

STAYTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Principal: Matt Olson
Assist. Principal: Jessica Roth
Athletic Director: Thomas Smith

SMS - 503.769.2198
SIS - 503.769.4065

2026-2027 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK FOR GRADES 4-8



OUR VISION

FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

OUR MISSION

PROVIDE A SKILLS-BASED AND RIGOROUS ACADEMIC EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ALL KIDS

OUR VALUES - C.A.R.E

CITIZENSHIP

ACCOUNTABILITY

RELATIONSHIPS

EXCELLENCE

The Parent-Student Handbook has been prepared to acquaint you with the basic policies and procedures of the North Santiam School District, to inform you of the School's Code of Conduct and provide you with a reference for answering your general questions. Please contact the school if you have additional questions.



**North Santiam School District
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Mackenzie Strawn, Board Chair
Alisha Oliver, Vice-Chair
Erin Cramer
Mike Wagner
Mark Henderson
Coral Ford
Brunk Conley

**NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent—Lee W Loving**

District Office Information

County: Marion & Linn
Enrollment: 2100
Meetings: Third Thursday @ 6:00 PM, [Link to Calendar](#)
ESD Served by: Willamette ESD
District Web Page: www.nssd29j.org
District Policy Page: <http://policy.osba.org/nsantiam/index.asp>

NORTH SANTIAM SD29J
1155 North Third Avenue
Stayton, OR 97383
Phone: 503.769.6924
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Contact Information

Superintendent:
Director of Fiscal Services:
Director of Human Resources:
Director of Teaching & Learning
Director of Special Services
Director of Facilities
Director of Ancillary Services
Admin. Assistant to the Supt/Board:

Lee W. Loving
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SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stayton Elementary School (K-3)
Mari-Linn School (K-8)
Sublimity Elementary and Middle Schools (K-8)
Stayton Intermediate/Middle School (4-8)
Stayton High School (9-12)
Options Academy (K-12)

The Director of Human Resources, Danielle Blackwell, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the legal requirements of Title II, Title IX, and other civil rights or discrimination issues, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. They may be contacted at the District Office, 1155 North Third Avenue, Stayton, OR 97383, or at 503-769-6924 for additional information and/or compliance issues. Full policies are available through the policy website listed above or by contacting the Board Executive Assistant at 503-769-4928 or by Email at tonia.whisman@nssd29j.org

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The link below is for the NSSD Student/Parent Handbook, which is separate from this handbook. It includes district-wide policies, procedures, and notices that apply to all students and parents regardless of which school they are associated with. A printed copy can be obtained from any school office or the District Office. It can be accessed via the link below or by visiting the District website at www.nssd29j.org → For Families → [Handbooks](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION

organized alphabetically

ATHLETICS

Competitive athletic activities for middle school students in grades 6–8 are available through the North Santiam School District (NSSD). The program is facilitated at Stayton Middle School, where students from Mari-Linn, Sublimity, and Stayton combine to form a single team (or teams) that compete as Stayton Middle School. For the convenience of student-athletes, shuttle buses are provided for transportation to and from practices for students at Sublimity and Mari-Linn.

2026-2027 Sports Seasons

SEASON	DATES	SPORTS OFFERED	Available to Grades
Fall	Aug 31st - Oct. 21	Cross Country (boys & girls)	6-8
		Volleyball (girls)	7-8
		Football (boys)	7-8
		Soccer (boys & girls)	7-8
Winter 1	Oct. 26-Jan. 8	Basketball (boys)	7-8
		Dance (girls)	6-8
Winter 2	Jan.11- Mar. 5	Basketball (girls)	7-8
		Wrestling (boys & girls)	6-8
Spring	Mar. 8-May 7	Track & Field (boys & girls)	6-8

Athletic Handbook: Please refer to [Addendum 3](#) at the end of this handbook for more detailed information regarding participation expectations, team rules, and academic eligibility. If you have any questions concerning middle school athletics, please contact the SMS Athletic Director, Tom Smith, at 503-769-4065.

ATTENDANCE

Absence: Parents/Guardians are requested to call the school office before 8:30 a.m. on the day of an absence. If parents are unable to contact the school, a written note with the student's name, the date of absence, and the reason for the absence, signed by the parent, should be sent to the office on the day the student returns to school. Parents/Guardians can also submit a message on Parent Square to notify office staff, teachers, and administrators of student absences.

Homework: Homework requests generally take one full school day to gather. Students can also access schoolwork on Google Classroom. Homework prepared by the teacher can be picked up from the office after 3:30 p.m.

Early Check-Out: Stayton Intermediate and Middle School has a closed campus safety policy for all students. If a student has an appointment during the day, the parent/guardian must come into the school and sign out their student. The student needs to check in at the office if they return to school on the same day.

Tardiness (SMS only): Tardiness occurs when a student is late to class. Teachers will monitor and record the tardiness of each student and follow the guidelines set by the administration.

- Students with three or more tardies will be assigned lunch detention.
- Students who are chronically marked tardy may be assigned after-school detention or provided an individualized plan.
- After-school detention is on Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:30.
- Students in sports will serve After School Detention before going to practice.

Irregular Attendance/Chronic Absenteeism: Our district is dedicated and focused on promoting regular attendance for all students. The State of Oregon defines regular attendance as being present for 90% of instructional days. School officials will notify parents of students with irregular attendance to outline an improvement plan. Students who do not meet attendance requirements may not be allowed to attend co-curricular activities (eg, sporting events, non-academic field trips, etc.)

CLOTHING GUIDELINES EXPECTATIONS

*Copied from NSSD Parent-Student Handbook

Individual dress styles and trends change quickly, and gang-influenced clothing often crosses over into the mainstream, making it challenging to track. As styles of clothing change, the District will address individuals if their mode of dress is deemed unsafe or inappropriate. Clothing styles that are disruptive of the education process, constitute a threat to the safety and health of self or others, or are a violation of any statute, will not be permitted in school.

The following standards have been established to guide students and families in selecting appropriate school clothing:

1. Clothing and grooming must be clean and adhere to proper health, safety, and sanitation practices, including always wearing school shoes.
2. The attire and grooming of students should not cause significant disruptions to the teaching and learning process, such as distractions caused by clothing choices.
 - a. Students may not wear hoods or beanies/hats that cover their ears inside the building.
3. Any clothing associated with gangs or containing gang-related symbols or paraphernalia will not be permitted.
 - a. Bandanas are not allowed.
4. Clothing displaying images of or references to alcohol, firearms, or drugs is not allowed on school grounds. Additionally, students may not wear attire that promotes racial harassment or discrimination.
5. Clothing should be modest in nature in every school setting, including sporting events.
 - a. No midriff t-shirts
 - b. Undergarments should not be visible
 - c. Clothing with holes that may be revealing are not allowed.

Students not dressed according to the above guidelines will be asked to change or wear additional clothing. Families will be contacted if necessary so that the student can make arrangements to change into appropriate clothing.

Additional information can be found in policy JFCA. Students will be referred to a building administrator if they are believed to be in violation. Clothing guidelines apply to all after-school activities, including dances.

DAILY SCHEDULES

4th GRADE

REGULAR: TUES-FRI		MONDAY: LATE START	
First Bell	7:55 am	First Bell	8:55 am
Classroom	8:00-11:30	Classroom	9:00-11:56
Recess/Lunch	11:30-12:10	Recess/Lunch	11:56-12:36
Classroom	12:10-1:55	Classroom	12:36-2:04
PE	1:59-2:45 (dismissal)	PE	2:04-2:45 (dismissal)

5th GRADE

REGULAR: TUES-FRI		MONDAY: LATE START	
First Bell	7:55	First Bell	8:55
Classroom	8:00-11:30	Classroom	9:00-11:56
Recess/Lunch	11:30-12:10	Recess/Lunch	11:56-12:36
Classroom	12:10-1:00	Classroom	12:36-1:20
PE	1:04-1:55	PE	1:20-2:00
Classroom	1:59-2:45 (dismissal)	Classroom	2:04-2:45 (dismissal)

6/7/8th Grade

REGULAR: TUES-FRI		MONDAY: LATE START	
First Bell	7:55	First Bell	8:55
Period 1	8:00 – 8:51	Period 1	9:00 – 9:40
Period 2	8:55 – 9:35	Period 2	9:44 – 10:24
Period 3	9:39 – 10:30	Period 3	10:28 – 11:08
Period 4	10:34 – 11:25	Period 4	11:12 – 11:52
Period 5	11:29 – 12:20	Period 5	11:56 – 12:36
LUNCH	12:20 – 1:00	LUNCH	12:36 – 1:16
Period 6	1:04 – 1:55	Period 6	1:20 – 2:00
Period 7	1:59 – 2:45	Period 7	2:04 – 2:45

DANCE POLICY

Dance eligibility may be based on attendance and behavior from “dance to dance.” Administrators may modify the minimum dance requirements on a case-by-case basis when appropriate. Students who display unsafe behavior at a dance will be removed from campus and may not be permitted to attend future events.

DISCIPLINE SUMMARY (General)

When expectations are not met, rules and procedures are designed to protect students, parents, and employees' safety, rights, and responsibilities. The rules apply to student conduct which occurs while a student is:

1. On school premises before, during, or after normal school hours.
2. At a school-sponsored event before, during, or after normal school hours, including field trips and school-sponsored tours and activities in another city, state, or country.
3. Traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored event.
4. On all school premises at any other time when the school is being used for a school-sponsored event.

5. Off school premises when such conduct involves threats or harm to students, staff, and/or district property.

In addition, the student may be referred to a school counselor, the Student Support Team, or the Threat Assessment Team.

Behavior Referral Definitions (General):

Abusive Language Inappropriate Language Profanity	Verbal messages that include swearing, name-calling, or the use of words in an inappropriate way
Alcohol	Student is in possession of or is using alcohol
Arson	Student plans and/or participates in malicious burning of property
Bomb Threat False Alarm	Student delivers a message of possible explosive materials being on-campus, near campus, and/or pending explosion
Combustibles	Student is in possession of substances/objects readily capable of causing bodily harm and/or property damage (matches, lighters, firecrackers, gasoline, lighter fluid)
Defiance, Disrespect Insubordination Non-Compliance	Refusal to follow directions, talking back, and/or socially rude interactions
Defiance/Disrespect Non-Compliance	Student engages in brief or low-intensity failure to respond to adult requests
Disruption	Student engages in low-intensity, but inappropriate disruption
Disruption	Behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity - disruption includes sustained loud talk, yelling or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior
Dress Code	Student wears clothing that is near, but not within, the dress code guidelines defined by the school/district
Electronics or Technology Violation	Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by school) use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer
Fighting Physical Aggression	Actions involving serious physical contact where injury may occur (e.g., hitting, punching, hitting with an object, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, etc.)
Forgery Theft	Student is in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property, or has signed a person's name without that person's permission
Harassment Teasing Taunting	Student delivers disrespectful messages (verbal or with gestures) to another person that include threats and intimidation, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes; disrespectful messages including negative comments based on race, religion, gender, age, and/or national origin; sustained or intense verbal attacks based on ethnic origin, disabilities, or other personal matters
Inappropriate Display of Affection	Student engages in inappropriate (as defined by the school) verbal and/or physical gestures/contact of a sexual nature to another student/adult, either consensual or non-consensual
Inappropriate Verbal Language	Student engages in low-intensity instances of inappropriate language
Information and Other Electronics Technology Violation	Student engages in non-serious but inappropriate (as defined by the school) use of cell phone, pager, music/video players, camera, and/or computer
Lying Cheating	Student delivers a message that is untrue and/or deliberately violates rules

Other Drugs	Student is in possession of or is using illegal drugs/substances
Out of Bounds Off School Location	Student is in an area that is outside of school boundaries (as defined by the school)
Physical Contact/Aggression	Student engages in non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact
Property Damage	Student deliberately impairs the usefulness of the property.
Property Misuse	Student engages in low-intensity misuse of property
Skipping Class Truancy	Student leaves class/school without permission or stays out of class/school without permission
Tardy	Student is late (as defined by the school) to class or the start-up of the school day (Tardy is not considered a minor problem behavior in the school)
Tardy	Student arrives at class after the bell (or signal that class has started)
Tobacco	Student is in possession of or is using tobacco
Vandalism Property Damage	Student participates in an activity that results in substantial destruction or disfigurement of property
Other	Problem behavior causing this referral is not listed above; staff using this area will specify the problem behavior observed

Administrative Decision (General):

In-School Suspension	Consequence for referral results in a period of time spent away from scheduled activities/classes during the school day
Loss of Privilege	Consequence for referral results in the student being unable to participate in some type of privilege
Out-of-School Suspension	Consequence for referral results in a period when the student is not allowed on campus
Parent Contact	Consequence for referral results in parent communication by phone, email, or person-to-person about the problem
Time in Office	Consequence for referral results in the student spending time in the office away from scheduled activities/classes
Time Out Detention	Consequence for referral results in the student spending time in a specified area away from scheduled activities/classes
Other	Consequence for referral results in an administrative decision that is not listed above; staff using this area will specify the administrative action taken

Appeal Procedure: If a student or parent wishes to appeal a disciplinary action or decision made by school personnel, they should first contact the principal or assistant principal. A copy of the public complaint policy is available on the district website at www.nssd29j.org under “School Board” and “Policies,” which outlines the appeals process and forms for a written complaint.

LOCKERS (SMS only)

Lockers and desks are the property of the District. Students in grades 6-8 are assigned individual lockers as a convenience for storing school materials as needed during the school day. All students are required to store personal backpacks and any personal items (including cell phones) in their lockers between the time school starts and 2:45 P.M every day. The North Santiam School District (NSSD) is not responsible for any personal devices that are lost or stolen at school.

Every effort will be made to keep the lockers in proper repair. Any lock or locker not operating properly should be reported to the office. It is the student's responsibility to maintain proper locker care. A \$5 fee may be charged for any lost or damaged locks.

Once a student is assigned a locker, they may not switch, share, or give their combination to another student. Locker reassignments will only be permitted with the approval of an administrator.

MEALS

All students attending Stayton Intermediate/Middle School have automatically been approved to eat one breakfast and one lunch daily at no charge through the Community Eligibility Provision. There is no requirement to complete a Free & Reduced application. Should a student wish to eat an additional meal or purchase supplemental items, they will need to pay for those with cash or funds that have been deposited into their lunch accounts. Stayton Intermediate and Middle School students eat in the same cafeteria at different times, which serves nutritious meals daily that meet the requirements established by the USDA.

SMS Breakfast is provided from 7:40 to 7:55 a.m. in the cafeteria. Building doors will open at 7:40 each morning. There is no outside supervision prior to doors opening, so children should be dropped off no earlier than 7:40 a.m. SIS Breakfast is provided from 7:40 to 8:00 a.m. in the SIS building. SIS students eat breakfast in their classrooms.

Meal Prices: Prices for second meals are listed on the website under Nutrition Services and are also available at registration or through the office. For questions or comments, please contact the Food Service Director, John Barnes, at 503-769-4115.

PERSONAL DEVICE POLICY

Please see the [Responsible Use Agreements](#) at the end of this handbook for information regarding our expectations for student technology use.

For the safety and focus of our students, all students in grades 4-8 will be expected to follow these guidelines for personal devices during the school day:

- **Keep devices off and away:** Students must keep personal devices off and out of sight from the start of the school day until 2:45 p.m., unless given specific permission by a staff member in the main office.
 - Grades 4/5 - All devices are required to be stored in the student's personal backpack.
 - Grades 6-8 - All devices are required to be stored in the student's personal backpack **in their locker**.
- **Bring devices at your own risk:** The North Santiam School District (NSSD) is not responsible for any personal devices that are lost or stolen at school.
- **Follow district policies:** All district policies, including those related to technology use, apply to activities on personal devices **while at school**. Any threatening behavior via text or social media may be investigated by school administrators.
- **No listening devices:** Students are not permitted to use earbuds, Bluetooth speakers, headphones, or similar devices during the school day unless authorized by a staff member.

PROMOTION

8th-grade Field Trip: To be eligible for the 8th-grade promotion field trip, the following guidelines must be met during the last grading period, which begins in early April unless determined by administrators:

- No suspensions (in-school or out of school) for the last grading period
- No more than three unexcused absences for the last grading period

- No **F's** in the last grading period
- All fines must be paid.

Promotion Ceremonies: All students who meet the academic standards for completion of the 8th grade will walk in the promotion ceremony unless major behavior warrants suspension on the day of promotion or if the student is under expulsion. If a student is attending Stayton Middle School under probation, their participation in the promotion ceremony will be contingent upon completion of the expulsion guidelines and expectations as stated. Promotion for 8th graders is scheduled during the last week of school for all other students. Communication detailing promotion logistics will go home to all 8th-grade parents in May.

SAFE DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

With nearly 500 students leaving school at once, it's crucial for everyone—students, staff, and parents—to be aware of our dismissal procedures to ensure a safe and smooth process.

For Students:

- **Walkers:** Please leave campus immediately after school ends. All walking students should be off school property by 2:55 p.m. unless they are with a staff member.
- **Bikes & Scooters:** For everyone's safety, please walk your bike or scooter until you are off school grounds.
- **Crossing the Street:** If you are crossing Shaff Road on foot or with a bike, you must use the designated crosswalk. We have crosswalk guards on Shaff Road and Gardner Street to assist you.
- **Bus Riders:** Staff members will supervise students as they load the buses.

For Drivers:

- **Parking:** Do not park in the bus lanes. When you enter the parking lot, please pull into a designated parking space while you wait for your student.
- **Traffic Signs:** Please follow all traffic signs and be mindful of the left-turn restriction onto Shaff Road between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and 2:00-5:00 p.m.

STUDENT PROGRESS AND GRADES

We believe in keeping you informed about your child's academic progress throughout the school year. Here is our schedule for sharing student grades and reports:

- **Report Cards:** Final report cards for the first semester and the end of the school year will be mailed home. Parents/Guardians can expect them the week after each semester concludes.
- **Progress Reports:** Progress reports will be distributed during parent conferences after the first and third quarters. These conferences are a valuable opportunity to discuss students' academic standing and celebrate their growth.

Accessing Grades: Parent/Guardians who do not receive a report card for any reason should contact the school office to verify the mailing address and request that a new report be sent. For your convenience, grades are also available 24/7 on ParentVue.

VISITOR POLICY

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. To ensure a secure environment, we require all visitors to follow these procedures:

Signing In & Out:

- All visitors, including parents, students, volunteers, and vendors, must sign in at the school office and get a visitor sticker to wear while on campus.
- Before you leave, please return to the main office to sign out.
- Staff members are instructed to ask anyone without a visitor badge to return to the office to get one.

Classroom Visits:

- Parents and guardians are welcome to visit and observe their child's classes.
- We ask that you contact the Principal in advance to make arrangements for your visit.
- Please remember that the teacher's primary focus is on their students and the class they are teaching. If you would like to have a discussion with a teacher, please schedule a separate appointment during a time when they are not with students.

If you have any questions about our visitor policy, please contact the Principal at 503-769-2198.

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers will complete the application online. The application is available at this link https://helpcounter-kiosk.com/welcome/apply_i.php?district=northsantiam. Once approved, the clearance will be effective for two years from the approval date. Volunteers should allow 10 working days to process applications.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

The District Website is located at <https://www.nssd29j.org>, with a link to all campuses on the top bar labeled "Schools".

Addendum 1
Parent/Student Technology
Responsible Use Form (RUF)
Grades K-5

The NSSD strongly believes in equipping our students with the skills and knowledge to become future-ready. We expect students to understand that using their devices is a privilege, and any privilege comes with responsibility. The following are the expectations when students use school devices:

How should I use technology?

- I will use my device when a staff member asks me during class, during my own study time or during breaks.
- When a staff member says it's time for a device break, I will put my devices away.
- I will ask for permission before downloading any new apps.
- I will take care of any school devices as if they were my own.

What should I do with technology?

- I will use my device to learn new things.
- I will check the information to verify that it is true.
- I will give credit to the creators of content that is not mine.

How should I interact with other people?

- I will be a good cyber-friend, including being honest and kind online.
- I will let a teacher or parent know before contacting someone online I don't already know.
- I will not share personal information (like my home address or birthdate) about myself or others online.
- I will give feedback and comments in ways that make others feel supported and welcome.
- I will use appropriate language and won't make others feel uncomfortable because of the things I say.

What happens when something goes wrong?

- When I do something that is not in line with this agreement, I will talk to a teacher or trusted adult who will help me figure out how to make it right.
- I will immediately stop and tell a trusted adult if anything happens on the computer or online that does not seem right or makes me feel uncomfortable.

I understand that using any school technology is a privilege I must earn. If I don't keep my part of this agreement, I understand that privileges may be removed for a time and that I may face additional consequences.

I have read the above information and agree to the terms and conditions.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Addendum 2

NSSD Parent/Student Technology RESPONSIBLE Use Form (RUF) Grades 6-12

The NSSD strongly believes in equipping our students with the skills and knowledge to become future-ready. We expect students to understand that using their devices is a privilege, and any privilege comes with responsibility. The following are the expectations for using personal devices at school or anytime students use school devices:

Digital Citizenship

I am responsible for modeling positive digital citizenship. I will treat people with dignity and kindness when using technology and online.

- I will be honest and ethical in all digital communications.
- I will be kind and avoid making threats, insulting, gossiping, or teasing others with cruelty while I am online or using a computer.
- I will credit authors or sources when using information or ideas that are not my own. Failure to properly cite my sources of information is called plagiarism and is a form of cheating.
- I understand that what I post may be seen by others at school and at home, and that what is posted on the Internet can be seen by anyone in the world.
- I will not share personal information (either my own or another student's), including where I live, details about family or friends (including names), my age, birthday, home address, or phone number on the Internet.
- I will consider who I am communicating with and think about how they might interpret my words.
- I will give constructive criticism and provide comments that help others feel supported.
- I will use respectful and appropriate language without swearing, name-calling, or causing others to feel uncomfortable due to their gender, race, appearance, behavior, or beliefs.
- I will fact-check information before I share it digitally.
- I will not impersonate others or try to trick people into thinking something I wrote was done by someone else.

Learning and Curiosity

I understand that school technology and networks are primarily provided to help support my learning and curiosity.

- I will use technology to learn new things.
- I will use technology to complete school activities or assignments.
- I will use my device to check information and verify its accuracy.
- I will give credit to the creators of any content I use that is not my own.
- *I will engage in research to develop my knowledge and skills, aspiring to reach my full academic potential.*

Personal Responsibility and Safety

I know that school computers and internet communication tools must be used properly and responsibly.

- If I find inappropriate content on the Internet, I will notify a staff member or a trusted adult,

especially if I encounter any inappropriate material while completing an assignment.

- I will treat the Chromebook and all technology equipment from the school as if they belonged to me.
- I will respect the district network's security measures and only download apps or content I have permission to access.
- I will only log into the computer or network with my own username and password.

I understand that using any school technology, networks or personal devices at school is a privilege I must earn through responsible use, but we all make mistakes.

When I use my device in a way that is inconsistent with this agreement, I will inform a trusted adult and ask them to help me make it right. If I can't consistently keep my part of this agreement, I understand that privileges may be temporarily removed and that I may face additional consequences.

I have read the above information and agree to the terms and conditions.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

North Santiam School District Middle School Parent and Athlete Co-Curricular Handbook 2026-2027



NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC RULES, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES

AUTHORITY

North Santiam School District maintains final authority regarding the implementation of its athletic programs. Concerns about athletic programs should be addressed initially to the middle school coaching staff and administration.

The purpose of the interscholastic athletics program is to promote, direct, and conduct athletics to further the aims of fitness and general education, promote friendly relations with other schools, provide an opportunity for students to experience teamwork, encourage participation by all students, and teach good sportsmanship and fair play.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the middle school athletic program is consistent with the overall district philosophy in that it is based upon a belief in the worth and dignity of the individual. We strive to create an activity environment that will aid each participant in developing confidence, self-esteem, and a desire to be a contributor to a positive group effort. The activities program is expected to promote self-discovery, fitness, good sportsmanship, and citizenship, respect for people and property, self-discipline, and responsibility.

A properly organized and conducted activities program should be a distinct contribution to an individual's total education. However, it should be understood that participation in middle school activities is both a right and a privilege that carries specific responsibilities to the team/group, the school, and the community that supports it.

Playing time is an important part of skill development. North Santiam middle schools will follow their league policies, which state that playing time is needed in each half of every team sports contest. Attendance problems or inappropriate behavior while participating in any team activity may result in reduced playing time.

Parent complaints should be dealt with at the lowest level. Schedule a meeting with your child's coach. Parents and athletes will not address concerns with coaches at the contest site on the day of games. Concerns will not be addressed to coaches before, during, or after athletic contests. Instead, a separate appointment will be made so that concerns may be addressed privately with the coach and, if necessary, the athletic director and an administrator.

ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible to participate in the organized interscholastic athletic program of North Santiam middle schools, a student must:

- Be enrolled as a middle school student in the North Santiam School District.
- Maintain academic grades in all classes during the sport/activity season, as verified by each individual middle school in the District.
- Maintain satisfactory behavior while at school. Any suspension will result in a one-game suspension following the return to school.
- Have a recent physical examination on file with the school, indicating approval for participation. In order to play interscholastic sports, a student must have a current physical on file and have medical insurance coverage (family or school).

- Have a signed *Athletic Participation Permit* and *Athletic Agreement* on file (FamilyID) with the school.
2. When all eligibility requirements are completed and all forms submitted, the student will be cleared for participation.
 3. There are certain character traits and behaviors desirable in all students and necessary in athletic participants if we are to comply with the goals of our philosophy. Athletic participants must:
 - Maintain regular attendance in class, especially on the day of an activity and the day following. Students who are absent for any part of the day due to illness or out-of-school suspension will not be able to participate in after-school or evening activities. If an *absence is pre-arranged* with the athletic director or principal, a student may be cleared to participate in after-school or evening activities, including athletics. A student suspended in school may practice but not play in competition.
 - Demonstrate self-control and refrain from unsportsmanlike actions or words that discredit the team or the student body as a whole.
 - Refrain from using profane or obscene language.
 - Refrain from any actions or words considered insubordinate to coaches.
 - Refrain from any actions or words considered insubordinate to the officials.
 - Demonstrate responsibility and respect for equipment.
 - Maintain appearance and grooming that is neat, clean, and appropriate to the activity.
 - Refrain from possession or use of alcohol in any form.
 - Refrain from possession or use of tobacco in any form.
 - Refrain from possession or use of illegal drugs or narcotics.
 - Refrain from involvement in criminal activity, including actions relating to theft or destruction of property.
 4. Consequences for violation of the above rules will be addressed specifically in the athletic agreement and team rules established by each coach.
 - Probation: The athlete may be formally warned about any violation of a team regulation, and likely will be suspended or dismissed from the team if any further violation occurs.
 - Suspension: The athlete may be required to participate in all team practices and meetings, but will not be allowed to dress down or participate in a specified number of games.
 - Dismissal: The athlete may be excused from the team for the remainder of the season.
 5. School uniforms and gear must be returned (or paid for) before students may start the next sport.

6. Additional team rules specific to each sport will be provided to participants and parents by the coach.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement the concepts of the athletic philosophy into a working program, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. North Santiam Middle School athletic programs are open to any student who meets eligibility requirements and is willing to make a commitment to the activities in which they wish to participate. Participants must also be willing to accept the philosophy and agree to specific rules.
2. Each participant and their parent/guardian shall be made aware (in writing) of the program philosophy and all eligibility and participation requirements.
3. Although individual activities may have specific rules, these rules must be consistent with the general philosophy. When appropriate, they are to be in writing and provided to the participants and their parent/guardian.
4. Individual coaches must be diligent in maintaining standards consistent with the philosophy. It is their responsibility to uphold the rules that were made for the benefit of the individual and the group.
5. Teachers, coaches, and administrators are the only people who may report infractions or violations of team rules. All reports of alleged violations must be referred to them.
6. Coaches have the authority to discipline participants for actions and behaviors that violate the rules and expectations of participants. Suspensions and dismissals must be reported to the parent and to the principal by the coach within one school day of the action. Dismissals are subject to approval by the principal.

WARNING STATEMENT

The benefits of participation in organized athletics are many, as outlined in our philosophy statement. However, participants and their parents must be aware of the risk of injury in virtually every athletic activity. Supervision, quality instruction, sportsmanlike actions, and emphasis on safety greatly minimize the potential for injury, but the risk remains.

Use [THIS LINK](#) to be directed to our district website, where you can access forms like sports participation, sports physical, or permission forms for your student to travel by private vehicle with someone other than you. You may also obtain copies from any school office.