

# **ATHLETICS POLICY**

(Approved November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

This policy is written for St. Francis Xavier Middle School students who are members or intend to be members of St. Francis Xavier Middle School athletic teams. It is to be carefully read by every student athlete and by the athlete's parent/guardian.

## **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the St. Francis Xavier School athletic program is to complement the home and school in developing the "whole person". Activities of the program are for the benefit of the student and are appropriate to their age and physical growth.

## **Goals**

1. To raise awareness that physical fitness is necessary for the wholesome growth of the person.
2. To provide opportunity for interaction with students from other schools.
3. To develop physical talents and skills, self-esteem and character.
4. To develop a healthy, life-long interest in sports through participation.
5. To provide enjoyable recreational activities where Christian attitudes of teamwork, cooperation, good sportsmanship and fair play can be developed.

## **Leadership**

The Athletic Director's responsibility is to coordinate the school's sports programs and to hire and supervise all coaching staffs with the approval and guidance of the principal. This includes monitoring the academic and social conduct of all athletes. In the absence of the Athletic Director, all athletes and coaching staff are under the direction of the principal.

## **Eligibility**

The student-athlete is expected to abide by the requirements below to be eligible to participate. If help is needed, athletes are expected to ask. If a student is ineligible, he/she will be required to sit out but attend all practices and games.

1. Student-athletes must be enrolled and regularly attending class at St. Francis Xavier School.
2. Student-athletes must display positive behavior and attitude at school, at practices and games, and in any situation relating to his/her participation in the athletics program.
3. Student-athletes must be achieving grades higher than a D+ in all classes and may have no more than three C's in all classes.
4. Student-athletes must also comply with the Michigan High School Athletic Association rules for eligibility.

To assure compliance with the eligibility rules, the following procedures will be used:

1. A weekly eligibility list will be completed by the teachers on Friday. A teacher will circle the student's grade if the student has an unreasonable number of missing assignments in his/her class.
2. A student will be ineligible for one week (Monday to Monday) under the following circumstances:
  - a. A student is receiving a D+ or lower, or more than three C's in his/her classes.
  - b. Two or more teachers circle the student's grade or a teacher circles the student's grade for two consecutive weeks, meaning the student is behind in his/her assignments.

**Attendance** All students are required to attend at least 4 academic hours of classes on the day of a practice or a contest to be eligible to participate. Only an illness or a death in the family are considered excused absences. If a student-athlete will be absent on the day of a practice or a game, the parent is asked to call the school attendance desk at 347-3651 to request notification be placed in the coaches' mailbox.

**Health** Student-athletes must have an updated physical exam card, completed by a physician, and a completed MHSAA concussion form, signed by the parent/guardian, on file in the school office in order to be eligible to participate in any practice or contest.

**Uniforms** On game days, all members of the team shall dress alike in either the team's uniform or in business casual attire as per the direction of the coach. Each athlete is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and repair of the uniform from the date of issue until the date of return. The return date for all uniforms will be one week following the last contest. Any school athletic uniform or jacket should be washed upon return. Athletes who do not return uniform items by the specified date will be charged \$1.00 per day for each item until returned. Athletes will be billed for the replacement cost of lost or damaged items.

**Travel** Travel to and from any contest must be with the team unless there is a written request by the parent that has been approved by the coach. The student-athletes must ride with their own parent or guardian unless they have a signed note from their parents designating another parent or guardian to transport them. Any student-athlete participating on any interscholastic team event must abide by the rules set by the school concerning travel from one school to another.

**Sportsmanship** Participation in athletics is a privilege that is earned and maintained by each individual student. Any student-athlete participating on any interscholastic team is responsible for his/her behavior on and off the playing field. The student-athlete will practice good sportsmanship while participating as a school team member at home or away.

**Spectator Conduct** Obscene cheers, littering of basketball courts, throwing objects, verbal indignities, and other harassing or inappropriate behavior, directed toward athletes, coaches, officials and/or spectators has no place in athletics and will not be tolerated.

**Liability** Student athletes participate on a voluntary basis with the knowledge of the risks involved in sports and with the consent of their parent/guardian. The Diocese of Gaylord and St. Francis Xavier School do not assume any legal responsibility arising out of the athlete's participation in sports.

*Students will only be allowed to participate in any athletic activity when the student and parent/guardian have signed and returned the Athletic Policy Acknowledgement to the school office. Contact the athletic director or school office for a copy of this form.*

