

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR (INCLUDING ATHLETIC) ACTIVITIES

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education, Administration, Staff, Parents and Students, governing the participation of students in the extracurricular activities, has established the following policy. The philosophy of the board is to provide a wide opportunity for participation in this important aspect of our instructional program. Along with participation, comes the requirement for all students to abide by these rules.

Definition: Extra-curricular is defined as an official school sponsored activity that is outside the prescribed curriculum.

Examples of extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to:

Clubs/organizations (examples include: Drama, FBLA, Student Council, Marching Band, etc.)
School sponsored athletic teams (any sport- fall, winter, spring, and at any level - modified, JV, and varsity)
Attendance at school related function after hours (examples include: sporting events, concerts, plays, etc.)
School dance (examples include: regular school dances and formal dances)

Participation in all extra-curricular activities is a privilege that demands responsibility. The purpose of the extra-curricular program is to promote educational attitudes and behaviors that will help students find success in life beyond school. Participants have a responsibility to model behaviors that display high academic standards, leadership, sportsmanship, cooperation and service in both the school and community.

Why have a code of conduct for JSHS extra-curricular activities?

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What are the requirements of the code?

The code has three (3) components.

All three components weigh equally, and all three components must be achieved in order to earn eligibility for any extra-curricular activity.

Academics:

Participants cannot be failing 2 or more courses at any 5-week segment (progress report or report card)

Attendance:

Participants must be in school and on time the day of an activity AND be in school 90% of the time.

Citizenship:

Participants need to consistently demonstrate respect to all faculty/staff, fellow students, and property. Discipline referrals for poor citizenship can impact participation.

What if one (or more) of the components to the code is not achieved?

If during any 5-week segment of the school year, a component(s) is not achieved, an administrator will notify the student about what component(s) was (were) not achieved. This student will be put on *probation* for the next 5-week segment.

The student on *probation* will be provided adequate time during the next consecutive 5-week segment to remedy the component(s) that was not achieved. Mandatory study table sessions will need to be attended for any student who does not meet the academic component.

Once a student has been notified by administration or guidance that he/she has not met the code and is on *probation*, then he/she will continue to remain eligible for participation in all extra-curricular activities for the current 5-week

segment as long as he/she is actively working on improving what is needed to meet the code's components. If at the end of the current 5-week segment, a student has yet to meet the required three components, then he/she will become *ineligible* for participation in **any** extracurricular activities for the next 5-week segment and or remainder of the year until the components are met. School assistance will always be provided to help encourage achieving the three required components to regain eligibility for extra-curricular activities. At the end of every 5-week segment, eligibility list, probation lists and ineligibility lists will be created.

Administration/Guidance will be in charge of notifying all students, parents, teachers, and advisers/coaches of code infractions, ineligibility, and eligibility for students.

Advisors and Coaches will be responsible for submitting accurate student rosters to the High School Main Office within one week from the start of their program. In addition, it is the advisers and coaches responsibility to keep the High School Main Office aware of additions and deletions to the student rosters throughout the remainder of the program term.

- A. **Academic Standards:** Participants who are experiencing academic difficulty **MUST** receive academic assistance. The student, parent(s), coach, teacher(s), advisor(s) and guidance or counseling staff should all participate in assisting the student in overcoming his/her deficiencies in the appropriate subject areas. Non-compliance may result in appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension from the extracurricular activity, until the student has satisfied his/her academic responsibilities.

In order to remain academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student will do the following:

- Meet with the appropriate teacher(s) and make arrangements for extra help in the specific courses.
- Be involved in organized study table sessions and/or organization group programs.
- Develop a plan for making up missed work and bringing themselves current in their deficient courses

It is the responsibility of the student, parent(s), coach, advisor(s), teachers, counselors and guidance personnel to see that this plan is developed and followed. Regular communication is essential between parties to insure success for the student.

1. All courses that earn a grade for a student are included in this code of conduct.
2. If you are failing 2 courses at any given 5-week segment you will automatically be placed on *probation list* for the next 5-week segment.
3. If you are failing 3 courses at any given 5-week segment you will automatically be placed on *ineligible list* for the next 5-week segment.
4. Grades earned at the end of the school year, and summer school (when applicable), will carry over into the fall.
5. If a student is on probation he/she still will be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities as long as that student attend an after school study table offered every Monday through Thursday for a minimum of 4 sessions for the entire 5-week probation segment. (Bus transportation is only available on Tuesday and Thursday. Student must sign up in the Main Office on these particular days for a late bus. Transportation of the student after school on Monday and Wednesday must be arranged by the student and their family.) A student staying at after school study tables will request a note to provide ton the adviser/coach to enter the activity late due for entering the study table session. Students may choose which four days are most convenient for their schedule. Study tables are a quiet venue for students to individually complete work and better prepare for their courses. Meeting with individual teachers for extra help may be arranged in place of study tables.
6. If a student makes a choice not to attend study tables, then he/she will automatically become ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current 5-week segment **and** the next 5-week segment. At the end of the last 5-week ineligible segment the student will be placed back on probation as long as the code's standards are met.
7. If at the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student has been able to achieve the code's standards, then he/she will no longer be on probation.
8. If at the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student has not been able to achieve the code's standards, but that student is attending study table sessions, then a more specialized plan

will be arranged. The student will remain on probation and will be required to continue to attend study tables.

B. Attendance Standards: To participate in extracurricular activities **STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN SCHOOL BY THE BEGINNING OF THEIR FIRST PERIOD CLASS – at 8:17 a.m. for the Senior High School and 8:05 a.m. for the Junior High School.** Students who are absent from school for a full day due to personal illness or who are illegally absent cannot participate that day in the extracurricular activity. (An illegal absence is any reason not acceptable to the State Education Department's guidelines listed in the BOE Attendance Policy # 5100 or in the student parent handbook under the topic of student attendance.) If a student has a legal excuse, i.e., a doctor or dentist appointment, sickness or death in the family, a religious observance, inclement weather, court appearance, etc., he/she should bring a note to the administration immediately upon returning to school so that permission to participate may be granted. Abuse of this aspect of the policy may result in the need for consultation between the parent, athlete and administration. If it is deemed necessary, the administration may impose restrictions upon the student for repeated abuse of the policy. If there is continued abuse or if extraordinary circumstances exist, the administration has the prerogative to decide whether or not the student participates. Student are to be in all classes, study halls, lunch or any other locations to which they are assigned through their academic schedule.

1. All educational research concludes that success in the classroom is linked with attendance; therefore students will be held accountable for all *unexcused* absences.
2. To ensure that unexcused absences do not occur, please be certain that for every tardy to school or absence that a parent /guardian provides a signed written note providing the reason for the tardy or absence to the attendance office.
3. In order to be eligible to participate the day of an extra-curricular activity, a student must be on time and in school for the entire day. If extenuating circumstances apply, please explain the situation to an administrator ASAP.
4. Additionally, a student must maintain an attendance rate of at least 90% in order to maintain eligibility.
5. If the attendance rate drops below the 90% a student will be placed on probation for the next 5-week segment and an attendance success plan will be arranged with an administrator to help encourage improved attendance rates.
6. If a student is on probation, he/she still will be eligible to participate in all extra-curricular activities as long as he/she is working towards improving attendance.
7. If at the end of the 5-week probation segment attendance rates meet the code's standards, the student will be removed from the probation list.
8. If at the end of that 5-week probation segment attendance rates do not meet the code's standards, the student will become ineligible for all extracurricular activities for the next 5-week segment
9. If by the end of the 5-week ineligible segment, the student improves his/her attendance to meet the code's standards, then he/she will be placed on probation for the next five-week segment. At the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student may become removed from this list or added to the ineligible list.

C. Citizenship Standards: No participant is to conduct him/herself in such a manner that results in an assignment to in-school suspension or being placed on out of school suspension. Students who are assigned to in-school suspension may not participate in extracurricular activities on the day of the in-school suspension. The coach/advisor at his/her discretion may require the student to attend all practices/events from which he or she has been suspended. In-school suspension effectively suspends student's participation on each day of assigned in-school suspension.

Student's whose behavior warrants being suspended out of school for one day or more will be suspended from their extracurricular activity during that time period.

1. Participation in any extra-curricular activity is a privilege earned by being a respectful citizen at Marathon Junior Senior High School. Participants are expected to be honest, to be lawful and to maintain high standards of conduct year round, both in school and out of school.
2. Students demonstrating disrespectful behavior during any 5-week segment will be considered for probation for the next 5-week segment and a citizenship success plan may be arranged with an administrator to help encourage strong citizenship.
3. Common infractions may include - but are not limited to - referrals, sent to the office, insubordination, late to class without a pass, skipping class, fighting, not following school rules (such as dress code, appropriate language, and cell phone policies), etc.
4. If a student is on probation, he/she still will be eligible to participate in all extra-curricular activities as long as he/she is working to demonstrate improved citizenship.
5. If at the end of the 5-week probation segment a student has demonstrated improved citizenship, then he/she will be removed from the probation list.
6. If at the end of the 5-week probation segment a student has not demonstrated improved citizenship, then he/she will become ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities for the next 5-week segment.
7. If by the end of the 5-week ineligible segment the student has demonstrated improved citizenship to meet the code's standards, then he/she will be placed on probation for the next 5-week segment. At the conclusion of the 5-week probation segment a student may become removed from this list or added to the ineligible list.

D. Substance Abuse: Alcohol, Tobacco & Illicit Drugs

Participants in the extracurricular program are not to use, be in possession of, distribute, consume alcoholic beverages, use tobacco in any form (including cigarettes, chew, rub, etc.), or use, be in the possession of, or distribute any other illegal drugs or drug related paraphernalia.

The first violation of non-compliance with this regulation, as related to the alcohol and tobacco as defined in this document, will result in an immediate suspension from the next two athletic contests in the school year for athletes. For other extracurricular activities the range of suspension will appropriately be determined by the administration. A second offense will result in immediate suspension from participation ALL extracurricular programs for the remainder of the school year.

The first violation of non-compliance with this regulation, as related to the possession of, or distribution of any other illegal drug or drug related paraphernalia, will result in immediate suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of that sports season. For other extracurricular activities the range of suspension will appropriately be determined by the administration. A second offense will result in immediate suspension from participation in ALL extracurricular programs for the remainder of the school year.

E. Extracurricular Review Panel

If in the opinion of the coach/advisor of a particular extracurricular participant, extenuating circumstances exist that should be considered in implementing this policy the coach/advisor in question may request that the Principal convene a Review Panel to evaluate the concerns at hand. This Review Panel will consist of the High School Principal, Athletic Director, and one other member of the district's extracurricular staff. The Superintendent of Schools will act as a member of the Review Panel in case of conflict of interest.

The review panel will have the authority to alter, but not to eliminate, prescribed penalties recorded herein. When doing so, the panel must be unanimous in their decision. (NOTE: This is a review for internal purposes only. Parents and students have due process review under the following provisions).

F. Due Process Appeal

Any student who is suspended from school may appeal that suspension through the due process.

Stage 1: Request an informal meeting with the High School Principal and the coach/advisor to discuss the matter and render a decision.

Stage 2: Formally request a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to grieve the decision in Stage 1. The request must be in writing and must enumerate specific points upon which the aggrieved party bases

his/her appeal. The Superintendent of Schools is to respond as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after receiving the written request.

Stage 3: Appeal the decision of the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education. This appeal must also be in writing, again recording specific points of contention on which the appeal is based.

Stage 4: Final appeal is made to the Commissioner of Education, State Education Department Albany, New York.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board of Education, administration, and staff want to be clear that the appeal process is designed to provide student the opportunity to have their situation reviewed at various levels. In all issues involving behavior, alcohol or drug abuse, the school district is expressly interested in developing responses to appeals that will assist the student and their parents in dealing with issues that not only effect their extracurricular participation, but also may result in more serious and harmful effects on the student. We look favorably upon appeals that offer a willingness on the behalf of the student to participate in programs that will deal with behaviors or abuses that endanger the very lives of our students.

Below is a listing of some of the programs that are seen as constructive activities that show the willingness to alter behaviors or habits that may result in students earning back the privilege to participate in extracurricular through the appeal process.

- Approved drug and alcohol counseling
- Regular individual counseling
- Behavior management plans
- Community service activities

These programs can be designed with the assistance of school staff or may be engaged in within the private sector. The individuals responsible for decisions at each stage of appeal may approve or disapprove of the plans. For those private sector plans proof of regular participation must be submitted to the High School Principal. Failure to fully participate in these programs will result in an immediate return to the original term of suspension.

The goal of our extracurricular is to provide our students with exceptional learning opportunity. These rules are established to provide consistency in dealing with the many facets of conducting such an expansive extracurricular offering. Many of the more common issues are enumerated above. This policy is not all encompassing but sets a direction for dealing with specific issues as well as providing a philosophical approach to concerns not listed.