



Caroline Middle School Eagles
Student and Parent Athletic Handbook
2024 - 2025

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General Rules and Information

Eligibility: Academics

- In order to be eligible for all sports, a student must have been promoted from the preceding grade and have no more than one F on their previous report card (S1/S2). In addition, any student who fails two subjects at the end of a nine weeks or semester grading period (depending on which season) will be removed immediately from the team during that season and will be placed on a probationary status for the next athletic season.. Students who fail one subject at the end of a grading period (interim or final) during their sport season will be placed on a probationary status and must improve to a passing grade during this period in order to continue playing after the probationary period at the Athletic Director's discretion. If it is a class that ends during a 9 week period, they will need to complete 4 study hall periods before being able to play in competition.
- Coaches are not responsible for making sure students on their team do their school work, but do have an obligation to be informed of progress they are making in the classroom. Coaches should provide guidance and have an understanding if a student needs to miss an event or practice to complete any necessary assignments. A player coach meeting should take place when these types of situations arise ahead of time.
- Grades are checked every Monday during the season. Kids who are failing a subject, will be placed in a mandatory (1 day per F) study hall to be completed before their next competition date. If they do not stay or are absent, they will not be able to compete until it is updated.
- All grades are confirmed by CMS AD with classroom teachers. We do not have to let parents know when their kids are placed in study hall, as that is the Eagle expectation, and grades are readily available to parents in PowerSchool.
- Students that are on Academic probation will need to complete 2 study halls weekly until that grade comes up.
- Those that are on Academic Probation, must be passing all classes by the time the next grading cycle comes out, either interim or final report card.
- A teacher can speak to a coach if they feel some extra motivation is needed when a student's academic progress has dropped off or if a discipline action has taken place.



- Serious concerns should be directed at the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will move through the proper channels of administration as needed.
- A team's coach is allowed to have a stricter policy for their team. This is a baseline for our program as a whole.

5th Grade Participation

- All 5th grades are eligible to participate in CMS Athletic conditioning, workouts, camps, etc. However, they will not be allowed to make the team roster or tryout for the said team. They will need to turn in a completed after school permission form and register with the school Athletic Director. Once they arrive for the first date, they will be given transportation paperwork, and a progress report to be filled out by their respective elementary schools. A 5th grader may be eligible to be a team manager, practice team member for the season with no expectation to play during that season. They will be eligible for all athletics and clubs once promoted from the 5th grade.

Conduct

- Coaches have the right to establish certain expectations for acceptable conduct, behavior, and team rules. This may be a stricter policy than said below in section "Behavior/Referral Matrix", but may not be of lesser value. This handbook is the standard for all athletic programs at CMS. Each member of a team must have an acceptable conduct record for each grading period unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been determined by the Principal. **Any student whose behavior results in a disciplinary action from the office may be removed from the team.**

SUSPENSIONS

- Students subject to in-school (at least half day) or out-of-school suspensions shall not participate in any practice or contest during the period of their suspension.



- Any suspensions will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and will have an additional consequence for the said action.

Behavior/Referral Matrix

- Please note, that all concerns are on a case by case basis and will be reviewed by the coach, athletic director, and the grade level administrator.
- Each offense will be documented against the student athlete. A repeating offense or higher level of discipline will result in further extra-curricular disciplinary action. A consequence can result in more than one strike on the matrix and is determined by the Athletic Director.
- Disciplinary athletic action follows these steps: Verbal warning, written warning, probation, suspension, termination or dismissal from the team.
- If you participated in another sport at CMS prior to the season of the calendar year, and received marks on the behavior matrix, this will result in beginning at the written warning strike for the new season.

IEP's and 504's

- We do respect and appreciate all educational accommodations, actions, interventions, and adjustment of resources being given to all CMS students. However, IEP's and 504's are not positively or negatively affective in an extra-curricular sport setting. They will be considered and head coaches will be aware of those within.

Game Day and Practice Attendance Policy

- If a student is absent from an entire day of school they may not play in a Caroline middle school athletic competition/practice. Exceptions to this rule must be discussed with the Athletic Director ahead of time and have written permission from the Athletic Director. Some exceptions (but not limited) to the rule are a court date, medical procedure, etc. with a signed note from a professional.
- As long as the student is here for half or more of the day then there is no issue with participation.
 - Ex. Attends morning and signs out at 11:30 for dentist.
 - Ex. Signs in at 11:30 and attends afternoon classes.



- Ex. Attends at least three periods/blocks a day.
- Any situation requires parent consent in the form of email, signed note, phone call, etc.
- Other policies may be put in place from a coach that will be discussed at the beginning of the season. Example: player misses practices, removed from starting lineup/playing time decreased.

Chronic Absences

- Students must be present in classes in their respective season.
- 3 continuous absences without a school approved reason, will result in the student athlete staying in study hall/remediation to make up all missing work/review of the material from that day for the entirety of one practice.
- 4 consecutive absences from the same class will result in forfeit of competition play for the student athlete for one week.
- 5 consecutive absences from the same class will result in dismissal from the team.

Social Media

- A student athlete may face athletic discipline for posts that reflect poorly on the team and school. Social media usage is increasingly becoming a “shadow” for the individual. Trash talking, inappropriate/vulgar language, direct threats, etc. is viewed as an unacceptable behavior and is no different than poor on field/court sportsmanship. As Eagles, we must hold ourselves accountable on and off the field. Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Hazing, Bullying, Drugs, Alcohol, and Steroids

- Caroline middle school does not condone any type of inappropriate initiations, hazing, bullying, drugs and alcohol. Student athletes involved in this type of activity could face severe penalties including dismissal from teams to the school taking legal action. We want our athletes to have a clean body and mind as well as a clean upstanding character.



24 Cool off Rule

- Any disagreements and meetings must wait 24 hours after an event or practice to discuss a situation. This includes writing emails, texts, phone calls, face to face, etc. Sports trigger high emotions for all parties involved. The 24 hour rule is meant to allow everyone time to decompress and reflect on whatever situations may have arisen from all different standpoints and perspectives.
- We also ask that the following be honored as well to avoid disruption;
 - At athletic contests, immediately prior to the start.
 - During athletic contests (parents are not to approach the bench, coach or locker room etc.)
 - At the conclusion of an athletic contest
 - At practices.
- Parents are also responsible for educating any guests that may come to Caroline events as well. This may include extended family, friends, or colleagues.

Meetings for concerns

- Any concern, question, recommendation, or insight should go through the proper channels and can be administered on a case by case scenario. If something arises and it is a matter of importance, please follow along with the below steps:
- Step 1: Bring to the coaches attention and set a time to meet with the coach
- Step 2: Following a meeting with the coach, please contact and set something up with the Athletic Director, Travis Clark, to review the matter.
- Step 3: Reach out to a grade level administrator as well as the Athletic Director for a meeting regarding the topic.
- Step 4: Reach out to the school principal for a final meeting to review the case.

Fielding of Teams

- In some occasions a team that was once fielded may not be fielded due to reasons that will be explained from the Athletic Director. These occasions will only take place after every possible solution has been explored and evaluated. The same goes from teams that were once not fielded and now are “revived.”



Playing Time

- While at this level, our main focus is skill improvement, life learning skill acquisition, accountability and responsibility, it is important to note that playing time is not guaranteed at any competition event. This is earned by a student athlete, first in school, and then on the practice field. It is at the discretion of the coach to make the judgment when a kid will play or for how long.

Captains

- The title of being a captain for any sports team at Caroline is a high award and privilege. If a coach deems a player is not fulfilling those responsibilities as a captain (set by the coach/team) then that title may be removed. Captain and Coach Meetings should be held if the above needs to take place.

Practices

- A coach will designate practice times (when, where, how long, etc.). It is the coaches' responsibility to communicate with players and parents/guardians when changes occur. In rare occasions, the Athletic Director will communicate on behalf of the coach, especially if a threat of weather or some other emergency harm has presented itself, or the coach is unable to provide that communication.
- It is highly recommended for each coach to hold a player and parent meeting at the beginning of their respective season to go over any policies, expectations, etc.
- It is also up to the coach to allow parents into a practice. Practices are meant to provide coaches an environment where they can maximize instruction and preparation with as little to no distractions. If a coach wishes to hold a "closed practice" then we ask anyone outside the team to respect those wishes.

Transportation

- Transportation will be arranged for all away contests by the Athletic and Transportation Directors. Parents who wish to take their child home from an away event should simply let the coach know (email or note) or provide a permission form for their child to ride with another parent. On some occasions, a carpool may be the school's last option to get students to their away match. If



this happens, all other avenues have been exhausted. Permission will be needed for each student.

- In the event CCPS transportation can not be provided for a competition or event, each kid will need written permission to ride with a sponsor or volunteer.

Volunteers

- All volunteers must fill out the proper volunteer form and may be subjected to a background check and fingerprinting. Volunteers are an essential part of our Athletic programs. On some occasions, volunteers are needed to assist with coaching. Other needs may include keeping scorebooks/stats, coordinating snacks or team dinners, etc. Volunteers should work closely with the Head Coach to assess any needs (if there are any).

Spectators

- Anyone not part of the coaching staff (as assigned by the head coach) or the team is considered a spectator. This includes the student body of Caroline Middle, parents, family, friends, etc. The role of the spectator is there to support the school/team/student athlete with pride and respect. We want our fans to be loud and supportive but not disrespectful. Degrading remarks directed at our team (players and coaches) the opposing team, clock workers, officials, opposing team fans, etc. does not promote good sportsmanship.
- Any spectator may be warned, reminded to settle down, or moved to a different area or even in some cases asked to leave the event. Any faculty member that makes a request to a spectator must be respected and acted on. Failure to do so may result in removal from the event as stated above.
- Officials are human and part of communities. Officials' impression of a fan base often is shared in their own community that includes other parents and officials. We want officials to leave a Caroline Middle event with the aftertaste represented by a representative of competitive spirit as well as good sportsmanship both from the teams and fan base.



Please review all the forms and return to the school before the first day of your son or daughter's sport's practice.

Student/Parent Athletic Handbook Agreement

It is a privilege for me to compete in any athletic event as a student/athlete at Caroline Middle School. While representing my school, my team and all persons associated with CMS, I will show respect on and off the field of play for teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, fans, and just as importantly, for myself. I fully realize that my positive conduct while representing my school is as important as the athletic contest itself. The right may be taken away due to any inappropriate behavior from a coach, the Athletic Director, or Administrator.

I will take pride in my ability and put forth my best effort to excel on the field/court, during practices or an actual athletic competition, as well as in the classroom. I am mindful that my behavior, wherever I am, represents not only myself, but also my teammates and fellow student/athletes as well as all students, teachers, administrators, coaches, parents and all friends. I will strive to combine my passion and competitiveness during competition with sportsmanship and ethical conduct. Such conduct demonstrates my understanding of the rules.

I also promise, to the best of my ability, to surround myself with family and friends who cheer for me and my team in a manner that reflects a positive light on Caroline Middle.

As parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the student/athlete(s) who have signed this contract, I (we) fully understand the conduct responsibilities to which my (our) child is expected to adhere throughout the entire school year. I (we) fully understand that breaking any part of this contract will immediately result in disciplinary action regarding the student/athlete(s). The severity of the action will be determined on a case-by-case basis by all or some of the following: the head coach, the Athletic Director, Assistant Principals, and the Principal.

I (we) acknowledge that the Athletic Director has the full authority to invoke academic and athletic disciplinary actions based on actions and consequences from our son/daughter. This can include, but is not limited to study hall, probations suspensions, removal, meetings with parent/teacher/administrator/counselor as deemed necessary.

Furthermore, I (we) understand that by not returning said uniform(s) or equipment, will result in the holding of the involved child(ren)'s report card(s) and

