

2021-2022

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALTOONA

### MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

#### **PROUD TO BE A RAILROADER**

The School District of Altoona recognizes the importance of extra/co-curricular activities as an integral part of the total educational experience. We believe the development of socially active and responsible students goes hand-in-hand with participation in school sponsored activities. Involvement will provide each student with the opportunity to learn useful skills; the awareness of the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play and the realization that a positive attitude, dedication and hard work are essential for success in life. It also challenges students by providing opportunities to attain the skills and knowledge to be mentally and physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle. In order to receive these benefits, each student must meet certain expectations for the privilege of participating in athletics and activities at Altoona Middle School.

The philosophy of these opportunities at Altoona Middle School sports does not focus on wins and losses. Rather it revolves around providing exposure, opportunity, and participation while learning how to work as a part of a team displaying excellent sportsmanship. Our coaches and advisors are committed to providing our students with time to enjoy and participate in these experiences (games and other like events). While our coaches and advisors make the final determination on when and how much our students play or compete in any given game or event, our students also have input into these decisions based on many factors. Some of these factors include their attendance to games/events and practices, effort, and displaying positive behaviors both at school and as a part of the team/group.

*Unlawful Discrimination Consistent with legal requirements, the School District of Altoona shall not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, homelessness status, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability/ handicap in its curricular, career and technical education, co-curricular, student services, recreational or other programs or activities, or in admission or access to programs or activities offered by the District as required by section 118.13 and other state statutes. This policy also prohibits student discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap) and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability).*

## **ACADEMICS**

While we recognize the importance our clubs, sports, and other co/extracurricular activities play in the lives of our students, their success and achievements in the classroom needs to be the priority. In order to maintain eligibility, students need to be in good academic standing. Since middle school students use a standards-based grading scale, any student receiving an NE (No Evidence) at a grading term (end of each quarter) in any class will become ineligible. Once ineligible, students are able (and encouraged to) continue to practice with their team or group. However, they are not able to compete in games or events until they are able to regain their eligibility. A middle school student regains eligibility once they are able to demonstrate they are no longer receiving an NE in all classes. Students who wish to regain eligibility need to meet with the Activities Director for steps regarding this process.

## **ATTENDANCE**

To be eligible for the day's competition or performance, students must be in school and participate in class the entire day. A student who is absent for all or part of the day will be ineligible for that day's competition or performance, or the next competition or performance after this is discovered. Excessive tardiness, as defined as 10 or more tardies throughout the school day, impacts the learning experience and may result in a student being ineligible as determined by the administration. Students with excused appointments or family emergencies may participate in the day's activity if the Administration excuses their absence. Written verification from a valid professional will be required for these situations.

Students should make every effort to attend all practices, competitions, or performances. Attendance at practices is critical to being successful during competitions and performances. Absences from practices may result in reduced participation time in future competitions and performances.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Coaches and Advisors work with the Athletics & Activities Director to determine appropriate departures for events. Periodically, departures may require an early dismissal during the school day. Early dismissal must be approved ahead of time by the Athletics & Activities Director. Coaches must also communicate this to the HS Staff the day prior or morning of the event.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication among/between students, parents and/or guardians and coaches and/or advisors is critical and becoming ever more necessary. If a parent brings a complaint to the Athletic & Activities Director, the student will be directed back to the coach, first, as they are encouraged to advocate for themselves and work with the coach and/or advisor to find a solution. When necessary, the Athletic Director will work with students to develop strategies to approach coaches appropriately. In the majority of cases, the student-and coach/advisor should be able to communicate and reach an amicable solution to concerns and/or questions.

## BEHAVIOR

Appropriate behavior is critical and expected from our students both at school and as a part of a team, club or other group. Students who display inappropriate behavior while at school, or as a part of a team, club, or group may receive reduced opportunities to compete or perform.

During practices, competitions, and performances our coaches and advisors are tasked with holding our students to these behavior expectations demonstrating our character both here in Altoona and at other locations. Should a student not be able to comply with these expectations, loss of competition/participation time, and suspension from such activities, may be issued by the coach or advisor as needed.

Students who display inappropriate behaviors that warrant a suspension from school (in or out of school) will be held to the following guidelines during that school year:

First violation: Ineligible for 25% of the total amount of competitions for that season, or the following season they wish to participate. They may still practice during this period.

Second Violation: Ineligible for 50% of the total amount of competitions for that season, or the following season they wish to participate. They may still practice during this period.

Third Violation: The student is ineligible for one calendar year from all middle school level competitions, performances, and practices indefinitely. In order to be reinstated, the student will need to request a meeting with the Athletics & Activities Director.

## **ONLINE REGISTRATION & PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to participation in any athletic activities the Parent and/or Guardian must have a completed Physical Form on file with the Athletics & Activities Office (located in the High School), as well as completed the online registration found on the District's webpage, under the *Athletics* tab.

<https://altoonahs-ar.schooltoday.com/>

## **EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND RETURN**

Students shall be held responsible for the timely return of all equipment they are issued. Coaches will collect and inventory equipment at the end of each sport season. All equipment

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must be returned and/or paid for to be eligible for the next season. Any equipment lost or willfully abused must be paid for by the student to whom it was issued.

## **TRAVEL**

All students must travel with the team on school provided transportation, both to and from athletic events. Parents and/or guardians requesting to transport their student or have someone other than themselves provide transportation for their student, to or from a school sponsored activity, must submit a Transportation Request form to the Head Coach and/or Advisor in person.

The School District of Altoona does offer activities off site and any participant in one of these activities, the student and parent/guardian is responsible for transportation to and from practice. A signed document for a student driving and/or being transported to practice is required prior to the start of each season.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/19Shd-1i37-iSWYZecrxZvJlbVBdXOMM6OIAN9skTP\\_0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19Shd-1i37-iSWYZecrxZvJlbVBdXOMM6OIAN9skTP_0/edit)

## FORMS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Forms and additional information can be found on our website, under the *Athletics* tab, then by clicking on *Forms* and/or *Middle School Athletics*.

<https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/athletics>