

District Code of Ethics

- The West Ada School District is dedicated to offering an outstanding activities program to the students of this district. The district has a belief that there should be a proper balance between the academic and activity programs offered to their students. A properly balanced and well supervised activities program will provide social, emotional, and physical opportunities for those wishing to participate. The district will take the responsibility for providing a program which represents the interests of the majority of its students. All programs will be guided by the Middle School activities philosophy and district policy.
- The Code of Ethics applies to all students at the middle school level who represent the school in a co-curricular program. The code requires students to make a commitment regarding grades, citizenship, avoidance of the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, and care of school uniforms and equipment. The commitment applies throughout a specific sport's season.
- It shall be an aim of the district for its league programs to be competitive with each other. This aim will be accomplished by providing the highest quality coach and equipment available for this level.



Meridian Middle Philosophy

- Meridian Middle School (MMS) will provide activities that meet the needs of the majority of our students. All activities will emphasize participation, skill development, team unity, and responsibility. In short, all student-athletes need an opportunity to be successful in their respective activities at their own level. Competition will be an additional area of emphasis as the skill level increases in any given activity.
- It is the goal of MMS athletics to build a program that will prepare athletes to move onto high school sports. When possible, we will work closely with Meridian High to help our athletes develop the skills and knowledge that will be expected of them once they leave MMS.



Participation and Fees

- Students' participating in athletes are required to purchase an activity card, which is good for the entire year.
- Each athlete who joins a sport must pay a \$90 fee before the first competition for each sport they participate in. This fee is required regardless if the athlete stops participating in the sport for whatever reason. Please understand that this is a participation fee, not a pay-to-play fee. "A" team athletes are **not** guaranteed play time. Athletes on the "B" and "C" teams will be guaranteed playtime, but playtime does not have to be equal. If a student-athlete has participated and paid for two sports during the same year, they are eligible to join a third or fourth sport without paying any additional fee.
- **Each student-athlete must also have a signed participation form for each sport in order to practice.** These forms can be found online or picked up in the main office.
- Athletes must be picked up no later than 15 minutes after practice and games. Any student still waiting at that time will be sent to the public library to wait there to be picked up. Athletes who cannot be picked up on time will be ineligible to participate in athletics (see Participation Form).



Attendance Policy

- Attendance is **extremely important** to the success of each team. When a student participates in athletes they are making a comment to both the school and their teammates. **Athletes are expected to be at every practice and competition.**
- Students **must** be in attendance at school **the entire school day** in order to participate in extracurricular activities after school or in the evening of that same day. Exceptions include situations beyond the control of the student such as court appearance, bereavement, and medical/dental appointments.
- If an absence does occur, parent/guardian will need to notify the coach by email, note or phone call. The coach must receive the excused absence notice within 2 days of the absence. If one is not received it will be counted as unexcused absence. Excused absences include:
 - Parent/guardian notice of illness.
 - Doctor/dentist appointment.
 - Pre-arranged scheduling conflicts.
 - Family emergencies.
- Although an absence is excused, the loss of practice time **will** result in the loss of play time during competition.
- The first and second unexcused absence will result in loss of playing time. Three unexcused absences may result in removal from the team.
- Absences as a result of in school or out of school suspensions are consequences of behavior unbecoming an athlete at Meridian Middle School and may result in removal from the team.



Grade Policy

- Students participating in athletics must maintain passing grades in each of their classes to be eligible to participate in games/matches/meets. Grade checks will be sent out to the coaches weekly.
- The coach will notify the athletes of any failing grade. The following guidelines will be followed for each student athlete failing a class:
 - From the date the athlete is notified, they have one week to raise the grade to a D or show significant improvement.
 - If the grade is not raised to a D or the athlete does not show significant improvement, the athlete will not be eligible to participate in the upcoming week's games/matches/meets. The athlete will be required to practice but will not be allowed to attend any away games. They are allowed to sit on the bench in full uniform as part of the team for home games but will not participate in the game.



Uniforms & Equipment

- Appropriate clothes for practice include a pair of running shoes, athletic shorts or sweat pants, and a t-shirt or sweatshirt. The MMS dress code policy will be followed during practice. Watches, necklaces, bracelets, and earrings may not be worn.
- Athletes will be issued the necessary uniform and equipment to participate in each sport. All items checked out to an athlete must be returned at the end of each season. Athletes who damage or do not return their equipment will be required to pay the cost to replace the item(s). The athlete will not be allowed to participate in any additional sport until all items have been either returned or paid for. In addition, yearbooks will not be distributed to these athletes until all fines have been cleared.