

# **Grosse Pointe Public School System Extracurricular Handbook and Code of Conduct**

**Effective Date: August 1, 2016**

This document only pertains to extracurricular activities. This document does not apply to co-curricular activities. Board Policy 2430 identifies co-curricular activities as those activities in which:

- A. the subject matter is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. the subject matter concerns the District's composite courses of study;
- C. participation is required for a particular course;
- D. participation results in academic credit.

All school sponsored activities that are not co-curricular are considered extracurricular.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Extracurricular Code of Conduct identifies the purpose of extracurricular activities, defines eligibility, explains attendance procedures, and identifies behavior expectations and disciplinary consequences for all participants.

Participation in extracurricular activities in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools System (GPPSS) is considered an honor and a privilege that entails a commitment by a student to an individual school, the District and the community. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct is in effect from the first day a student joins a GPPSS extracurricular activity. The Code remains in effect 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (regardless of time of day, week, month, or year, location of events / place of events, and/or particular sport season) until completion of a student's participation in extracurricular activities.

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools System Extracurricular Code of Conduct has been developed to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that apply within every program; however, the code is not intended to be all-inclusive. If an infraction occurs that is not included in the code, the coach or advisor has the authority to determine the consequence.

All Grosse Pointe students are governed by the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students who participate in extracurricular activities may be further governed when applicable by the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), National Federation, league rules and specific team/activity rules. For complete rules pertaining to athletics visit [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com).

## **I. Purpose:**

GPPSS believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student.

Extracurricular activities play an important part in the life of our students. Young people learn a great deal from their participation in extracurricular activities. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our extracurricular program. Extracurricular activities also help the individual student develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students - spectators, as well as participants, develop pride in his or her school.

The major objective of the GPPSS extracurricular program is to provide wholesome opportunities for students to develop favorable habits and attitudes of social and group living.

Leadership should be of the highest quality so as to exemplify the desired type of behavior to be developed from the extracurricular program. Measurement of leadership success should not be in terms of the tangible evidence of the victory and defeat record, but rather in the intangible personality development factors that are an outgrowth of the major objectives of the extracurricular program.

The extracurricular program offerings should always be in conformity with the general objectives of the school. At no time should the program place the total educational curriculum secondary in emphasis; the program should constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals, capable of taking their place in society.

The District believes that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of the student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student themselves.

## **II. Opportunity to Participate**

The following applies to both athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities.

## **Eligibility:**

**To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities a student must meet the following:**

- 1. A student must have passed four out of six classes if taking six classes or five out of seven classes if taking seven classes the previous semester.*
- 2. A student must currently be passing four out of six classes if taking six classes or five out of seven classes.*

When evaluating a student's eligibility status grades of D- or better and a mark of G are considered passing.

**If the student is ineligible based on the previous semester final grades, the student will be ineligible for participation for the complete following semester.**

Note - all new 9th graders are initially eligible for extracurricular activities for the Fall season of their freshman year.

Deficiencies, including incompletes and failures from a previous semester, may be made up using an appropriate credit recovery process. Eligibility may be reinstated when the school accepts the credit.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System, however, encourages much higher academic achievement. As an incentive for academic excellence, those athletes achieving a grade point of at least 3.0 during their season of competition are honored at their season-ending Athletic Awards program. Varsity athletes who receive a grade point average of at least 3.0 receive a league Academic Team Certificate. Junior Varsity and Freshman level athletes receive a Grosse Pointe Public School System Academic Certificate.

## **Grade Checks:**

Administration shall conduct grade checks of all extracurricular participants every three weeks. Additionally, administration shall review grades after progress reports and report cards are distributed. Administration shall identify for advisors, coaches, teachers and students the dates for grade checks at the beginning of each school year.

If after any grade check, progress report or report card the student falls below 'eligibility' as defined above he or she will have one week to reestablish eligibility. During this week students may participate in extracurricular activities if the coach and administration feels

it is appropriate. If after one week the student has not reestablished eligibility, the student must sit out at least one week from competitions to allow the student to focus on academic obligations. At any point after sitting out for one week the student may re-establish eligibility as defined under #2 above.

### **Academic Probation:**

If at any point (either the start of a season or after a grade check) a student falls below the Academic Extracurricular Expectations listed below the student will be placed on Academic Probation.

Once on Academic Probation a student will have 3 school weeks to demonstrate he or she has met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations identified below. At the conclusion of the three week period if the student has met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations he or she will be removed from Academic Probation. If after three weeks the student has not met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations below he or she will be considered ineligible for all extracurricular activities until he or she establish that he or she has met the requirements to be removed from Academic Probation.

In the event the student starts the Fall season on Academic Probation based on his or her performance during the spring semester of the preceding year he or she will have three school weeks to meet the expectations listed below.

### **Academic Extracurricular Expectations:**

A student shall be successfully passing five out of seven classes or four out of six classes if taking a tutorial, of which at least three classes must be a grade of C- or better (a "G" is a passing grade and will be counted towards the three "C-'s").

## **III. Attendance for Competition Based Extracurricular Activities**

**A. Regular Practices:** Practices are essential for proper conditioning, improvement of techniques, and acquisition of teamwork skills. Therefore, participants are required to attend scheduled practices. Participants who are absent from school are excused from practice on the same day as the absence. Participants who are suspended or temporarily separated from school may not participate in practices or competition during the suspension. Participants assigned a partial day of in-school separation may not participate on the same day unless granted the privilege by administration. Participants suspended from school or temporarily separated from school twice during the same season are suspended from the team/activity for the remainder of that season.

Participants must attend a minimum of 3 classes in middle school and 4 in high school the day of a competition unless the absence is approved administratively.

**B. Vacation Practices:** Practice schedules and attendance rules are set by coaches and advisors in a consistent and fair manner and are approved by the assistant principal before implementation. Attendance procedures are developed for the protection of both the student and the coach/advisor and for the orderly progression and development of the total team. Athletes who do not train during an extended vacation could be seriously injured if allowed to participate under highly competitive game conditions. Teams cannot be developed to their fullest potential when all members are not present.

#### **IV. Attendance for Non-Competition Based Extracurricular Activities**

Participation and attendance expectations for non-competition based extracurricular activities shall be determined on an activity specific basis by the faculty advisor.

#### **V. Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior**

Students participating in extracurricular activities are expected to maintain good conduct at all times and all locations, whether on or off-campus, and not to engage in any conduct or behavior which brings discredit to themselves, their family, their team, school, or the District.

#### **Offenses and Consequences**

**Extracurricular Attendance Violation:** Unexcused absence from a practice, event or contest.

Consequence: Warning through removal of activity for up to one year.

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with assistant principal

**Failure to Cooperate with an Investigation:** Impeding or intentionally failing to support the investigation of a potential violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year.

Determiner of Discipline: assistant principal

**General Misconduct:** Engaging in illegal, unethical or inappropriate conduct including insubordination.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year.

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with the assistant principal.

**Lack of Sportsmanship:** Extracurricular participants are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Extracurricular participants are to display personal control under practice and game conditions toward their teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators. In addition, it is understood that any harassment, racial or ethnic slurs said at any time, is unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year.

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with the assistant principal.

**Possession or Use of Illegal Substances:** Possessing, using, being under the influence of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, or other behavior-altering substances, except medication as prescribed by a licensed physician.

Consequence:

First Offense of the School Year:

1. The student will be suspended from a set number of the season's competitions or organization's activities (see consequence range chart below). Suspensions from games or activities could impact two sports seasons or two terms.
2. The student will lose captaincy, leadership positions or leadership role for the current school year.
3. The student who violates this policy after club, sport or school government elections in the spring will be removed from office, captaincy or leadership positions for the next school year.

Second Offense During a School Year:

Removal from all Extracurricular Activities for an amount of competitions double the first offense per the range chart below.

Third Offense During Secondary Enrollment:

Permanent removal from all Extracurricular Activities for the remainder of the student's school career.

Determiner of Discipline: assistant principal

**Supporting the Use of Illegal Substances:** Intentionally being in the presence of

tobacco, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, or other behavior-altering substances, except medication as prescribed by a licensed physician without using the illegal substance. A student will not be in violation of this portion of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct if the student makes a reasonable effort to remove himself/herself from the inappropriate situation.

Note: if a substance abuse infraction occurs before the competitive season or during the “off” season, the competitive suspension will begin during the next competitive season. The summer vacation period is part of the “off” season.

First Offense of the School Year:

1. The student will be suspended from Extracurricular Activities for half of the noted period of time identified for Possession or Use of Illegal Substances (see consequence range chart below). Suspensions from games or activities could impact two sports seasons or two terms. In the event a suspension results in a fraction of a competition, the student shall sit out for that fraction.
2. The student will lose captancy, leadership positions or leadership role for the current school year.
3. The student who violates this policy after club or school government elections in the spring will be removed from office, captancy or leadership positions for the next school year.

Subsequent Offenses in the Same School Year:

Further suspension from participation in activities through removal from all activities for the remainder of the season.

Determiner of Discipline: Assistant principal

### **Activity Specific Consequence Chart for First Offense for Possession or Use of Illegal Substances**

Understanding that each extracurricular activity offered in GPPSS schools has a different number of competitions and activities, the following chart that includes ranges will be used to determine the consequence metered out to students for violating the Possession or Use of Illegal Substances portion of this code of conduct.

| <b># of Competitions</b> | <b>Length of Suspension from Competition</b> |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>1 - 9</b>             | <b>2 games/competitions/performances</b>     |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>10-18</b> | <b>3 games/competitions/performances</b> |
| <b>19-27</b> | <b>4 games/competitions/performances</b> |
| <b>28-36</b> | <b>5 games/competitions/performances</b> |
| <b>36-45</b> | <b>6 games/competitions/performances</b> |

**Definition of ‘competition’:** For the chart above a competition is defined as one complete activity. For example, one competition in football would be equal to one game. One competition in wrestling would be equal to all the matches in one specific meet/invitational. One competition in theater would be equal to one performance (not dress rehearsal.) All calculations using this chart shall be based on the initially scheduled number of competitions identified at the start of the season or activity.

**Consequence for Year Round Activities:** For extracurricular activities that are year round such as French Club the student shall be suspended from participation for one quarter. For extracurricular activities that are less than year round, but that do not have competitions the administrator shall identify an appropriate period of time for the student to be suspended from participation that is consistent with the ranges below.

**Applying Consequences for Students in Multiple Activities:** For students that participate in multiple extracurricular activities the assistant principal shall have the authority to apply consequences as appropriate. If at the time of the consequence being determined the student is participating in multiple extracurricular activities the student’s participation in all of these activities shall be impacted.

Students shall be impacted in both the competition/performance based extracurricular activities as well as year-round activities. Examples of competition/performance based extracurricular activities include all sports, DECA and musicals. Examples of year round extracurricular activities include SADD, the Diversity Club and the German Club.

**Timing of Consequences:** To avoid a student simply electing to participate in an activity solely to complete their consequence as identified below, an administrator has the discretion to ensure that the student legitimately serves their consequence. For example, a student who joins a sport with a suspension previously in place must serve the suspension and legitimately complete the season of that sport. The student cannot simply serve the suspension and quit the track team. Additionally, a student with a consequence in place shall not join a year round based extracurricular activity (such as French Club) to simply complete his or her suspension.



It is important to note that if a student receives a consequence for violating the extracurricular code of conduct the consequences shall be applied in such a way that participation in performance based activities is impacted rather than a student simply serving a consequence in a non-performance based activity. For example if a student is provided a 3 game suspension from a performance activity, that suspension will not be fulfilled solely by not participating in a non-performance based activity.

Administration shall use good judgement and reason when making decisions regarding the application of suspensions. In general, suspensions shall not carry on beyond one year from the incident occurring. For example, a 9th grader in the Diversity Club who consumes alcohol is suspended from Diversity Club for one quarter. If in her junior year she tries out for volleyball and makes the team she does not have a suspensions to serve and can participate in matches at the start of the season.

Suspensions that cross multiple seasons shall be prorated across those seasons. For example, a football player who receives a 2 game suspension prior to the final football game of the year shall sit out one football game. If the student then elects to play basketball in the winter he or she would still have an outstanding suspension of one football game which equates to a two basketball game suspension.

When a student is suspended from competing in an extracurricular activity for violation of this code of conduct they may participate in practices at the discretion of the coach/advisor. Students may not be in team uniform while suspended from participating in a competition.

If a substance abuse infraction occurs before the competitive season or during the “off” season, the competitive suspension will begin during the next competitive season. The summer vacation period is part of the “off” season.

### **Examples of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Being Applied:**

**Example #1:** In September a GPPSS student who is currently participating in boys soccer and French Club is identified as having consumed alcohol on the weekend. The student is simultaneously serves a 3 game suspension from the soccer team as well as is suspended from the French Club for one quarter.

**Example #2:** In December a student who is in the French Club is identified as drinking on the weekend. The student is removed from French Club for one quarter. Additionally, when the student joins the track team in the spring the student must serve a 3 meet suspension from the track team.

**Example #3:** In November a student in the Diversity Club is identified as having violated the code of conduct of the consumption of alcohol. This student is suspended from Diversity Club for a quarter since Diversity Club is a non-performance activity. The student then is selected to be in the chorus of the musical. The musical has 5 performances (excluding dress rehearsal). Per the chart below, the student is not permitted to perform in the first two performances of the musical. Since this student served his suspension via the musical he can participate in baseball games at the start of the season.

The examples above may not consider or address all possible permutations. Administration shall have the discretion to apply consequences in a manner consistent with this code.

### **Appeal of Discipline**

Students who receive a consequence of discipline greater than the loss of 2/9ths of a season or participation period may appeal within five days of the imposition of discipline to the building principal. The principal shall meet with the student and his/her parent(s) as well as the coach/advisor and/or assistant principal. During this meeting the student will be provided by the principal an opportunity to explain his/her rationale for the alteration of the discipline imposed. Within five school days of this meeting the principal shall issue a written decision that either upholds the imposed discipline or refers the matter back to the assistant principal for some other level of discipline less than the previously imposed discipline. The principal shall also have the discretion to administer some other level of discipline consistent with this code.

The principal has the final authority to hear all appeals. Students may not appeal a disciplinary decision resulting from this code of conduct beyond the building level.

### **Reinstatement**

A student who is permanently removed from all extracurricular activities due to a violation of this code of conduct may apply to the principal for reinstatement after one full year. The principal has the final authority to determine reinstatement.