportunity to be on a team.

Normally, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They try to do the very best they can in keeping the most talented athletes, filling positions for play, and appropriately placing them on the proper team. We believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to select the team with whom they will work for the entire season.

3. Our experience in athletics reveals there are many "select teams" sponsored by many different organizations. Each coach looks for something different in his or her players. Participation on a "select team" does not guarantee any player a spot on another "select team" or any high school team. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to "guarantee" making the team or playing time.

4. In order to make a varsity team as a senior, a player must be outstanding and also play a position the team needs. Underclass student-athletes possessing these qualities have the same opportunity to make a team as the senior does. Our team structure (9th grade, B-squad, junior varsity and varsity) dictates there will always be more underclass players than upper-class in the total program. At selection time, it will be the coaches' decision.
5. A main goal of a competitive athletic program is to place the most talented members of the team in competition to win the contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to seniors making a team, or anyone else for that matter. Each member of a team is very valuable to the team's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest while others may not see what a parent would consider "significant" playing time. Each student should have personal improvement as one of his or her goals.

By being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable lessons. Among them are the following: leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciating good play by an opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility and commitment to team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for one's own actions.

6. Good sportsmanship is strived for in all District 882 events. Good sportsmanship is a responsibility expected of players, coaches, advisors, faculty, students, adult spectators, officials, and media. Promotion of good sportsmanship at District 882 events shall include a demonstration of respect for all participants and officials. All involved in an event shall maintain self-control throughout the event. Rules of the event shall be understood and skill performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation. **Good Sportsmanship Is The Cornerstone Of A Quality Activity Program!**

Athletic/Activities Policies

Academic Awards

Mississippi 8 Conference

Academic All Conference: varsity athlete, cum GPA of 3.70 or higher.

MN State High School League

Spotlight on Scholarship: Students participating on B-squad, JV, and varsity with a cum GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Admission to Home Athletic Events

Admission is charged for the following home events: Basketball, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Volleyball, and Wrestling. The Mississippi 8 Conference sets admission prices:

ADULT:	\$7
STUDENT:	\$5
SENIOR CITIZEN:	\$5

Punch cards are also available. They will be sold at the Fall Sports Registration Meeting and Open House. They will be available from the Activities Secretary from 9am – 3pm during the school day.

- Punch Card: \$70 (16 punches to get into contests)
- Student Pass: \$25 (Free if you pay an activity fee)
- GOLD CARD: **FREE** to District 882 Senior Citizens age 62 or above.

◆ SEASON PASSES and our PUNCH CARDS ARE NOT VALID AT THE HOCKEY ARENAS, AWAY VENUES, OR SECTION PLAYOFF GAMES.

Attendance Policies (in activities)

Any absence from a scheduled practice will be considered unexcused unless the individual received prior approval from the advisor/coach. Emergency situations rest with the advisor's/coach's discretion. Unexcused absences from scheduled practice will result in:

1. Suspension for 1 contest following the first violation
2. Suspension for 3 contests following the second violation
3. Dismissed from the team following the third violation

Unexcused absence from scheduled contest will result in:

1st offense – Suspension not less than 2 contests, exact amount determined by conference with advisor/coach.

2nd offense – Dismissal from team.

Attendance Policies (in school)

Students participating in activities must be in attendance **ALL SEVEN (7) CLASS PERIODS** to be eligible to practice or compete. **Suspension from competitions will result from truancies.**

Exceptions to this policy will be:

1. **Pre-approved** absences.
2. School sponsored event (i.e. fieldtrip)
3. Professional appointment with **PRE APPROVED PARENT PERMISSION** (examples: Doctor, Dentist, Chiropractor, Psychiatrist)

◆ Other exceptions to this policy shall be considered **ONLY** upon the advice and consent of the Principal and Activities Director.

Building Hours

School year

Monday - Friday: 6:30AM-9PM

Saturday: 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday: Closed

Summer

Monday - Friday: 7:30AM-3:30PM

Saturday - Sunday: Closed

- The building is closed for all Holidays.
- The building is closed for extended periods of time over Winter Break and Spring Break.
- Evening hours and Saturday hours may vary depending on events held at the school.

Bullying Policy

- Refer to the MHS Student Handbook
- Violation of this policy will fall under MSHSL Bylaw 206 – Code of Responsibilities.

Captains Practice

Captains' practices are not sponsored nor supervised by Monticello High School. The Monticello School District assumes no liability for participants involved in these practices. Students may organize sport specific open gyms. Sport specific open gyms need to be scheduled with the Community Education Office. A district employee needs to schedule and supervise these types of open gyms. Open gyms are optional for students to attend.

Code of Responsibilities – MSHSL Bylaw #206

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility.

As a student participating in League sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- A. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- B. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- C. I will respect the rights and property of others.
- D. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.
- E. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community,

state and country.

Penalty

A student who is dismissed from school or who violates the student Code of Responsibility is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal and/or the Activities Director acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations.

College Bound Athletes

1. Interested students should seek information on the NCAA web-site at www.ncaa.org
2. Interested students need to complete the NCAA Clearinghouse Application in the Counseling Office.
3. There are certain scores on the ACT/SAT, a minimum GPA, and specific course work that must be passed in order to be eligible for scholarship money. Please find out more on the web at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Communication

This procedure has been developed for the purposes of establishing and maintaining the lines of communication between the school, parents/guardians and the student for the resolution of concerns related to co-curricular activities. This procedure is a means by which concerns/problems can be resolved.

In order to maintain a positive atmosphere and assure that the proper channels of communication will not be circumvented, a procedure has been outlined for the use of the student, parent/guardian, coach/advisor, and administrators. All participants should adhere to the following guidelines.

● **Note:** This process is **not** intended to provide a grievance of a rule(s) of the Minnesota State High School League. There is a separate process established by the MSHSL. Please ask the Activities Office if you would like a copy of the MSHSL grievance policy.

Step 1:

If a student and or parent/guardian have a concern they should:

- A. The student-athlete should speak with the coach first to try to resolve the concern.
- B. If the concern was not resolved, then schedule a meeting to speak personally with the coach/advisor at a time convenient to both parties (preferably within one week) with the intent to solve the problem. This should not be done immediately after a contest or practice. (If the problem involves an assistant coach, the head coach should be involved in the meeting.) The student should also attend this meeting.
- C. Parents/students are to address themselves to problems/concerns related to them only. In order to be in compliance with the "Privacy in Information Act," problems/concerns related to other students are not to be discussed.

Step 2:

If either party has not been satisfied by the proposed resolution of the problem during Step 1, they should request a continuation by contacting the Activities Director.

Step 3:

If either party has not been satisfied by the proposed resolution of the problem during Step 1 or 2, they should request a continuation by contacting the Superintendent of Schools.

Bulletin Boards

Students should frequently check the window outside the Activities Office and Weight Room for information.

Directions to Schools

Please use this website to get directions to any high school in the state of MN: www.hsmaps.com

Equipment/Uniforms

1. All uniforms, equipment, and supplies are the property of Monticello High School and are to be checked out and in with the coach according to the schedule established by the coaching staff.
2. Athletes will be charged the replacement cost for articles lost or excessively worn or damaged.
3. Game and practice uniforms are to be worn for those purposes only and should not be worn for physical education uniforms or as attire.
4. No one will be allowed to commence practice in a sport until the coach from their previous sport clears them. Students are allowed a grace period of two (2) days if they are unable to attend the "Team Turn In Day". After that time, the student may be assessed a late fee.

Event Confirmation/Cancellation

Please check the Conference web-site. You can register for "notify me". If you are registered, any change in the schedule will automatically be emailed to you.

www.mississippi8.org

Fees

The purpose of the activities fee is to reduce the direct costs of activities to assure the continuation of the programs for the benefit of the students. The fees do not pertain to playing time.

1. Athletics: \$215 Activities: \$150 (non-athletic) Family Cap: \$900
2. Students competing in high school sports, including 7th and 8th graders will pay the high school fee.
3. Families on free or reduced lunch should speak with the Activities Office.

Returned checks due to insufficient funds

Monticello School District works with a collection agency in regard to returned checks due to insufficient funds. There will be a fee assessed for all returned checks. The student will be ineligible to participate until sufficient funds have been paid to the Monticello School District, as well as, the assessed fee.

Refunds

1. When a student is cut from a team for reasons other than violation of training, team rules, MHS rules, or MSHSL rules.
2. When injury or illness prevents continuation in the activity, a refund will be made (provided medical documentation is presented to the Activities Office) up until the time of the first contest.
3. When a transfer is made out of School District 882 up until the time of the first contest.
4. When a student quits an activity, up until the time of the first contest.
5. If a student is dismissed from an activity because of disciplinary reasons or infractions of the eligibility rules, there will be NO refund.
6. After the time of the first contest, **no refunds will be made for any reason** due to the fact that the benefits of the equipment usage and eligibility processing will have occurred to the amount of the fee.

Governance

The Minnesota State High School League

All schools are voluntary members of the MSHSL and compete only with other member schools. As a member school, MHS

agrees to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations endorsed by the MSHSL.

The primary role of the MSHSL is to maintain rules and regulations that ensure equity in competition for the student athletes and a balance with other educational programs. The MSHSL solicits input and is responsive to requests for rule modification from member schools, appointed committees, and coaches' associations.

The MSHSL attempts to enforce such rules that assure the greatest good for the greatest number and to ensure that competition is conducted in an appropriate manner.

Please visit the MSHSL web-site for further information and policies in their entirety at www.mshsl.org

The Mississippi 8 Conference

Monticello High School is a voluntary member of this conference. This conference was established for the primary purpose of promoting selected interscholastic activities among member schools and a union of effort may gain the assurance of such advantages.

The conference was established to encourage member schools to improve their co-curricular programs. The conference membership facilitates the arranging of schedules, equalizing competition, conducting league competitions, and determining league championships. The conference provides MHS the opportunity for competition without excessive travel and with schools of similar size and philosophy. Membership implies abiding by conference schedules, rules and regulations. Other member schools: Becker, Big Lake, Buffalo (MS), Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, North Branch, Princeton, Rogers, and St. Michael-Albertville (MS), St. Francis, and Zimmerman

Lettering Criteria

Lettering criteria is unique to each activity. Please communicate with your coach/advisor for more information. This information will be handed out at the Pre-Season Parent/Student Meeting.

Participation and Eligibility Requirements

In order to participate in athletic activities the student must have the following on file in the Activities Office:

1. The current Minnesota State High School eligibility form is signed by both participant and his/her parent or guardian.
2. The Monticello High School Handbook Form signed by parent and participant.
3. A physical examination form signed by a physician within the last three years.
4. Payment of the appropriate fees (check made payable to Monticello High School).

Pep-fests

We will try to have at least one pep-fest per season. (Fall, Winter, Spring)

State Send Off

There will be a state send off pep-fest or a walk through when possible for each TEAM that qualifies for a MSHSL sponsored State Tournament.

Scholastic Eligibility Requirements

Academics

Students must be on track to graduate to maintain eligibility for our activities. **We are an education-based activities program which means academics come first.** A student who receives two or more F's at the end of a trimester will be

ineligible for the following nine week period. The student will NOT be allowed to practice or compete unless an academic plan is in place with school administration, or by the end of the next quarter the student is passing 100% of their classes. Grades will be monitored and approved by the Activities Department.

Students who are struggling with their academics may be put on academic probation. A plan will be made with school staff, the student, and their family to work toward academic achievement. Some options may be: Academic Support before school, an after school tutoring program, working with individual staff, assigning flex time, to name a few. School administration will determine necessary steps to prioritize student's achievement and return to play.

Grading

There are 3 trimesters per school year. The trimester marking the end of the school year will be used for academic eligibility for fall. The first trimester grades will be used for winter activities and the second trimester will be used for spring participation.

Grade Checks

Coaches and advisors will provide their students a progress sheet to monitor academic progress. Students will be required to record their grades in all of their classes and have their teacher initial for verification. Students will be placed in Academic Support if their grade is a C- or lower. Grades will be checked at the start of a season, approximately four weeks into the season, and at the end of a marking period.

Appeals on Eligibility

Any student wishing to appeal the ruling will need to request a meeting with the High School Administration. The administration team will consider the following before making the final decision:

- Is the student on track to graduate?
- Is the student registered for summer school to make up credits?
- Are there extenuating circumstances?
- What is the plan to make up credits?

Incompletes

Students receiving an "I" at the end of the trimester will be allowed 2 weeks to complete the coursework for a grade. After 2 weeks, the student must submit grades from ALL classes (NOT just the classes with an "I").

Transfer Students

Transfer students' eligibility will be determined by their placement in the appropriate grade and trimester level upon entering Monticello High School. They will then adhere to the same guidelines mentioned under Scholastic Eligibility. Prior to participation, all work with the Counseling Office and the MSHSL must be completed. This eligibility procedure includes Foreign Exchange Students and International Students. Bylaw 111 under the MSHSL will be strictly enforced.

Home School Participation

Students who live within the boundaries of the Monticello School District #882 must:

1. Provide the district with a written request to participate in activities.
2. Comply with all eligibility requirements (page 6).
3. Maintain current paperwork in the Counseling Office.

Grade/Age

Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate in any high school activity. Students under the age of 20 are eligible to

participate in any high school activity. This includes managers, ball people, statisticians, video tapers, etc.

Sportsmanship Expectations

The Minnesota State High School League and the Mississippi 8 Conference are emphasizing proper fan behavior and great sportsmanship. Monticello High School seeks to be an example of great sportsmanship and to be known as the classiest school in the conference, section, and state. The enthusiasm displayed and support provided by our fans is appreciated by the members of our teams and reflects well on our school and community. When someone acts inappropriately, it embarrasses self, family, school, and community.

The Mississippi 8 Conference has established guidelines that will be followed at our events.

- 1) If you behave inappropriately (e.g. swearing, chanting tasteless cheers, taunting, bringing a noise maker, throwing items), you will be **warned or removed based on the situation at hand**. Examples of inappropriate cheers are: singling out a team member by name or number, “you can’t make it”, “nuts and bolts”, “BS”, “air ball” – when continuing to taunt the player, etc. Some items are prohibited such as noisemakers, balls, flags, banners, nuisance items, props, and/or pets.
- 2) Once you have been asked to **leave an event**, you will **not be permitted to attend any events for the next 2 weeks**.
- 3) If inappropriate behavior occurs again and you are asked to **leave the event**, you will **not be permitted to attend any athletic event for the remainder of the season**.

Please help us in being an example to others for proper sportsmanship. Essentially, **CHEER FOR OUR TEAM AND NOT AGAINST OUR OPPONENT**.

Training Room

Monticello High School contracts an Athletic Trainer during the school year for certain events.

The Athletic Trainer is available to evaluate athletes’ injuries and will help monitor the rehabilitation process with the athletes, parents, and coaches.

Injuries

******Students who have received medical attention for an injury MUST provide the Activities Office with a medical release signed by the physician, stating that the student is cleared to participate******

Transportation

There will be times that transportation will not be provided to practices or contests. The student will be given a form from the coach/advisor to bring home for authorization. The form will be kept on file in the Activities Office.

When transportation is provided by the school district, it is expected that the students will ride the bus to and from the event. This is a great opportunity for the team to bond together.

If a situation arises, the student may be released to his/her parent or guardian. The parent/guardian must check out with the coach/advisor and sign their child out (a signature is required). **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A COACH/ADVISOR RELEASE A STUDENT TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN HIS/HER PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.**

The only way that a student would be released to someone else is for an extreme situation that must be stated on the **Release Form** that can be found on the website or in the Activities Office. The form must be on file in the Activities Office prior to the requested date. Upon removing the student from the care of the school district, the school district will no longer be liable for the student.

Two (2) Sports/Same Season

An athlete may compete in two (2) high school sports during the same season.

The athlete must:

1. Obtain consent from **BOTH** coaches.
2. Obtain consent from the Activities Director.
3. Pay the full activity fee of one sport and ½ of the other sport.

MSHSL Violations and Penalties

Please refer to the MSHSL Eligibility Standards that you signed prior to the start of the season. These can also be found at www.mshsl.org.

Adding an Activity/Sport at Monticello High School

At Monticello High School our goal is to have every student involved in at least one co-curricular activity or school sponsored club.

Activities: To consider a new activity/sport the following criteria will be considered:

1. Student interest- What are the participation numbers for your activity? How many of the students attend Monticello High School? How many levels would we need to provide at this time? What are the participation numbers at the middle school? How long has your activity been a club? We need data to show that it will sustain itself.
2. The Mississippi 8 Conference currently requires half of the schools to participate before it becomes a conference activity. Is this a conference sport/activity? Who currently has this program in our conference?
3. Is it an approved MSHSL activity? Would we have Section and State opportunities if we add this activity?
4. Gender Equity - Does adding this activity still allow MHS to meet the Title IX guidelines?
5. Would we be able to find a coach/advisor for this position?
6. Do we have the facilities to add this activity?
7. Would your activity be able to help offset the costs of adding and sustaining this program?

Adding a Club/Group

At Monticello High School our goal is to have every student involved in at least one co-curricular activity or school sponsored club.

School recognized clubs: New clubs will need MHS administration and superintendent approval. To consider a new club these procedures must be followed:

Write a proposal and share it with administration at Monticello High School. The proposal should include the following:

- a. The purpose of the club
- b. Share the student interest in this club

- c. How does this club benefit MHS, our students, or our community
- d. The facilities you would need
- e. How often would this club meet
- f. When are you looking at starting this club
- g. Do you have a staff member that is willing to supervise
- h. Do you have a need for a budget, and if so how will it be funded
- i. Would your students letter if they meet requirements of this club

School recognized Clubs may make announcements if they receive admin approval

Groups: To consider a new group the following procedures must be followed:

Schedule a meeting with MHS administration. Submit the following:

- a. The purpose of the group
- b. How many students are interested
- c. How often do you want to meet
- d. Do you have a location
- e. Who will supervise this group

Groups need administration approval to post information by the counselor's office. No announcements are made for groups over the intercom.

GO MAGIC!