

# Harrisburg R-VIII School District



## Extracurricular Activities Handbook 2020-21

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## **School Mission Statement**

The mission of the Harrisburg R-VIII Schools is to produce citizens who can effectively communicate, gather and use information, make responsible decisions, and adapt to the challenges of the twenty-first century by providing diverse, well-trained staff dedicated to delivering a sequential, comprehensive curriculum based upon fiscal responsibility, community involvement, sound management practices, and a commitment to measurable academic progress.

### **Interscholastic Activities and Athletics**

The District provides opportunities for students to participate in interscholastic activities and athletics. The interscholastic programs should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the students as the primary consideration. The programs are expected to be well organized and well conducted and to have a positive influence on the students and the community.

Participation in interscholastic and extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Interscholastic competition may be withheld from any student as a condition of discipline. Furthermore, all policies that apply to the regular school day apply also to interscholastic competition. Coaches and sponsors may establish policies for their groups in addition to those set out by the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

### **Philosophy of Extracurricular Activities**

Harrisburg R-VIII High School students are provided with numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of student activities. These activities are considered to be an important aspect of the students' educational experience. Our emphasis is participation where each student has the opportunity to achieve a sense of individual, group, and school responsibility. This type of participation provides students with desirable learning opportunities.

Harrisburg R-VIII High School student activities should be considered an integral part of the total education program which provides opportunities to help each student develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. All information enclosed refers to both interscholastic and extracurricular activities.

### **“Why We Play” Initiative**

The Harrisburg School District has joined MSHSAA in the “Why We Play” Initiative. This program focuses on teaching students to deal with success, failure, accountability, commitment, teamwork, self-sacrifice and doing your best at everything he/she does. The purpose of interscholastic sports and activities is for students to have fun while learning to do their very best in all things, committing to themselves and others, learning they are accountable for their actions and the only thing they can control is their own actions. Using sports and activities allows us to teach life skills and development through opportunities presented in practice and competition. Each coach/sponsor has developed their own purpose statement for their program which will be shared and discussed with the athletes/participants.

<b><u>MSHSAA Sponsored Activities offered at Harrisburg R-VIII High School</u></b>	<b><u>Extracurricular Activities/Clubs offered at Harrisburg R-VIII High School</u></b>
Band/Marching Band	Art Club
Baseball (boys)	Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
Basketball (both)	National Honor Society (NHS)
Choir	Student Against Drunk Driving (SADD)
Cross Country (girls)	Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
Basketball & Football Cheerleading	Student Council
Football	Science Club
Golf (both)	Outdoor Club
Quiz Bowl	Otaku Club
Softball (girls)	
Speech	
Track	

### **COACHES AND SPONSORS FOR 2020-21**

**(As of this publication, the following is a list of coaches. Assignments may be subject to change.)**

#### **Sport/Activity**

Varsity Boys Basketball/JH Boys Bball  
 Assistant Boys Basketball/JH Boys Bball  
 JH Boys Basketball  
 Varsity Girls Basketball/JH Girls Bball  
 Assistant Girls Basketball  
 JH Girls Basketball  
 Varsity Baseball  
 Assistant Varsity Baseball  
 Varsity Softball  
 Assistant Softball  
 Girls Golf  
 Boys Golf  
 Varsity Track/JH Track  
 Assistant Track/JH Track

Varsity Cheerleading-Football/BBall  
 Varsity Cheerleading-Competition  
 JH Cheerleading-Football/BBall  
 Varsity Football  
 Assistant HS Football  
 JH Football  
 Assistant JH Football  
 Varsity/JH Girls Cross Country  
 Band & Choir  
 HS Quiz Bowl  
 JH Quiz Bowl  
 Speech  
 Assistant Speech  
 HS Play

#### **Coach/Sponsor**

Kyle Fisher  
 Dan Bachmeier  
 Doug Fessler/Dan Bachmeier/Tanner Smith  
 Ryan Richardson  
 Mason Hardin  
 Corey Whitaker/Bekah Joos/Logan Ball  
 Chris Ackman  
 Nathan Carey  
 Steve Combs  
 Carmen Combs  
 Jackie Wardrip  
 Doug Fessler  
 Blake Logan  
 Vince Debenito, Corey Whitaker, Mason  
 Hardin, Zech Bowman, Devon Geisler  
 Meghan Sublett/Susan Canote  
 Meghan Sublett  
 Carrie Edwards  
 Steve Hopkins  
 Blake Logan, Mason Hardin, Zech Bowman  
 Vince Debenito  
 Devon Geisler, Tanner Smith  
 Corey Whitaker  
 Kevin Fearn  
 Gwen Weathers  
  
 Devon Geisler/Cassidy Green  
 Gracie Williams  
 Carrie Edwards/Judi Hinch

### **Participation Guidelines**

These guidelines must be followed in school-sponsored activities as well as athletics.

- Students are free to make their own selections as to sports and activities in which they wish to participate.
- There will be a one-time Activity Participation Fee of \$25 for all students wanting to participate in an MSHSAA sponsored activity. This one-time fee will cover all activities throughout the year.
- All students who participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities must participate in the random drug testing pool. Please reference the Random Drug Testing Policy beginning on page 6 of this handbook.

#### **All participants must comply with the following requirements:**

- Students are required to use school transportation to all activities unless the student has a written note signed by a parent/guardian and the student has received permission from the administration. Students are required to use school transportation from activities and contests unless their parents sign a “Parent Release Form” which will allow the student to be released to the parent. Advanced written notice from the parents must be given to the coach/sponsor, granting permission for the student to ride home with another adult. Permission must be approved by the administration.
- Attendance at practice, meetings, meets, and/or games is required. No one is excused without prior permission from the coach/sponsor.
- A student must attend ½ of the school day in order to participate in activities. Exceptions to this guideline can only be made by the administration.
- Students serving out-of-school-suspension (O.S.S) are not eligible for participation or attendance at any extracurricular activity or event until the suspension is completed. The ½ day attendance requirement is still in effect for students serving O.S.S.
- Students serving in-school-suspension (I.S.S) will not be allowed to participate in contests until the suspension is completed.
- Any disrespect toward the administration, teachers, coaches, sponsors, or officials will not be tolerated at any time and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- Any student whose actions are detrimental to the proper framework of the intent of the activity will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Participants must adhere to the rules and guidelines set up by the school and by the coach/sponsor.

***Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in suspension or possible dismissal from the team.***

### **Physical Examinations, Insurance, Heat/Hydration, Concussion Requirements**

The MSHSAA handbook states the school shall require each student participating in athletics a physician’s certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his or her school. The medical certificate is valid for the purpose of this rule if issued on or after February 1 of the previous year. **A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until he or she has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.**

Student-Athletes will also follow the Heat/Hydration & Conditioning Guidelines and Concussion Protocol set by MSHSAA that can be found on their website under the Sports Medicine tab.

### **Concussion Protocol**

The following guidelines have been put in place by MSHSAA in order to ensure that the athlete is ready to return to participate:

Return to activity and play is a medical decision. Progression is individualized, must be closely supervised according to the school's policies and procedures, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. After the student has not experienced symptoms attributable to the concussion for a minimum of 24 hours and has returned to school on a full-time basis (if school is in session), the stepwise progression below shall be followed:

Step 1: Light cardiovascular exercise.

Step 2: Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.

Step 3: Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight-training can begin.

Step 4: Full, normal practice or training (a walk-through practice does not count as a full, normal practice).

Step 5: Full participation. Must be cleared by MD/DO/PAC/LAT/ARNP/Neuropsychologist before returning to play.

The athlete should spend a minimum of one day at each step before advancing to the next. If concussion symptoms return with any step, the athlete must stop the activity and the treating healthcare provider must be contacted.

### **Athletic/Academic Lettering**

Coaches and sponsors will determine guidelines for lettering in their particular activity.

### **Duel Activity Participation Guidelines**

- A student will be allowed to participate in more than one (1) co-curricular activity at a time. It is the responsibility of the coaches and athletes to communicate regarding schedule and participation. In the event of two events happening at the same time, the precedence will proceed as follows: regular-season events will take precedence over the practice, district-level events will take precedence over regular-season events, state-level events will take precedence over district level events....\*\*Unless otherwise determined by BOTH coaches.
  - School sports and extracurricular activities will take precedence over outside community sports and activities. The student may practice or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in a different sport than the school sport in season under the following conditions:
    - No school-time is missed to compete, practice, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the administration.
    - The student shall not practice or compete in the non-school competition on the same date he/she practices or competes for the school team without approval of the school administrator.

## Eligibility Requirements

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests. Listed below is some information to acquaint you with the major rules and regulations a student must follow in order to protect his/her eligibility.

- *Citizenship Requirements*

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens and judged solely by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered “credible citizens.” Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with standards of good discipline. No student participating in court-ordered community service will be added to the eligibility roster, allowed to practice or participate until service time is completed.

- *MSHSAA Academic Requirements*

A student must be currently enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 80% of the maximum credits which could be earned. A student must also have earned 80% of the maximum credits the preceding semester of attendance; or a student must be enrolled in a full course at his or her level in a special education program for the disabled approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though ungraded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age, and that student must have made standard progress for his or her level the preceding semester. A beginning 9th-grade student shall have been promoted from 8th grade to 9th grade for the first-semester eligibility.

- *Harrisburg Academic Requirements*

In addition to MSHSAA academic requirements, students attending Harrisburg R-VIII School may not receive a failing grade (F) in any class for the semester grading period. **Students failing to meet this requirement will be ineligible for the following semester. Students will regain eligibility when they have met MSHSAA guidelines and local policy.** During this ineligibility period, the student must attend practice to stay a part of the team. Students promoted from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade that have not met eligibility requirements will be eligible for participation during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of their 9th-grade year but must meet requirements thereafter.

## Amateur and Award Requirements

A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. A student may accept an award for participation in an athletic contest, for athletic honors or recognition of athletic achievements in the interscholastic program. Awards presented to students shall meet the following criteria:

- A student may receive the following symbolic awards: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, trophies, certificates, etc.
- A student shall not accept or compete for the following types of awards: services, cash or gift certificates.
- A student may receive merchandise items (one or more) which together do not exceed a total value of \$250.00 in manufacturer’s retail price.

Questions pertaining to eligibility that are not answered above should be brought to the attention of your principal or athletic director.

### **Equipment**

In order to give the student a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, each student will be held responsible for the abuse or loss of any school-issued equipment and/or uniforms. The student who checked out the equipment must pay for any equipment that is lost or stolen. Any loss of equipment or defective equipment should be reported immediately to the coach/sponsor.

### **Sportsmanship**

Sportsmanship is an expectation of everyone... student-athletes, coaches, fans, etc... We offer the following reminders:

- If you should commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event, you could become ineligible.
- The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator — regardless of age — could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school activities.
- Officials are not FULL-TIME employees and have other jobs. They do the best they can and will NOT make every call correctly. Please remember that as you attend contests.

### **School Dismissed For Inclement Weather and Practice**

When school is dismissed as the result of inclement weather, discretion will be used in scheduling any type of practice. The Superintendent will be contacted before scheduling practice on such a day. Students will not be penalized if the parent determines conditions are not safe for travel to/from practice on that day.

### **Athletic Banquets**

There will be Athletic Banquets to highlight the accomplishments of our athletic season(s) and the accomplishments of our student-athletes. Coaches/sponsors and team members are expected to attend banquets.

### **Participant Conduct Code**

The extracurricular handbook will only deal with those students involved in interscholastic and/or extracurricular activities.

### **Random Drug Testing Policy**

For the safety, health, and well-being of the students of the Harrisburg R-VIII School District, the district has adopted this policy for Harrisburg students in grades 7-12 who participate in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and the student parking permit program. The objectives of the Harrisburg R-VIII School District Random Drug Testing Policy include:

1. To establish standards of conduct for district students.
2. To identify students who are misusing drugs so that intervention plans can be implemented by home and school.
3. To establish a safe environment for student-athletes during competition and generally for all students.
4. To provide a vehicle for parents to become aware of chemical abuse problems involving their children so that corrective action may be taken.
5. To provide referrals for students who need evaluation and counseling.
6. To deter chemical abuse or misuse by all students.

7. To send a clear message that the district is committed to eliminating student chemical abuse and to helping students who are experiencing chemical abuse problems.
8. To work cooperatively with the parents by assisting them in keeping their children free from chemical abuse.

It is not the purpose or intent of the district's Drug Testing Policy to identify students for punishment under the district discipline code.

The Harrisburg R-VIII School District Student Drug Testing Policy deals with students who participate in extracurricular activities recognized by MSHSAA, students who participate in school clubs and organizations, and students who register for a parking permit. The program is required for all students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities recognized by MSHSAA, clubs, and organizations of the school, and those students who register for a parking permit. This includes all athletics teams, activities, clubs, senior trip, all MATC affiliated organizations sponsored by the Harrisburg School District. This is not an all-inclusive list and organizations and clubs will be added as they are created.

Parents of students who enroll after the school term begins are encouraged to speak with the athletics/activities director should they have questions about the Drug Testing Policy.

### **Procedures for Random Drug Testing**

Policy and procedures for random drug testing will be made available to all students and parents/guardians on the district website. Drug testing will be conducted by a third-party service provider. Students and parents/guardians who have specific questions relating to random drug testing are encouraged to speak to the activities director.

- Each participant in activities and/or the student driver program will receive copies of the Drug Testing Participation and Consent Form which shall be read, signed, and dated by the student and parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Once a student has submitted a Drug Testing Participation and Consent Form, the student's status in the program will continue until a form is submitted requesting removal from the program.
- Any student removing his/her name from the drug-testing pool will be ineligible for activities for three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days.
- The District will send out an annual notice at the beginning of each new school year reminding students that they must complete the volunteer opt-out form should they wish to be removed from the drug-testing pool.

The participation and consent form contains the procedures for the random drug testing and must be reviewed and signed by students and their parents/guardians prior to participation. A student will not be allowed to: 1) participate in extracurricular activities recognized by MSHSAA, 2) participate in school clubs or organizations, or 3) register for a parking permit until a consent form is on file with the school.

All students who have completed a participation and consent form will be placed into a middle school or high school pool and for the initial screening will be assigned identification numbers that will not allow the third-party service provider to recognize names of students of the district. The third-party service



provider will randomly select identification numbers from each of the middle school and high school pools and a minimum of five (5) alternative identification numbers from each pool in case some of the original randomly selected individuals are absent from school.

The test results will remain confidential and will be released to the student, his/her parents or guardians, and the principal. The principal will, in turn, notify the coach or sponsor that is directly involved with the student. All staff members will be instructed on the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any negligent or intentional disclosure by any school official of test results may be grounds for disciplinary action including and up to termination. In addition, the test results will not be used for student discipline and will not become part of the school record or communicated to any other party. All files regarding the participants in the program, as well as test results, shall be kept strictly confidential and will be kept separate from the mandatory school files required for each student. Furthermore, if the student tests positive for a prohibited substance, the administration will not use or reveal a positive for prohibited substance test result as a reason to search the student's locker, purse, backpack, or other areas in which the student keeps his/her personal effects. Test results will not be turned over to the police or authorities without a court order and the administration will not disclose test results without a court order for purposes of a criminal investigation.

Consequences for a positive for prohibited substance test will be imposed only after the confirmation test is done at the laboratory and after consultation with the parent/guardian and student.

## **Consequences**

### **First Positive for Prohibited Substance Test Result**

- Consequences for the first positive for prohibited substance test to a student involved in extracurricular activities recognized by MSHSAA, who participates in school clubs or organizations, or who register for a parking permit shall be suspension from activities for thirty (30) calendar days.
  - For students participating in athletic or academic teams, the student must attend practice sessions, continue to attend team functions and sit with fellow participants during the activities, but may not participate in any of the above activities.
  - For students participating in school clubs and organizations, the student may attend club and organizational meetings, but may not participate in events that are scheduled and submitted by the sponsor.
  - Students who register for a parking permit, they may not park their vehicles on school property at any time during the suspension.
- The student shall submit to a follow-up test at the expiration of the suspension period and must test negative before returning to participation in any extracurricular or athletic competition or regaining driving privileges. The follow-up test shall be performed by the district's testing administrator at the expense of the student's parent/guardian. The student will also be required to be tested during the following two district testing windows at the expense of the district.
- If a student enrolls in and makes positive strides toward completion of a drug counseling and assistance program approved by the administration, the suspension may be reduced by up to half of the original 30-day suspension as determined by district administrators.

### **Second Positive for Prohibited Substance Test Result**

- Consequences for the second positive for prohibited substance test to a student involved in extracurricular activities recognized by MSHSAA, who participates in school clubs or organizations, or who register for a parking permit shall be suspension from activities for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days.
  - For students participating in athletic or academic teams, the student must attend practice sessions, continue to attend team functions and sit with fellow participants during the activities, but may not participate in any of the above activities.
  - For students participating in school clubs and organizations, the student may attend the club and organizational meetings, but may not participate in events that are scheduled and submitted by the sponsor.
  - Students who register for a parking permit, they may not park their vehicles on school property at any time during the suspension.
- The student shall submit to a follow-up test at the expiration of the suspension period and must test negative before returning to participation in any extracurricular or athletic competition or regaining driving privileges. The follow-up test shall be performed by the district's testing administrator at the expense of the student's parent/guardian. The student will also be required to be tested during the following two district testing windows at the expense of the district.
- If a student enrolls in and completes a drug counseling and assistance program approved by the administration, the suspension may be reduced by up to half of the original 180-day suspension as determined by district administrators.

### **Third Positive for Prohibited Substance Test Result**

A third positive for prohibited substance test results in the permanent loss of participation in a specified extracurricular activity recognized by MSHSAA, participation in a school club or organization activity, or parking on school property during his/her high school career at Harrisburg R-VIII High School.

For the seventh and eighth grade program, all offenses will accumulate from seventh grade through the end of the eighth-grade year. Eighth-grade students who cannot complete their suspension prior to the start of their freshman year will be required to submit a follow-up test upon entering the high school random drug testing program. The follow-up test shall be performed by the district's testing administrator at the expense of the student's parent/guardian. The student will also be required to be tested during the following two district testing windows at the expense of the district.

For the high school program, all offenses will accumulate from year to year beginning with a student's freshman year and concluding with the student's graduation.

### **Drug Counseling and Assistance**

All students testing positive for the prohibited substance under this policy are strongly encouraged to participate in drug counseling and assistance programs. It is the position of the district that any student desiring to return to participation in athletic or co-curricular activities or regain the privilege to park on school grounds will take the necessary steps to demonstrate their commitment to remaining drug-free. If requested by the parents/guardians, school counselors will provide assistance in obtaining help for the student. The district will not be responsible for the costs of any counseling or subsequent treatment. Except for follow-up drug testing required for returning from suspension, the district shall pay for any drug testing under this program at its request. Any additional, independent test submitted by the student, custodial parents, or guardians will not be paid for by the district.

### **Possession/Use of Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol**

Student participants will not be permitted to possess, use, and/or distribute tobacco, drugs, or alcohol. Therefore, the following consequences will be assessed to students who are in violation of this policy if the use or possession occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored event, reported or confirmed by a law enforcement agency, confirmed by school personnel, or self-reported to school personnel:

***First offense:*** The student will be suspended from 10% of the total number of activities.

- MSHSAA recognized activities: 10% of the total games of the season determined by the highest level the student is a member of.
- Club and organizations: 10% of the total number of activities, determined by a list of activities submitted by the sponsor at the beginning of the year.

***Second offense:*** The student will be suspended from 50% of the total number of the activities.

- MSHSAA recognized activities: 50% of the total games of the season determined by the highest level the student is a member of.
- Club and organizations: 50% of the total number of activities, determined by a list of activities submitted by the sponsor at the beginning of the year.

***Third offense:*** The student will be suspended from all MSHSAA recognized activities and clubs and organizations for 365 days.

Consequences will be imposed for any violation that occurs during the school year. The school year will be defined as beginning with the first practice day in the fall season and concluding with the last game of any sport in the spring season or the last day of school. All infractions will be addressed that occur anytime during this time frame. No discipline will occur for infractions occurring outside of defined school year.

All consequences for infractions will be imposed:

- Immediately if the infraction occurs during a student's involvement in any extracurricular events. Extracurricular events are defined as any MSHSAA recognized activity and any club/organization.
- At the beginning of the next extracurricular event, the student participates in if he/she is not currently participating in any activities. The student must complete the extracurricular event season in which he/she is assigned to serve the suspension or the suspension in its entirety will carry over to the next extracurricular event the student participates in.

- All offenses will be counted cumulatively over their high school years.

**Due Process:** All students will have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. If the student is dissatisfied with any decision, he/she has the right to appeal through the following channels:

1. Athletic Director
2. High School Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

### **Guidelines for Social Media**

We recognize and support the student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for the Harrisburg School District is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you represent the Harrisburg Public Schools and the community, and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times. Below you will find the social networking reminders which should guide your social networking site usage:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Harrisburg School District will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm your teammates or coaches; other Harrisburg student-athletes, teachers, or coaches; and student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect opponents.
  - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
  - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
  - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional. (These should be reported immediately to a coach, the athletic director, or principal.)

The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud of for years to come.

### **Hazing**

Student hazing is inconsistent with the educational goals of the District and poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of District students. Hazing of students, on or off District property, is prohibited and may result in suspension or expulsion from school and from activity/athletic participation.