

# **GEORGETOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**GMS TIGERS**

## **Athletic Handbook**

**2021-2022**

**GEORGETOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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## **Philosophy**

Georgetown Middle School's athletic programs promote competition requiring skilled participants. Students will participate in activities according to their skill level. Our programs will provide the leadership to ensure safe opportunities which promote good sportsmanship, integrity, and life skills.

## **Objectives**

- To place academic endeavors above all other considerations and to place all extra-curricular activities second.
- To develop in each participant a feeling of pride, a sense of accomplishment, and a desire to win within the ethics of the activity.
- To encourage, build, and promote improvement in the individual's moral character, spiritual well-being, and physical development.
- To develop teams of a high quality by stressing the fundamentals of each sport or activity at all levels.

## **Athletic Association Affiliations**

- As of the 2010-2011 school year GMS has no conference affiliation (independent)
- IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association)

## **Co-Op Agreement**

Georgetown will be entering a Cooperative agreement with St. Joseph school in Pekin for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. The sports listed below will state the host school and whether a cooperative agreement exists for that sport.

## **Sports Offered at Georgetown Middle School**

<b><u>Fall Season</u></b>	<b><u>Winter Season</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Season</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Boy's Baseball <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li><li>● Girl's Softball <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li><li>● Boy's &amp; Girl's Cross Country, <i>Co-Op St. Joe host</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 7th &amp; 8th Girl's Basketball <i>Co-Op St. Joe host</i></li><li>● 7th &amp; 8th Boy's Basketball <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li><li>● Poms</li><li>● Cheerleading</li><li>● 7th &amp; 8th Girl's Volleyball <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 7th &amp; 8th Boy's Track <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li><li>● 7th &amp; 8th Girl's Track <i>Co-Op GMS host</i></li><li>● Scholastic Bowl</li></ul>

## **Tryout Information**

Tryout dates for all sports are listed below. The number of days for tryouts will vary with each sport. Coaches will talk to students who are trying out for their teams about the expectations that they have of their players before tryouts begin.

### **Tryout dates are approximate. Parents should contact the school to receive specific information.**

- Softball – July 26, 2021
- Baseball – Aug 2, 2021
- Cross Country- Aug 2, 2021
- Girl's Basketball- Aug 30, 2021
- Cheerleading – Spring of the previous school year
- Poms – Spring of the previous school year
- Boy's Basketball – Oct 18, 2021
- Volleyball – Nov 29, 2021
- Track – Feb 28, 2022

## **Selection of Team Members**

Team/squad members will be selected at the scheduled tryouts solely on the basis of demonstrated ability as determined by the coach or selection committee. At the coach's discretion, the scheduled tryouts may be closed to only the players and coaches.

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade players may be selected for participation on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade players may be eligible for 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams.

If a student participates in two or more sports, and the seasons overlap, the Athletic Director will meet with the coaches and student(s) involved to determine a reasonable practice and game participation schedule. At coaches discretion, teams hosted by GMS may be limited to the number of participants on a select team. Activities hosted by St. Joseph will not have a limitation of players.

## **Requirements for Participation**

1. Each participant, before they may practice or participate

- Must have a current physical form issued by a licensed physician (completed within the last 12 months) on file in the GMS office.
- Must have an insurance waiver form signed and on file with the GMS office verifying adequate insurance coverage. District #102 does not assume financial responsibility for accidents incurred in athletic participation.
- Must have a copy of a birth certificate or hospital record on file.
- Must meet all academic requirements as established by the IESA, and the Board of Education. ●

Athletic fee paid to the district office.

2. Once a team is formed, the student-athlete's parents, or legal guardian, will agree to a set of expectations binding the student-athlete to adhere to the GMS Extra-Curricular Code during his/her entire career.
3. Each Coach will hold a meeting for parents of all team members at the beginning of his/her sport's season. One parent or legal guardian must attend at least one meeting to hear a first hand explanation of the Extra-Curricular code. The student-athlete will not participate until a parent meets with the coach.

## **Athletic Fees**

The payment of a participation fee is necessary for District 102 to continue to offer athletic activities at GMS. This fee must be paid before the first practice so budgetary obligations associated with these activities can be met. Athletes will not be allowed to practice or play in competition unless a fee is paid. Turn in activity fees along with the proper forms to the coach or to the GMS office. District 102 has placed a \$150.00 maximum activity fee per family and \$75 max per student. A family will not have to pay more than \$150.00 per academic school year if their child/children participate in several activities during the current school year. Fees may be waived by GMS Principal for those approved for a "Waiver of Fees". Athletic fees are listed below:

Literary \$25	Baseball - \$50
Scholastic Bowl - \$25	Softball - \$50
Student Council - \$25	Basketball - \$50
Cheerleading -\$50	Track - \$50
Poms - \$50	Volleyball -\$50

**\*\*If a GMS student is participating in an activity that is hosted by St. Joseph, the activity fee will still be paid to GMS\*\***

## **Parent Meeting**

After the team/squad has been selected, it is mandatory for the coach to have a parent meeting. The meeting should take place within a couple of days after selections have been made. This is a mandatory meeting for parents/guardians, and their child will not be allowed to play until they have attended the parent meeting involved with that sport. It may be necessary for the coach to schedule another parent meeting if certain parents cannot make the first meeting. Items covered during a parent meeting may be:

- Introduction
- School contact number
- Practice & game schedules
- Coaching philosophy
- Playing time expectations
- Expectations of athlete
- Expectations of parent(s)
- Eligibility
- Excused/unexcused practices
- Parent club information
- Read or review athletic handbook
- Athletic participation fee

- Other fees
- Procedure of inclement weather
- Transportation
- Requirement of a parent to help work the concessions stands
- Questions from parents

## **Parent Guidelines for Meetings With Coaches/Sponsors**

### **The following topics are acceptable for discussion:**

1. The coach's evaluation of the student-athlete's skill in the activity.
2. The student-athlete's behavior, attitude, and work ethic.
3. Suggested areas for improvement.
4. Methods to improve the student-athlete's skills.

### **These Topics Will Not Be Addressed:**

1. Playing time
2. Game strategies
3. Other participants

## **Uniforms**

All uniforms and equipment provided to the student athlete must be returned no later than one week after the last scheduled contest of the season.

Lost or stolen items are the responsibility of the athlete, and he or she must pay the current replacement cost of any items issued and not returned.

Any returned items which have been damaged, not as a result of normal wear and tear, must be replaced or repaired by the student athlete.

Coaches will make every effort to collect uniforms within two (2) weeks of the end of their season.

## **Participation/Eligibility**

Student athletic activities are defined as activities taking place outside the regular school day and not related to the school curriculum. A weekly eligibility check will be conducted on the last school day of the week. The results of the eligibility check will take effect on Monday of the following week and will be in effect until Saturday of that week. Eligibility will begin as soon as members are selected. Eligibility will be based on academic failure and/or purposeful acts of misconduct. These acts could warrant suspension/dismissal from extracurricular activities per the principal's discretion. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. A student is deemed to be ineligible if he or she has a failing grade in a class or classes for the week. No student will be ineligible based on a single recorded grade. Eligibility is based on the reported grade for that week. Grade changes will not reverse eligibility status for the week after the initial report.

For fall sports, the first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance at the beginning of the school year. Passing work shall then be checked weekly for the remainder of the school year.

During the ineligible period, a student may be allowed to practice with the team at the coach's discretion. A student will be able to attend the competition and sit with the squad at the coach's discretion, but not dress.

## **Practices**

Practices are a requirement to participate in activities. It is critical to come to all scheduled practices unless there is illness or a family emergency. In that situation, coaches must be informed by the student and/or parent prior to the practice regarding the absence. If a student is in attendance that school day, they are expected to be at practice. Coaches and Administration will make every attempt to schedule practices immediately after school. Coaches are expected to provide practice schedules as far in advance as possible. Failure to attend practice may affect playing time during the following contest(s). It may be necessary for teams to practice over school holidays. Coaches will make every attempt to communicate their holiday practice schedule to parents.

## **Attendance Requirement**

A team/squad member who has not been in attendance at school for a minimum of a half day, has been suspended from school, or has been assigned to In-School Suspension may not practice, play, or perform on those days.

- A student-athlete must be present before the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> period on the day of a scheduled event in order to participate. Exceptions could apply such as early dismissal days. The principal may waive this rule when deemed necessary.
- Student's who are enrolled in Remote Learning may participate in extracurricular activities, but must log in google attendance to count as "present" for the day's activities.
- A team/squad member who does not participate in PE or who has a doctor's note excusing them from PE will also not be able to practice, play, or perform on those days.

## **Expectations and Code of Conduct**

### **Expectations of Coaches and Administrators**

1. All coaches/sponsors are required to have a valid teaching certificate and/or ASEP certification.
2. Completed the IESA concussion protocol training every two (2) years
3. Set a good example for the players and fans to follow.
4. Be positive, fair, and consistent with the student-athletes.
5. Make playing time and strategy decisions with thought and care.
6. Establish and organize practice for the team on a daily basis.
7. Be a good communicator with players and parents.
8. Know and employ injury prevention procedures.
9. Make sure student-athletes know expectations, procedures, rules, and lettering requirements for the program.
10. Protect the safety of all student-athletes.
11. Make sure everyone has practice and game schedules.
12. Be a professional in dealing with situations concerning the activity.
13. Keep inventory of equipment.
14. Work to help assistants improve.
15. Keep track of the academic progress of student-athletes.

16. Be available to talk with players and parents.
17. Ensure proper documentation of: athletic physicals, athletic fees, medical liability waiver, concussion sign-off, and code of conduct.

### **Expectations of Athletes**

1. Be positive and have a good attitude.
2. Support your teammates.
3. Work hard.
4. If you have questions, ask the coach/sponsor.
5. Know and follow school and team rules.
6. Challenge yourself as a student-athlete.
7. Meet, and then exceed classroom expectations.
8. Notify the coach/sponsor of any scheduling conflicts in advance.
9. Talk to the coach about any special concerns.
10. Display a proper respect for those in authority, including: teachers, coaches, and officials.

### **Expectations of Parent(s) or Guardians**

1. Be a fan of everyone on the team.
2. Respect all coaches and players, other fans, and the decisions of officials.
3. Talk to your child if they have questions and, if they still have questions, contact the coach through agreed upon department procedures.
4. Avoid speaking negatively about the coach, the program, or other players in front of their child.
5. Don't talk to coaches on game day about a complaint.
6. Understand that the coaches' responsibility is to make sure the student-athletes are safe and become better people, not to win every contest.
7. Understand that participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and relay that understanding to your child.
8. Avoid constant and chronic complaining.
9. Attend the Parent-Athlete Orientation Meeting and read the Extra-Curricular Code in the GMS student handbook.
10. Understand that the goals of the team and extra-curricular program are more important than the hopes and dreams you have for your child.
11. Contribute as members of the GMS Parent Club. This means volunteering to help with projects and committees.
12. Avoid putting pressure on the child to start, score, or be the star of the team.
13. Be supportive of your child and attend as many games as possible.

### **Discipline**

All student athletes are expected to set a positive example in the classroom and on the field or court. We expect student athletes to be respectful, cooperate, maintain a positive attitude, participate, and be responsible. Misbehavior will NOT be tolerated.

#### **Athletic participation is a privilege:**

- Student-athletes must maintain passing grades each week of the season. A student with three weeks of ineligibility at any point throughout the season will result in removal from a team/squad.
- Student-athletes receiving an out of school suspension will be deemed ineligible to participate in



practices and games on the day of the suspension.

- Student-athletes receiving an in-school school intervention will be deemed ineligible to participate in practices and games on the day of the suspension.
- Any discipline problem that occurs under a coach's supervision will be dealt with at the coach's discretion.
- Detentions are to be served in full on the day designated by the teacher assigning it, regardless of whether practice or games fall on that day.
- Reoccurring discipline issues may result in being deemed ineligible to participate in athletic contests. ● Students guilty of illegal activity outside of school may disqualify them from participating in athletics at GMS.

## **Conflict Resolution**

1. If appropriate, talk to your child about your question. What is your child's perspective? Can your child solve the problem on their own?
2. Set up a meeting with the coach if you still have questions. This should be an informational meeting to ask questions, listen, and have a discussion. Remember that the coach makes decisions for the good of the team based on practice, ability, attitude, and team chemistry. Athletes will attend the meeting between coaches/sponsors and parents.
3. Conversation must be in a professional manner with regard to both language and conduct.
4. Everyone gets a chance to talk, but everyone must listen as well.
5. Emotional control by all parties is imperative.
6. Meetings must not occur on game days, and must be made by appointment with a minimum 24-hour waiting period from confirmation of the appointment (unless otherwise agreed to by the involved parties)

## **Transportation**

Transportation to extra-curricular events hosted by GMS will be provided by school bus. Transportation to extra-curricular events hosted by St. Joseph will be the responsibility of the student and their family. Students will be allowed to return from a contest with their parents. Parents who wish to transport their students from a contest must sign the student release form provided by the coach.

## **Athletic Awards**

At the completion of each season, an athlete will receive a certificate of completion from the coach as well as a pin for that sport.

To earn a pin and certificate the student-athlete must:

1. Finish the season in the activity
2. Meet any additional requirements established by the coach(es).

## **The George Kidd Award**

The *George Kidd Award* is presented annually to the outstanding male and female athlete in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. The award is named in honor of longtime Georgetowne teacher and coach George L. Kidd. The award was originally a male award, but with the advent of girls' athletics at GMS, the award was expanded to honor female student-athletes as well.

To achieve the *George Kidd Award* a student-athlete must accomplish the following:

1. Participate and compete multiple sports seasons while enrolled at GMS.
2. Exhibit good character, leadership, and maintain a good academic standing.
3. Show an outstanding level of achievement in sports throughout his/her career.
4. In addition, no student-athlete shall be eligible for this award that has been removed from a team for disciplinary purposes, or quit a team without reasonable cause (i.e. family issues, failing health, etc.) Each year in May the coaches and Athletic Director shall meet and discuss possible candidates for the award. They shall consider those student-athletes who best meet the criteria. If more than one individual qualifies under the above standards, the committee shall vote to determine a winner. If no individual meets the criteria, the award will not be given in order to maintain its integrity.

Each individual selected to receive the award will be awarded a plaque in recognition of their accomplishment. In addition, each winner's name is engraved on the permanent plaque that hangs in the hallway next to the trophy case at GMS.

## **Other Policies**

1. There is to be no mandatory Sunday practices.
2. During home activities, coaches are to have their teams off the court 30 minutes before the start of that evening's contest so the gym may be prepared.
3. Coaches are to remain on duty and are to supervise their squads until all members of their squads are off school grounds. Showers and locker room lights are to be turned off and the building locked before the coach leaves. The "Goodnight Policy" will be in effect.
4. Practice schedules should be issued to all team members.
5. If school closes early because of a weather emergency, there will be no practice session after school is dismissed without administrative approval. Any scheduled events for that day will be cancelled.
6. If school closes early for any other reason, practice will be allowed with administrative approval.
7. Parents should encourage athletes to be prompt on arrival for all team functions. Buses will leave at scheduled times and any participant who does not make the bus will not be allowed to take part in that activity unless arrangements have been made with the coach in advance.
8. Parents should see that student-athletes arrive 10 minutes before scheduled practice and bus departure time and should make plans to meet the bus at the time it returns to the school.
9. Student-athletes may ride home with their parents after the event, provided they sign them out with the coaching staff after the conclusion of the event.

## **Disclaimer**

The provisions of this handbook are not to be considered irrevocable contractual commitments between the school and student. Rather, the provisions reflect the status of the rules, practice, and procedures as currently practiced and are subject to change.