



Monument Academy

Student-Athlete Handbook

2010–2011 School Year.

Philosophy

- Our mission in athletics is to teach students about the importance of discipline, hard work and commitment. This is accomplished through daily structured practice with attention to fundamentals and details.
- The athletics program shall be directed so that the welfare of all students will be the primary concern. Fundamental emphasis shall be placed on the philosophy that athletic activities are an extension of the educational program and are justifiable only to the extent that they are desirable learning experiences.
- Sportsmanship will be the top priority of Lynx athletics. Commitment to fair play, integrity, and genuine empathy for others must be taught and practiced if we are to make a difference. Athletics assist in the development of fellowship and goodwill. Athletics will play an important role in developing a healthy self-image as well as a healthy body. Athletics will also contribute to school/community spirit and pride
- Lynx Athletics promotes the concept of winning, while inspiring development of athletic skill for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student athletes. This concept allows successful transition of the student athlete to high school sports.

Expectations

Expectations of Student-Athletes

- You are STUDENT-athletes, therefore student responsibilities come first. Students will not be allowed to participate if they have any F's. Further, student athletes may only have one D to remain eligible to participate. Grades will also be checked regularly. Any grade issues will result in being ineligible for a *minimum* of one week.

- Players should come to practice on time, ready to listen and learn. They should always show respect to their coaches, teammates, opponents, fans and officials. Sportsmanship is an important component of a successful program.
- Athletes learn many skills to play their chosen sport, but the most important skill that must be learned is teamwork. To be successful, every member of the team must work together to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts.
- Athletics are a privilege and players are expected to have exemplary behavior at all times to best represent their team, coach and school. Detentions and other disciplinary actions may have severe consequences for student athletes.
- Athletes are expected to safely store their equipment in designated areas prior to the start of school each day.
- On game days, athletes must be at school for no less than 3.5 hours. If they are not they may not participate in or go to the game.

Expectations of Parents

- Model good sportsmanship at all times
- Support and encourage **all** team members
- Focus on the goals of the **team**
- Display courteous behavior towards referees and the opposing team

Try out Expectations

- While broad participation is to be encouraged, it is a privilege to compete as a team member for the school. Most teams have try-outs for coaches to assess player performance. Each coach has a unique style, but generally athletes are evaluated on skill, work ethic, “coachability”, teamwork and attitude. Cuts are an unfortunate but necessary part of the process, and a valuable learning experience for athletes. We encourage players who have been cut to discuss any questions with the coach a day or so after try-outs to see where improvements can be made.

Procedures

Preseason Information Meeting

- Each team will have an informational meeting for students during lunch or after school to sign up for sports being offered in the upcoming season.

Practices

- Practices are held after school most days of the week with some possible morning practices. Students will occasionally practice on weekends, vacations or holidays. Practice will be cancelled any time school is cancelled for any reason, such as snow or power outage. It is expected that students will be in attendance at practice each and every day. Students must be in school at least 60% of the day to participate in practice.

Games/Matches/Meets

- Most contests are scheduled during weekdays and usually start at 4:00pm. Some sports have two or three contests each week. There are tournaments that take place on weekends at various times. While all students will play in the contests most of the time, playing time may be determined by the coach or based upon performance.

Equipment and Uniform Care

- Equipment and uniforms issued to the student are the responsibility of that student. If a student loses or damages the uniform beyond repair the equipment or uniform, the replacement cost will be billed to the student. It is our goal to collect all clean uniforms and equipment within one week of the final day of competition so that they can be inventoried and stored.

Transportation

- Parents will be required to drive players to away contests. A player may only ride to a contest with a parent or approved driver with the appropriate paperwork filed in the office. Please see that form included in this packet for further details.

Communication

- Communication is critical to running a smooth program. Coaches will also make every effort to keep students informed about practices, game times, and dates, in the form of a calendar. In the case of poor weather we try to make the cancellation decision as early as possible. In the case of rain, a contest may be cancelled, but a practice may still occur. If students have concerns about their role, position or status on the team, it is important that they initiate conversation with the coaching staff at that time. This is a great time in the developmental process for the student, rather than a parent, to initiate this type of discussion.

Insurance Information

- Each player must have on file the section of the registration form that shows evidence of medical coverage before participating in any MA sporting event. If a player does not have insurance, it is strongly suggested that they purchase a supplemental insurance to cover them for the sport. There are several options available at reasonable prices through the business office.

Sports Participation Fees and Equipment

Fall/Winter Sports (August – January)

- **6th – 8th Cross Country** – Students must provide running shoes. The school will provide uniforms. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.

- **6th-8th Girl's Volleyball:** Students must provide court shoes and kneepads. The school will provide game uniforms, volleyballs. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.
- **7th & 8th Girl's Basketball:** Students must provide basketball shoes and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms, practice jerseys and basketballs. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.
- **7th & 8th Boy's Basketball:** Students must provide basketball shoes and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms, practice jerseys and basketballs. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.
- **7th & 8th Boy's Football:** Students must provide basketball shoes and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms, practice jerseys and basketballs. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.

Winter/Spring Sports (February - May)

- **6th-8th Track and Field** – Students must provide proper track and field shoes. The school will provide track and field equipment. There is a \$70 fee for this sport.

Year Round (August- May)

- **6th- 8th Girl's Cheer-** Students must provide athletic shoes. The school will provide equipment. There is a \$70 fee for this program.

Student-Athlete Handbook Signature Page

Parent/Student-Athlete Letter of Agreement

We have read, understand, and are committed to abide by the policies and procedures as outlined in the Monument Academy Student-Athlete Handbook.

Student-Athlete Signature (may have all student-athletes in family sign one agreement page)

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Parent Signature (at least one signature is required)

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____