

EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS POLICY



CRITERIA FOR PROGRAMS

For an extracurricular program to be continued or to institute a new program, the program must:

1. Generate and maintain student interest, as well as attract students not currently involved in extracurricular or service projects.
2. Encourage, enhance, and maintain equity including but not limited to a wide range of opportunities for both male and female students.
3. Have a suitable adult sponsor who meets district requirements and has appropriate adult supervision at all times.

PROGRAMS CURRENTLY OFFERED

Lists of the academic and non-academic extracurricular programs and activities that are offered at Gallatin County Middle School are in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Injury rates in tackle football rise sharply as students get older. 6th-grade students are likely at the very beginning of puberty, while 8th-grade students may well be into puberty, possessing significantly more muscle mass, bone density, and speed. As a result of that physical development, there will likely be a significant weight difference between 6th-grade and 8th-grade athletes. The differences in weight, power, and speed increase the risk of concussions, fractures, and joint injuries. It is the policy of GCMS that tackle football will only be available to 7th- and 8th-grade students.

Any 6th-grade student wishing to play tackle football shall do so through available community youth football leagues.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities if they:

1. Maintain passing **grades** in 2/3rd of classes. (or receive teacher exception per extenuating circumstances)
2. Attendance: Refer to the Athletic Handbook for GCMS.
3. Comply with rules established by the adult coach or sponsor for the activity.
4. Meet requirements set by the appropriate sponsoring or governing organization.
5. Students participating in middle school sports will be able to participate in high school-level sports only at the request of the middle school and high school coaches.

COACHES AND SPONSORS

Each extracurricular activity will be led by an adult coach or sponsor who meets any applicable requirements set in law, designated in school board policy for non-faculty employees, and by the sponsoring or governing organizations. The coach, sponsor, or other approved personnel will be **responsible for** personally supervising or **ensuring that all students are supervised** by an adult while they are participating in an activity, including practice time and travel time where applicable.

The principal will assign coaches/sponsors from our school's current staff following our policy on *Instructional and Non-Instructional Staff Time Assignments*. If a position is paid and posted, our policy on consultation will be followed.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Our extracurricular program will be evaluated through the evaluation process by the Athletic Director, Principal, and where appropriate SBDM.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate this policy through our annual policy review process.

Date(s) Adopted, Reviewed, or Revised:

First Reading: 10/09/2023

Second Reading: 11/6/2023

Approved: 11/6/2023

First Reading Revision: 12/4/2023

Second Reading Revision: 02/05/2024

Policy effective date: July 1, 2024

Reviewed: 05/05/2025 J. Dodd

Reviewed: 05/04/2026 J. Dodd