



GRYMES MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Athletics Handbook

Introduction

The goal of this handbook is to provide clear policies and guidelines for students who participate on sports teams at Grymes Memorial. We have tried to anticipate the kinds of situations and issues that normally occur in a sports program. We reserve the right, however, to establish procedures for other situations that may arise. Regular school rules, policies, and expectations remain in effect for student athletes whenever they are representing our school.

Grymes Memorial School Mission for Athletics

The Mission for Athletics at Grymes Memorial School is to provide students the opportunity to develop their athletic potential through team practice and interscholastic sport; to cultivate sportsmanship on the field, whether in victory or in defeat; to set an example of hard work, fair play, and strong character for their schoolmates; and to represent Grymes honorably in the broader community.

Grymes Athletic Teams

The Grymes athletic teams include students in 7th and 8th grades. Because we are a small school, often the 6th grade students and occasionally 5th graders will be invited to participate on the teams. Whether players from 5th and 6th grades are needed will be determined by the Athletic Director and the Administration before each playing season begins. There will be times when 5th grade girls will be needed, but not boys, and *vice versa*.

Fall (August – October)

7-8th Girls' Soccer
7-8th Boys' Soccer

Winter (November – February)

7-8th Girls' Field Hockey
7-8th Boys' Basketball

Spring (March – May)

7-8th Girls' Basketball
7-8th Boy's Lacrosse

Club Sports

Boys and Girls in the 5th – 8th grades may participate in the following club sports that meet once a week (usually on Wednesdays) throughout each season:

Fall (August – October)

5 – 8th Cross Country

Winter (November – February)

5 – 8th Squash

Spring (March-May)

5 – 8th Tennis

Eligibility Policy

Participation on a Grymes sports team is a privilege for our seventh and eighth grade students. Because we are a small school, we will often invite sixth grade students to participate, and very occasionally, fifth grade students if there are insufficient numbers in the upper grades to field the teams. The 5th and 6th grade students will be welcome to practice with the team to hone their skills and to be ready to contribute to the team when their turn comes. To the extent that student numbers, staffing, and facilities make it possible, the Athletic Director will organize intramural games and occasional extramural games for the younger students.

A student's first responsibility is to his or her schoolwork. Students whose schoolwork suffers because they neglect their academic responsibilities may be removed from the team. Students who display a negative attitude, or conduct themselves inappropriately may also be removed from the team. Participation in the GMS sports program will be allowed only as long as grades, attitude, and conduct warrant it.

Practices

Coaches will make sure each player has a practice and game schedule at the start of each season that indicates location and time for each practice and game. Practices usually last 1 ½ hours.

Parents should plan on picking up their child promptly at the end of practices and games. If a parent cannot pick their child up at the end of practice, other arrangements should be made for the child to be picked up. If a player is not picked up on time repeatedly, they may not be allowed to participate on the team. A coach will let a player and parent know if a problem exists before going to this step. Please remember that coaches have families and often, additional schoolwork waiting for them at the end of the day!

Absences

Absences may include family emergencies, family vacations or the student's illness. Coaches need to be notified by phone or email if a player is not coming to practice. Sending word with a friend/classmate is not acceptable, and will be considered unexcused. Absences that are extensive or unexcused will likely result in reduced playing time.

Expectations for Parents

The success of the Grymes sports program depends heavily on parent involvement, whether for coaching, transportation, team snacks, covered dishes for sports banquets, or encouragement on the sidelines. We are enormously grateful for our parents' participation! At the same time, we expect our fans to abide by the same code of conduct we have for our students of gracious sportsmanship and of respect for all players, coaches, and officials.

Equipment Requirements

The following is a list of items that students are required to provide for each GMS sport in which they participate:

Soccer: Cleats, Shin Guards, Mouth Guard (optional), Socks

Field Hockey: Cleats, Stick, Goggles, Mouth Guard, Shin Guards, Gloves (optional)

Basketball:	Appropriate Court Shoes
Lacrosse:	Cleats, Helmet, Gloves, All Protective Padding, Stick, Mouth Guard
Cross Country:	Appropriate Running Shoes
Squash:	Non-marking Shoes, Racquet, Goggles
Tennis:	Non-marking Shoes, Racquet

All students are required to practice in GMS sports clothing. Team members will be issued team uniforms at no charge which they must return laundered at the end of the season. If the uniform is not returned, the family will be charged the cost of replacing the uniform.

COMMUNICATION

PRACTICE AND GAME SCHEDULES:

Each coach is responsible for communicating the practice and game schedule to the parents via email before the start of the season. Because there are inevitably changes in game times that are beyond the coaches' control, the website is the most reliable place to check game times up to the last minute. Please go to www.grymesschool.org and click on Calendar to confirm game times.

To follow the sports blogs and see recent photos, please go to www.grymesschool.org/school-life/athletics.

HANDLING CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS:

Athletics, by its very nature, demands that a coach make numerous judgment calls during the course of a season. Athletics also dictates that a coach has effective discipline so the athletes can compete in a safe, organized, and goal oriented activity. During the course of any season, it is possible that parents may have complaints concerning a coach's decisions regarding their son/daughter's playing time or disciplinary action that a coach may take involving their child. Therefore, a formal procedure will be followed so that all parties involved will be treated responsibly and equitably.

As with all communication at Grymes, there is a protocol for handling concerns. The first step is always to go directly to the teacher or coach in charge of the activity. If the parent remains unsatisfied, concerns should be taken to the Athletic Director. The third and final step is to take the concern to the head of school. Concerns related to sports can be emotional and parents or fans need to make an appointment with school personnel to properly address an issue. Before, during, or after a game is never the right place for a disgruntled parent or fan to air a grievance!

GO GRIZZLIES!



ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in extra curricular athletics is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege to develop your athletic skills with classmates in an organized setting. It is a responsibility to represent your school and community with your best sportsmanship and appearance.

The following rules are required from each athlete participating in games for Grymes Memorial School.

1. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
2. I will be a positive representative of Grymes at all games.
3. I will treat my coaches, officials, teammates, and opponents with respect.
4. I will try to show that I can accept winning or losing a game in a gracious manner.
5. I will not use vulgar or objectionable language in school, at practice or at any athletic event.
6. I will not criticize game officials at any time under any circumstances; I will not communicate with game officials except to answer a question.

I have read and understood the Grymes Memorial School Athletic Code of Conduct.

(Student's Signature)

(Parent's Signature)

(date)