

Student Activities, Clubs, & Programs

Definition of co-curricular activity: Any school sponsored event NOT carrying academic credit, and not a part of the regular school day or an extension of the school program.

Activities that make up the BFMS co-curricular and sports programs may include: soccer (7,8), field hockey (7,8), basketball (7,8) baseball (7,8), softball (7,8), cross country and track (6-8), jazz band (5-8), select chorus (5-8), student leadership (5-8), and yearbook (8). In addition, each year the middle school has put on a school musical that is open to all grades.

BFMS has a proud history of fielding competitive athletic programs, an award winning band, and a talented choral program. Student leadership and the yearbook club have also enjoyed success in addressing student life and governance issues and in producing one of the most sought after books at BFMS-our annual student yearbook!

Middle School Student Eligibility

In order to be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, a student must meet the following criteria:

- The student must be a bona-fide student at Bellows Falls Middle School Student.
- Bellows Falls Middle School supports and encourages student participation in co-curricular activities. Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to participate in any co-curricular activity.
- The eligibility status of a transfer student is determined by his/her standing in the school from which he/she transferred. If he/she was ineligible in the previous school, he/she can only become eligible the next time grades are reviewed for eligibility.
- To participate in athletic activities, you must have a current physical exam on record with the nurse before being allowed to practice. This exam is good for two years from the date of the physical. You must also be covered by insurance.
- Each student must maintain a minimum of a 'C' average in his/her classes. This eligibility status will be determined at the end of each trimester and at the mid-point of each trimester when progress reports are sent out. Eligibility for first trimester activities will be determined by the third trimester grade from the previous year. Students must be eligible at the beginning of a sports season in order to participate in that season.
- Teachers may inform the Athletic Director or Co-Curricular Advisor at any time regarding concerns about a students' academic performance in a class if it is below expectations. A meeting will take place with the student and could include the Athletic Director, Co-Curricular Advisor, parents, teacher, and the Assistant Principal as needed to place the student on academic probation, and to develop a plan for meeting the classroom expectations and helping the student achieve academic success.
- Incompletes are considered to be failures until they are successfully completed. A student may become eligible immediately upon satisfactory completion of incompletes. Students should bring a note from the teacher to the Athletic Director or Co-Curricular Advisor as official notification of the completed work and passing grade.
- Any student placed on the ineligible list shall be restricted from participating in any regular season extracurricular event during the period of probation. The student may continue to practice with other members of the activity. Given that a procedure rarely covers all contingencies adequately, and acknowledging the importance extracurricular activities have in the education process, the necessity of waivers to various parts of this procedure may arise on very rare occasions. Any waiver must begin with a written request to the Principal, or his/her designee. Depending upon the exact circumstances involved in the request, it could be approved/disapproved by the principal or may require further review and action by the school

board. The principal must act upon the written request within three working days (approval/disapproval) or schedule an appointment with the school board to consider the matter. Any decision to deny the request by the principal may be appealed to the school board.

Detention, after school study, and other academic activities will take precedence over extracurricular activities. Any student, who is suspended, in or out of school, is automatically ineligible for any extracurricular activities during the suspension.

All school policies and rules remain in effect for after school sports and co-curricular activities. Please refer to procedures distributed at the time of the activity.

BFMS CO-CURRICULAR ACADEMIC & BEHAVIORAL ELIGIBILITY EXPECTATIONS

As a participant in co-curricular activities at the Bellows Falls Middle School, students not only access voluntary learning experiences that involve opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting, they become the ambassadors for BFMS Terrier Pups Pride. Whether on-site at BFMS, during class time, on our own playing field, or when visiting another school, the behavior and spirit displayed by our students is a direct reflection on our school and community.

Therefore, BFMS acknowledges the need for specific academic and behavioral expectations for students participating in co-curricular activities. Compliance with these expectations is required of participants in order to maintain their status as a member of that activity, group, club, or team. Failure to meet these academic and behavioral expectations described in the following paragraphs will have the direct impact on the student's participation in co-curricular activities. The intent of this procedure is to help encourage the best possible efforts from our students who desire to participate in co-curricular activities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS-ACADEMIC

The Athletic Director or Co-Curricular Advisor shall work with the administrative team to ensure all students who are participants in any club, on any athletic team at any level, or with any co-curricular activity.

The eligibility regulations of the Vermont Principal's Association shall be in force for all co-curricular activities and athletics at BFMS. In addition to the VPA regulations, the following academic eligibility rules shall be in force.

GENERAL PROVISIONS – BEHAVIOR

Compliance with these expectations is required of participants in order to maintain their status as a member of that activity's group, club, or team. Failure to meet these behavioral expectations described in the following paragraphs will have the indicated impact on the student's participation in co-curricular activities.

1. STEALING, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and DRUGS: It is the practice of BFMS that possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or non-prescription drugs by any student are not permitted. Infractions of these rules by a participant in co-curricular activities will result in a hearing before a school administrator who will render a decision on the infraction relative to the student's continued participation in co-curricular activities. All Rockingham School Board policies and procedures regarding these substances still apply.

Violation: Stealing, or Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Use or Possession

- First Offense -Suspension from 25% of the scheduled contests/events/performances.
- Drug/Alcohol assessment or smoking cessation class required.
- Student may continue to practice.

Second Offense -Suspension for the duration of the present activity or sports season.
-Drug/Alcohol assessment or smoking class required. This must be successfully completed prior to any future co-curricular participation.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP (FOR SPORTS ACTIVITIES): It is the expectation of the School Board and the School Administration that students will, at all times, exercise good sportsmanship. If a student displays unreasonable or unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in a co-curricular activity, (yellow/red cards, technical fouls, etc.) the following consequences apply:

First Offense: Warning that any additional infraction will result in a loss of playing time (usually the remainder of the game). Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

Second Offense: Loss of playing time for at least half a game. Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

Third Offense: Suspension from co-curricular activities (from one to four contests). Students may be required to seek guidance/professional counseling. Students may continue to practice. A letter will be sent home regarding the incident and the action taken. Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

3. CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship is defined as the quality of an individual's response to others in a community. It is the expectation of the School Board and School Administration that students will, at all times, demonstrate behavior that reflects positive, supportive citizenship in the activity they are participating in. If a student displays unreasonable or poor citizenship while participating in a co-curricular activity (rude comments to others, poor attitude, refusal to follow directions, etc.) the following consequences apply:

First Offense: Warning that further behaviors will result in loss of time participating in activity (usually the remainder of the activity). Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

Second Offense: Loss of participation time to be determined by Assistant Principal and Co-Curricular Coordinator. Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

Third Offense: Suspension from co-curricular activities (from one to four activities). Students may be required to seek guidance/professional counseling. A letter will be sent home regarding the incident and the action taken. Parent/Guardian notified of incident.

4. GENERAL CONDUCT: At all times, student participants should conduct themselves in ways that are not detrimental to the reputation of the school, team, or activity. If a student is involved in conduct that is deemed detrimental to the reputation of the school, team, or activity, and/or if a student displays defiance/disrespect to any staff member:

First Offense: Reprimand and suspension from co-curricular activities (from one to four events) to be determined by the Athletic Director or Co-Curricular Advisor and Assistant Principal. A student may continue to practice. A letter will be sent to parents/guardians regarding the incident and action taken

Second Offense: Ineligible for the remainder of the activity or sport season.

5. Out-Of-School Suspension and In-School Suspension: If a student's conduct requires an out-of-school suspension, he/she may not participate until they are reinstated in school. If a student spends more than a twenty-minute time-out during the day or an in school suspension, they cannot participate in any co-curricular activities for that day.

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In order to be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities, a student must meet the following criteria:

- The student must be a bona-fide student at Bellows Falls Middle School Student.
- Bellows Falls Middle School supports and encourages student participation in co-curricular activities. Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to participate in any co-curricular activity.
- Students must maintain a “meets the standard (2.0) average, with no grade lower than an “approaches the standard (1.0) in all subjects. All subjects are weighted equally. Eligibility is determined each trimester by the average grade, not the semester or final grade. Eligibility for first trimester activities will be determined by the third trimester grade from the previous year. Students must be eligible at the beginning of a sports season in order to participate in that season.
- The eligibility status of a transfer student is determined by his/her standing in the school from which he/she transferred. If he/she was ineligible in the previous school, he/she can only become eligible the next time grades are reviewed for eligibility.

Detention, after school study, and other academic activities will take precedence over extracurricular activities. Any student, who is suspended, in or out of school, is automatically ineligible for any extracurricular activities during the suspension.

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Attendance: Students must be on time for practice. Consequences for being late are as follows:

- 1st offense: verbal warning
- 2nd offense: will not participate in the 1st quarter of the next game
- 3rd offense: will not participate in the 1st and 2nd quarter of the next game.
- 4th offense: will not participate in the next scheduled game
- 5th offense: will not longer serve as part of the team

Middle School Student Responsibility:

- All paperwork must be completed and handed in before you can practice
- Your academics are very important make sure you seek help as needed.
- Be on time. Be dressed and ready when the practice or game begins.
- Students are not permitted to wait at school for a late practice. Parents may make arrangements for their child to be with a teacher afterschool or too participate in the 21C afterschool program. Students are not allowed in the building unsupervised.
- Being late for practice may result in a loss of playing time.
- Let the coach know if you are going to be late or will miss a game or practice so the can plan accordingly. Missed practices and games can affect playing time.
- Any student who is medically excused or sits out (due to illness) from P.E. or an academic class may not participate in practices or games.
 - In order to participate in any co-curricular activity a student must not be absent for any part of the day of the activity. Any student arriving after 10:30 am or departing before 2:00 pm will be marked ½ day absent and will be ineligible to participate in co-curricular activity that day. Exceptions must be pre-arranged and approved by the Principal or Assistance Principal.
- Three unexcused absences from practice or a game will result in your dismissal from the team.
- In order to go home with a parent or guardian from an away game you must have a signed permission form on file in the office and the coach having a copy.

- Make sure you listen to the announcements at the end of the day as practices and games can change quickly due to inclement weather or other factors.

Be Respectful and Most Importantly – Have Fun!

I have read and understand the expectations for athletics at the Bellows Falls Middle School.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date