

**WARREN WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Home of the Wolverines**

13400 E. 12 Mile Rd.  
Warren, MI 48088  
(586) 439-4403



**STUDENT-ATHLETE**  
**HANDBOOK**

2018-2019

The Warren Woods Public Schools Board of Education has approved the contents of this handbook. Any waiver, alteration, amendment or modification must be approved by the Superintendent of Schools and be subject to review of the Board of Education.

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# LETTER TO PARENTS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes:

As an avid sports fan, a former Division I student-athlete and coach, and a coach for numerous sports for many years at the high school and middle school levels, I have a deep understanding of the true definition of a *student-athlete*.

As your principal, what thrills my heart to no end is watching adolescents blossom before my very eyes – as athletic performers, as students, and as young adults. If a student-athlete’s preparation and hard work pays off with a game-winning play or a headline on the morning announcements, well, that’s just an extra bonus. Most importantly to me is that our student-athletes go on to lead rewarding, fulfilling middle school years, which will lead to a focused high school career and a fulfilling life after the cheering stops. That’s why we place so much emphasis on academic success.

At WWMS, we pride ourselves on the many benefits that our athletic programs bring to our student-athletes. Many of our former players have told me that it was the lessons they learned in their athletics experience that carried them through successful middle school and high school years. As student-athletes, you can’t put a price tag on what you will learn about the values of teamwork, perseverance, discipline, hard work, and positive thinking.

Our sports programs are a great source of school and community pride. When a student-athlete accepts a WWMS uniform, he/she joins a commitment to excellence. When a student-athlete represents our school in competition, he/she makes us all proud and brings great joy into our lives. To our student-athletes...thank you for sharing your lives and talents with us, and for your commitment to excellence. Win, lose, or draw, you are all champions in my eyes. Go Wolverines!

With Much Pride,

Don R.J. Sikora  
Proud Principal

## **WWMS STUDENT-ATHLETES**

**are** good sports...

**are** considerate and courteous...

**are** responsible citizens in our classrooms, within our building, at athletic events, and while representing Warren Woods Public Schools outside our community...

**are** respectful of other players, teams, and officials...

**are** the best!

## **WWMS FACTS**

School Mascot  
School Colors

Woverines  
Navy Blue & Gold

## **SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS**

The following athletic activities are offered and sponsored by Warren Woods Public Schools/Warren Woods Middle School:

### *FALL SPORTS*

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball

### *WINTER SPORTS*

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball  
6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Wrestling

### *SPRING SPORTS*

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (Combined) Grade Boys & Girls Track  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Combined) Girls Softball  
6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys & Girls Swimming

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

At WWMS, our athletics philosophy is to provide the student-athletes with valuable experiences that they will use throughout their lifetimes.

Through a variety of coaching methods and experiences, it is our hope that the student-athletes develop the emotional, intellectual, social, and physical skills necessary to aid in their growth as caring and productive citizens.

It is our belief that in order for a student-athlete to learn, he/she must be able to work, experiment, succeed, or fail without fear of humiliation or rejection. This can only be accomplished by providing a positive learning environment, which will help the student-athletes gain self-respect, self-esteem, and respect for others.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### TRYOUTS

Information regarding tryouts will be sent home with students and posted well in advance. Additional information can be found on the school's website. Remember that playing a sport is a privilege, not a right. Students can be dismissed from a team for any reason the coach, athletic director, or administrator deems detrimental. Parents must adhere to all rules and be respectful of the team and to the coach. If parents do not follow the rules, their child's position on the team may be affected.

### INSURANCE

Student-athletes are covered under their own family insurance policies. For additional information regarding the purchase of additional insurance coverage, please contact the High School Department of Athletics at (586) 439-4566.

### PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to establish and maintain a positive environment, all parents/guardians and supporters are requested to adhere to the following guidelines:

- ★ I will encourage good sportsmanship by being a positive role model.
- ★ I will try my best to make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved, including participants, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- ★ I will insist my child treat other participants, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.
- ★ I will reinforce and support the school's policies.
- ★ I will do my best to understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- ★ I will show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- ★ I will be a "team" fan, not only a "my child" fan.
- ★ I will help my child learn that success is measured by the development of skills, not just winning or losing.
- ★ If I have a concern, I will talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place, never before, during, or immediately after a practice or contest.

### ***Parent/Coach Relationship***

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

### ***Communication Parents Should Expect from Coaches***

- ★ Philosophy of the coach.
- ★ Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- ★ Team requirements.
- ★ Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.
- ★ Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

### ***Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents***

- ★ Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- ★ Notifications of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- ★ Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

### ***Issues Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches***

As your child becomes involved in athletics, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important that they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way they or you may wish. At these times, discussion with the coach may help. Examples include:

- ★ Ways to help your child improve.
- ★ Concerns about your child's attitude and/or behavior.
- ★ Academic support.

### ***Issues Inappropriate to Discuss With Coaches***

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not getting as much playing time as other team members or not playing a position that you would like him/her to. Coaches make judgments based upon what they believe is best for the entire team. Certain things should be left to the discretion of the coach. Examples include:

- ★ Team strategy.
- ★ Play calling.
- ★ Other student-athletes.

### ***Chain of Command***

Whenever there is a question or concern arising from an athletic situation, we have found the following chain of command to be very effective in resolving issues:

- ★ Athletes should talk directly to the coach, in private, face-to-face, away from the practice site or game area.
- ★ If the situation is unresolved, schedule a meeting with the coach.
- ★ If you feel that the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, contact the Athletic Director Mr. Craig Cutshaw (586) 439-4566 or [ccutshaw@mywwps.org](mailto:ccutshaw@mywwps.org)

# SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship and citizenship is as much a part of an athletic contest as the game itself. At WWMS, we believe that athletics play a vital role in the student-athlete's total education. We believe that lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship are taught everyday in our lives, including in athletics. We all have an important role in teaching the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship.

Warren Woods Middle School, along with the other middle schools in the Macomb Area Conference, is working hard to promote good sportsmanship and citizenship among our student-athletes. We need your help and support in this effort as well.

## ***General Guidelines***

- ★ Be gracious and show respect for everyone involved in the contest.
- ★ Respect the decisions made by the contest officials.
- ★ Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheer and signs. Be a **FAN**, not a **FANATIC**.
- ★ Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support the participants, and that it is not a license to verbally assault others.

## ***Acceptable Behavior...***

- ★ Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- ★ Shaking hands with an opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize the performance with applause.
- ★ Accepting all decisions of officials.
- ★ Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest, regardless of the outcome.
- ★ Treating competition as a game, not a war.
- ★ Coaches and players searching out opposing players to recognize them for outstanding effort, performance, or coaching.
- ★ Applause at the end of the contest for performance of all participants.
- ★ Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of the team.
- ★ Encouraging surrounding spectators to display only the best sportsmanship-like conduct.

## ***Unacceptable Behavior...***

- ★ Taunting, trash talking, and other intimidating actions.
- ★ Encouraging those sitting around you to engage in poor sportsmanship.
- ★ Yelling or making gestures at participants, coaches, or officials.
- ★ Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- ★ Criticizing an official's decision.
- ★ Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good effort or performance.
- ★ Blaming loss of game on officials, participants, or coaches.
- ★ Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- ★ Using profane language or displays of anger that draw attention away from the contest.

# WWMS STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The contents in this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct highlight important guidelines set forth by WWMS coaches and administration. It should be noted that WWMS administration has the right to prohibit a student-athlete from participation in league play/practices due to disciplinary reasons or any violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

## **PARTICIPATION CRITERIA**

Before a student-athlete can participate in tryouts, practices, or contests, he/she must:

- ★ Turn in a physical form to the front office. **A current physical form must be signed and dated by a physician and on file in the MS Front Office in order for a student-athlete to participate.** Both sides of the physical form must be filled out completely. Physical forms must be dated after April 15<sup>th</sup> for the following school year. For example, a physical dated 4/18/17 would be valid for all sports during the 2017-18 school year.
- ★ Meet the eligibility guidelines that are outlined in this handbook.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Once a student is a member of an athletic team, he/she must meet the academic/behavioral expectations set forth by Warren Woods Middle School.

Eligibility lists will be distributed to the coaches on a weekly basis. Report Cards and Progress Reports may also be used to determine eligibility.

### **To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Warren Woods Middle School, a student must:**

- Be under age 14 in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.
- Be under age 15 in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.
- Have a record of a physical examination, taken no earlier than April 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding year, on file with the athletic department/front office, before she/he may begin practice or try-outs.
- Have a signed Concussion Form on file.
- Receive grades of "C" or better on any report cards, progress reports, or eligibility checks.
- Receive "S" or better in citizenship on report cards, progress reports, or eligibility checks.
- Compete on only one team in a particular sport during the school season. MHSAA rules prohibit simultaneous participation in the same sport in AAU, AYSO, Parks & Rec., etc.
- All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to try out for sports providing they meet the age requirements listed above and have a current physical on file.
- Team members are expected to travel with their team on the school bus to all games. Travel waivers must be signed by a parent/guardian for the return trip home, as transportation will not be provided by the school for athletic events (football and track are exceptions). Parents are asked not to request to drive them except in emergency situations, in which case the athletic director and/or coach should be notified in writing in advance. Parents may only take their child home from away contests. NO OTHER CHILD will be allowed to travel with another parent. Traveling with the team is part of the overall team experience.
- All school-issued equipment is to be returned clean at the end of the season on the date to be determined by the coach. The student, at current replacement cost, will pay for lost equipment.

- All athletes must be in training a minimum number of days and practices are mandatory unless excused by the coach.
- Attendance at all contests and practices are mandatory unless excused by the coach.
- Each coach will define what is considered as an unexcused absence.
- An injury is not considered an excused absence. If injured, the athlete must still attend practices to show support for the team.
- No student shall compete in any junior high/middle school athletic contest during the current semester/trimester who does not have in the official records of the school represented for the last semester/trimester credit in at least 50 percent of the total periods of work carried. A first year junior high/middle school student may compete without reference to his or her record in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade; however, a student who repeats 7<sup>th</sup> grade is subject to previous semester/trimester academic requirements.

### **Athletic Alcohol/Substance Abuse Policy**

- Use, possession, attempting to possess, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence in any form of tobacco, alcohol, or any other controlled substance is strictly prohibited. The following disciplinary action will be enforced for any violation of this policy during the middle school years:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Immediate suspension from the sport in which the student-athlete is currently participating in.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Suspension from all athletics participation for the remainder of the school year.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Permanent suspension from athletics participation during the middle school years.

### **Athletic Academic Eligibility:**

- Every week during the athletic season grade and behavior checks will be reported to the coaching staff. Students will be placed on **probation** for one week for the following reasons:
  - Student athlete is receiving a "D" or "F" in any class.
- A student will be **ineligible** for one week for the following reasons.
  - Student athlete has an Office Referral or more than 1 Caution Card.
  - Student athlete has more than 3 unexcused tardies during a one week period.
- The Athletic Director/Administration will compile the list of names for the coaches.
- If no improvement is made the probation will be extended an additional week. If no improvement is made in grade or effort after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season may result.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> suspension may result in automatic suspension from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their child's grades via PowerSchool and through open communication with their child's teachers.

### **Athletic Attendance Eligibility:**

- A student must be in attendance for a full school day, including early release days and ½ days of school, to participate in or attend a school-sponsored extracurricular activity or athletic event.

## **SUSPENSIONS**

Any student-athlete, who is suspended from school for violation of the Warren Woods Middle School Student Code of Conduct, will be ineligible to participate in practices, competitions, or any outside-of-classroom activities for the duration of the suspension.

## **SCHOOL-ISSUED EQUIPMENT**

All student-athletes are responsible for keeping athletic equipment in good repair and are responsible for the replacement cost of any item that has been lost or mistreated. All game uniforms are to be cared for as directed by the coach. Game uniforms may only be worn on the day of a contest, unless the coach or WWMS administration grants permission.

## **LOCKS/LOCKERS**

All student-athletes will be granted the privilege of using a locker in the locker room to store materials, clothing, and personal items (abiding by the WWMS Student Code of Conduct). Locks must be purchased on your own. Student-athletes are responsible for their locker and its contents. **Warren Woods Public Schools is not responsible for any lost/missing materials, clothing, and personal items.** Student-athletes are allowed to go to their lockers before and after practice and/or contests, or with their coach's permission.

**Lockers are property of Warren Woods Public Schools. WWMS administration has the right to open and enter any locker in the event of an emergency that is believed to be a serious violation of school or board policy, or for the purpose of the safety, health, and welfare of the staff and student body.**

## **SUPERVISION**

Student-athletes are not allowed in the locker rooms, gymnasium, weight room, or any other athletics facility unless properly supervised by their coach. If a practice or game is not scheduled immediately after school, student-athletes are to report to a predetermined location assigned by the coach.

## **TEAM RULES & POLICIES**

In addition to the rules and policies set forth in this handbook, coaches may institute other rules and policies for a particular sport. These rules and policies will be approved by WWMS administration and distributed to all student-athletes at the beginning of the respective season.