M.S.A.D. NO. 75 PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors recognizes the value of athletics as an integral part of the educational program.

The Board believes that participation in education based athletic programs sports provides a significant learning experience and opportunity for personal growth. Learning in sports is closely related to learning in the classroom, supporting the district's Portrait of a Graduate, in that athletics supports mental, emotional, and physical well-being while also promoting lifelong health and wellness. Through education based athletic programs, students learn skills, strategies, relationships, leadership, self-discipline and responsibility. They also learn the importance of setting goals for themselves and the team, and planning how to achieve those goals.

It is the Board's intent that the District offer students the opportunity to experience developmentally appropriate athletic programs.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Athletes are expected to adapt and adhere to the expectations of a team.

The Board believes that participation in athletics can:

- Support and contribute to health and well-being.
- Provide the incentive for developing and maintaining healthy bodies and active minds
- Promote habits of exercise and good nutrition that can last a lifetime
- Build self-confidence and a sense of personal responsibility for making healthy lifestyle choices
- Create a feeling of belonging and offers a supportive network that can contribute to emotional well-being, by being part of a team

At the **high school level,** interscholastic athletic programs are designed to serve the needs of students who have shown that they are developmentally ready for competitive experiences. At this level the purpose of athletic programs is to promote healthy competition, sportsmanship, cooperation, integrity and citizenship. Whenever feasible, sub-varsity programs will be available to students. The Board also supports intramural sports as a way to involve students who are not competing in interscholastic activities.

At the **middle school level,** the District's athletic programs are designed to meet the developmental needs of students through appropriate intramural and interscholastic activities. At this level, athletic programs will emphasize exploration of various athletics, the strengthening of fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and health and safety. It is the Board's intent that the programs promote opportunities for involvement of all team members in practices and play. The Board supports intramural activities for students not participating in interscholastic activities

or when financial, staffing or other concerns require the school to limit the number of students participating in interscholastic activities.

The Board will be responsible for approving the school sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs. The Superintendent or their designee (e.g., Athletic Director) shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning the approval of new athletic programs or the modification or elimination of existing programs. The Board may articulate, through policy, criteria to be considered in decision-making or may delegate the responsibility for developing such criteria to the Superintendent or their designee.

CROSS REFERENCE: JJIB – Sponsorship and Evaluation of Athletic Programs
JJIBA – Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches
JJIBB – Sportsmanship
JJIBC – Relations with Booster Groups

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