

Important Update: Athletic Placement Process (APP)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

New York State has updated the **Athletic Placement Process (APP)** effective **July 29, 2026**.

What is APP?

APP is the process used when a student seeks to participate in interscholastic athletics outside of their usual grade level (for example, a 7th or 8th-grade student trying out for a high school team; JV or Varsity).

What Changed?

The state has removed the **Tanner Sexual Maturity Rating** from the APP process. Students will no longer undergo that assessment.

What Will Be Evaluated Instead?

Students must demonstrate readiness in four areas:

- Personal and social responsibility
- Sport-specific skills
- Knowledge of the game
- Physical fitness

Important Information for Families

- Participation in APP remains **optional for school districts**.
- Completion of the fitness assessment is NOT a requirement at this point
- An APP invitation **does not guarantee placement on a team**.
- Students trying out through APP are evaluated using the **same team-selection criteria as all other students**.
- Parent Permission slip must be signed and returned

Health Requirements Remain the Same

Students must still provide:

- A current annual health examination with athletic clearance.

ATTENDANCE AT TRYOUTS IS MANDATORY IF LOOKING TO “PLAY UP”

These changes are intended to maintain student safety while using evaluation methods that are more appropriate and less intrusive.

Parents and guardians should understand that students participating on Junior Varsity or Varsity teams may regularly interact with older high school students. These interactions can include exposure to greater social maturity, different conversations, language, and experiences that may not typically occur among same-grade peers. Families should consider their child's readiness for this environment when deciding whether participation at an advanced level is appropriate.

Sincerely,

Andrew Klaich

Director of Athletics

Dobbs Ferry Schools