

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS: GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Welcome to Poly Prep Middle School Athletics 2023/24! Our game plan is designed to help us reach our goal of creating a meaningful and rewarding athletic experience for our budding student-athletes. We are excited to begin working with your child! Here is some information we will share with students during Grades 5-8 physical education classes. We are hopeful that this will help guide families and staff through the program as well.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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GRADES 5 and 6 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM, "Poly PM"

Grades 5 and 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in after-school athletics via the [Poly PM program](#).

Grades 5 and 6 after-school athletics staff will engage our young student-athletes in a developmental program of instruction and fun inter-squad competition. Each "drill and play" style session will include a dynamic warm-up, a segment teaching the fundamentals of sport, and a scrimmage game. No prior experience is necessary.

The Grades 5 and 6 program will utilize the athletic facilities at the Dyker Heights campus. Students may take the 6:00 PM bus home; please consult the [route guide here](#) as 6:00 PM routes often differ from 4:00 PM routes.

There will be two offerings per season. Parents should register their child by using the Poly PM sign-up form.

The Poly PM athletics program seasonal schedule:

FALL

Monday – Multi-Sport Clinic: Sport changes each session

Wednesday – Soccer Clinic

WINTER

TBA

SPRING

TBA

GRADES 7 and 8 CURRENT TEAM OFFERINGS BY SEASON*

***subject to change**

FALL

Boys' Soccer

Girls' Soccer

Tackle Football (after-school practices required)

Girls' Volleyball (after-school practices required)

Girls' Tennis

WINTER

Boys' Basketball

Girls' Basketball

Wrestling

Boys' Squash

Girls' Squash

SPRING

Baseball

Softball

Boys' Lacrosse

Girls' Lacrosse

Boys' Track and Field

Girls' Track and Field

Boys' Tennis

- Please note: if a Grade 8 student-athlete is selected to play at the high school level in a particular sport, they are not permitted to participate in interscholastic competition at the middle school level in that sport. Students may only participate at either the upper school level or middle school level, never both in the same season.

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND FOCUS:

We align with the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect. Our focus is on high character, solid fundamentals, a healthy environment for improvement, understanding of athletic concepts, creativity, and the joy of sport!

OUR STANDARDS: FIRST STANDARDS, THEN RESULTS

First and foremost, we adhere to the highest ideals of the Poly Prep mission and our school standards of good behavior, and language on and off the athletic areas.

- We respect our opponent at all times.
- We respect the officials/referees/umpires at all times.
- We respect our teammates at all times.
- We respect the efforts of our coaches as they organize sport experiences and help to guide improvement of the individual, team, and program.

EXPECTATIONS: What can you expect?

- To be coached as a teammate and as an individual by our exceptional staff.
- To have some playing time in each game you attend; this will vary game to game. This is not a recreational experience where playing time is equally divided between all the student-athletes. It is also not a varsity game. It is a hybrid, modified plan, with elements of both. Our goal is that student-athletes have a significant amount of playing time over the course of the season.
- To be provided transportation to and from the Poly Dyker Heights campus for games and field trips
- To have a school-issued uniform that is expected to be returned after each competition so that it can be laundered at the school after each game.
- Each sport program will be overseen by the Varsity Head Coach that specializes in that sport.
- You will receive the basic equipment needed for each sport before the game. Personal equipment such as baseball/softball gloves, lacrosse stick, and tennis/squash racquets, etc. are not usually provided. However, there is assistance available for students who may need support to obtain various important items through the Poly Non-Tuition Support program. Families should contact Director of Financial Aid, [Tasha Richards](#) for more information.
- There will be a published schedule of games for the season on the Poly Prep website. If the schedule needs to change, students and families will be notified as soon as possible; however, occasionally changes are last minute due to weather or other issues.

What will be expected of you?

- To exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship. Poly Prep Middle School student-athletes should exude dignity at all times.
- Students may be dismissed early from class for away games/contests. They are responsible for communicating with their teacher(s) regarding any lessons or assignments that they miss.
- Focus on being present and “in the moment”, just as you should focus in class on your schoolwork; when participating in an athletic event, that should be your focus, during that time period. This will help you get the most out of your athletic experience. “Be where your feet are.”
- To be on time whenever there is not an academic, family, or medical conflict. We would like to help you maximize your time engaging in sport.
- Please do not post about or refer to any of our opponents or games, or discuss Poly Middle School Athletic programs in your personal social media. You should always adhere to the school’s social media policies.
- Inappropriate language cursing, taunting, challenging of officials, poor body language, and interaction with fans is never permitted at any time.
- Be a good teammate on and off the field. When on the bench, cheer for your teammates and focus on the game so you are ready when called upon to enter the game/contest.
- Families attend games to support their child and our team, and to recognize our opponent’s efforts as well. They are never to “coach” their child from the sideline. They should not detract from their child’s focus on the game, question officials, or “supplement” game coaching. Speaking to your child or any of the athletes during a game or at halftime is inappropriate.
- Manage your additional commitments in the arts and your extracurricular activities. Whenever possible give your coach 24 hours notice if you will not be able to make a game.

LOGISTICS

Travel

- Students may be dismissed early from class for away games/contests. They will return on the school bus and will usually miss the 6:00 PM Poly bus. Transportation from Poly to home or the venue should be arranged by each family.
- For some *home* games students will be able to make the 6:00 PM bus. When the 6:00 PM bus is missed, please follow away game protocols.
- Occasionally, students wish to take public transportation, carpool, or use a ride share service home. Parents **MUST** email the coach or Billy McNally in advance of a game to provide their consent for this type of dismissal.
- Please note: all rideshare drivers **must arrive before** the team bus is ready to leave. We will not leave your child unattended, but be considerate of others by not delaying other team members from leaving the venue.

Game Cancellations: There are several reasons a game may be canceled. Here are some examples and our plan for each:

- Foul weather: when possible we will make a decision by noon to cancel a game due to weather.
- COVID 19 issues.
- Please note: If an opponent has to cancel their trip to a Poly home game, this game could possibly become a Blue/Gray inter-squad game and spectators are still welcome!
- Canceled away games are usually not rescheduled

Field Trips/Special Events. In the past, we have done optional field trips to play at professional arenas as well as trips to Princeton University to see their teams play and give our aspiring young student-athletes an idea of that level of play. These trips will include school bus transportation to and from Poly. Parents are welcome to meet us at the event. We are exploring the plausibility of these trips in view of COVID restrictions and other factors. Information will be shared with families regarding logistics for these optional opportunities in a timely manner.

FAQ

- “Is my child required to participate in after-school athletics to fulfill their physical education requirement?” No, this is a supplemental, voluntary program for those students who would like to participate.
- “Will my child play in every game?” Yes. However, playing time will vary from game to game.
- “Who do we play?” While our upper school is a member of the Ivy Preparatory School League and NYSAIS, these organizations do not have a middle school equivalent. We generally play a schedule that primarily consists of competitions against other independent day schools. We will also play Blue/Gray Inter-Poly games after school with officials. We are not permitted to play any club programs. As per NYSAIS rules, there are no official standings or any postseason play.
- “My child is also involved with performing arts at Poly; can they do both?” Yes! Due to the nature of performances, your child should go to performing arts whenever there is a conflict. They will be allowed to play in any upcoming games, without issue .
- “My child is engaged in other activities outside of Poly; can they still be on the team?” Yes! They just need to let the coach know what games they will be available to play in, a minimum of 24 hours prior to a game/contest.
- “My child has a test or paper due; can they go home, meet with a teacher, or go to the library for academics?” Absolutely, all children at Poly are highly regarded as students first and foremost.

- “Will there be after-school practices?” Practices take place during the regular school day in Physical Education classes. While most sports do not have after-school MS practices, please note that Tackle Football and Girls’ Volleyball, will practice after school on selected days.

- “Does my child have to participate in every game to be on the team?” No, students can participate in as many or as few games as they wish.