

Elementary Activities Handbook 2009-2010

Philosophy

We believe that athletics and other extra-curricular activities are an integral and vital part of the total curriculum and educational process of the school. Athletics and extra-curricular activities are thought of as “co-curricular” because of their close link to the district’s educational process. Our co-curricular activities should be used as an educational force. They can be a positive learning experience if each participant strives to achieve his/her highest personal and athletic potential by embracing a lifestyle dedicated to competition, integrity, and self-discipline. Co-curricular activities should also contribute to the student’s health and personal satisfaction, skill development, social competence, and sense of cooperation and also to the team concept.

All students have the right to participate in an activity or sport but actual participation is a privilege and must be earned. We will recognize and honor our students for the good they accomplish while at the same time they must be made aware of the results of their actions which would be detrimental to themselves or the school which they represent. Students must realize that decisions and consequences are a part of learning to accept responsibility for one’s action. Dishonesty, unsportsmanlike or other inappropriate behavior or the use of illegal substances by any of our student representatives cannot and will not be tolerated. Our student participants should also remember that they are students first and competitors second.

Sports and Activities

Boys’ Baseball
Track and Field
Girls’ Volleyball
Scholastic Bowl
Speech

Boys’ Basketball
Girls’ Basketball
Cheerleading
Band & Chorus
Drama

Admission Fees to Sports Events

Adults	\$ 3.00
Students	\$ 2.00
Senior Citizen	\$ 2.00

Transportation

- Participants must ride school provided transportation to and from all events. In regards to going to events, coaches may permit an exception to this in case of serious emergency or unusual hardship. Failure to be on time for the bus is not ordinarily considered a hardship or an emergency.
- Returning from an event on school provided transportation promotes a team feeling of unity. It should also be used as an educational opportunity by sharing ideas in the triumph of victory or the bitterness of defeat.

- Parents must sign a permission slip provided by the school and obtained from the coach or sponsor (at the event) stating that the participant will be riding home with his/her parents.
- Parents who want their child to ride with another parent must make arrangements with the building principal and submit the request in writing in advance.
- It is a privilege to ride the bus. If the student is removed from any bus (regular route, field trips, or extra-curricular) for a disciplinary reason, he/she is not eligible to ride any buses until reinstated. If he/she cannot ride a bus, then he/she may not participate in away games or activities.

Eligibility

1. In order to be eligible for interscholastic competition, students must meet eligibility requirements of the IESA and Dallas Elementary School District #327. Eligibility pertains to all co-curricular activities. All eligibility rules established by the IESA will be in effect at Dallas Elementary School District #327 unless superseded by the existing guidelines at Dallas Elementary School District #327.
2. Participants in athletics and/or co-curricular activities at Dallas Elementary School District #327 must be receiving a 63% or higher in all of their classes. The participant, coach/sponsor, and parents will be notified. All eligibility is figured to the end of the day on Thursday, or the day before the last day of attendance of that week. Teachers will turn grades into the activity director by noon on Thursday. Ineligibility will be for the following week, Sunday through Saturday. Coaches will notify all participants and their parents of the ineligibility.
3. Eligibility will not be taken the 1st week of a new quarter. This will allow the student to have enough items in the grade book to justify their grades.
4. Several of our co-curricular activities occur only once per year and eligibility will be checked on those participants beginning four weeks prior to their event. For band, chorus, and speech, eligibility rules apply for competition events only.
5. Participants who are listed as ineligible for a fourth time during the course of a season are no longer allowed to be a member of the team. The Principal and/or Superintendent shall have the authority to make the final decision on all eligibility matters. Eligibility checks will begin the week prior to the first contest in an activity except for those contests that occur once a year.
6. Any participant suspended from school may not participate or attend any event or practice on the date(s) of the suspension. A participant who is suspended on Friday may not participate during the weekend.
7. The student must be in attendance by 11:30 am to participate in an event that evening unless a legitimate, pre-arranged excuse other than personal illness is used (examples: doctor or dentist appointment, funeral, or family emergency, etc.). Weekend activities are governed by Friday's attendance.
8. Before participating in any co-curricular activity, the student must have school insurance or their own insurance, and an emergency form on file with the coach before participating in any practice or athletic contest. A current physical must be on file for any student before he/she can participate in any athletic practice or sport. A physical examination is good for one full year. An official state athletic form must be used for the athletic physical. These forms may be obtained from the secretaries in the office or from the head coach.

9. If an athlete has a medical excuse, which allows him/her to be excused from participating in physical education, then the athlete cannot participate in any athletic practice or contest for the duration of the medical excuse.
10. The use or possession (in any form) of tobacco products, alcohol, controlled substances, look-alike drugs, or drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited at school or school functions both home and away. Penalties for violations imposed under this policy shall be in addition to all penalties imposed under state and federal laws and other school rules and regulations.

A student's career in sports is defined as their participation in athletics or contests that are sanctioned by the Illinois Education School Association.

- The penalty for a first offense during the participant's career will result in the suspension from a team for the equivalent of 100% of contest weeks for one activity. The number of weeks will be determined by the date of the violation and the percentage of weeks left in the season. If more than 100% of the season has passed, then the remaining percent will carry over to the next co-curricular activity in which the student participates. (Example: A student violates the rule during basketball, which is 14 contest weeks. The violation occurs during week 7. The student is suspended from the team and misses 7 contest weeks or 50% of that sport. Therefore, the student still has 50% of another activity to miss. Volleyball has a 12-contest week season. The student would, therefore, be suspended from the team until week 7 of the season to complete the 100% penalty.) Suspension from the team means that the student cannot attend practices, meetings, or events where the team competes.
 - The penalty for a second offense during the participant's career will result in suspension from all co-curricular activities for the calendar year from the date of the violation.
 - The third violation during participant's career will result in loss of participation in all co-curricular activities for the remainder of time as a student at Dallas Elementary School District #327.
11. A participant will be subject to the following penalties when dealing with tobacco products, alcohol, controlled substances, look-alike drugs, or drug paraphernalia if he/she is identified during non-school time (school time is time when at school or a school sponsored event either at Dallas City or another school or field trip) is identified in the following manner:
 - If the participant is under the influence or obviously has partaken of alcohol or a controlled substance or is in possession as witnessed by a member of the coaching staff, faculty, or administration of Dallas Elementary School District #327 or law enforcement officer, then it will be reported to the principal. The principal will determine the validity of the accusation and report to the proper authorities.
 - If the participant is charged by the state's attorney, pleads guilty/admits guilt for a violation using alcohol, tobacco product, or a controlled substance, the participant will become ineligible immediately. The participant will remain ineligible until the state's attorney takes action. Such ineligibility will not exceed the time to be imposed for the violation of regulations.
 - If a participant believes he/she is innocent of charges brought by law enforcement officials, he/she should meet with the state's attorney immediately. The participant

will be ineligible until the state's attorney notifies the principal that the charges have been dropped.

- The first violation during the participant's career will result in suspension for 30 calendar days of the student's participation in the contests/games in the sport or the next sport in which the student is engaged. He/she will be expected to participate in all scheduled practices/meetings and attend all contests/games (with the exception of those games in which the student would need to leave school early) during the suspension. He/she will be expected to sit with the team in his/her street clothes at contests/games during the suspension.
 - The second violation during the participant's career will result in suspension from all co-curricular activities for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
 - The third violation during the participant's career will result in loss of participation on all co-curricular activities for the remainder of time as a student of Dallas Elementary School District #327.
12. The involvement in any situation where alcohol, controlled substances, or look-alike drugs are used is prohibited. If it is determined that a participant was present at a situation where alcohol or controlled substances are being used, but did not use these illegal substances, the following penalties would be imposed.
- No penalty if participant leaves the party immediately upon arrival, notifies home that there are drugs or alcohol at the party and tells the appropriate school officials of their actions.
 - The first violation would result in a warning.
 - The second violation would result in a ten-calendar day suspension from all athletic and co-curricular events as a participant. He/she will be expected to participate in all scheduled practices/meetings and attend all events during the suspension. He/she will sit with the team in his/her street clothes with the team at the events during the suspension.
 - The third violation would result in a Thirty-calendar day suspension from all athletic and co-curricular events as a participant. He/she will be expected to participate in all scheduled practices/meetings and attend all events during the suspension. He/she will sit with the team in his/her street clothes with the team at the events during the suspension.
 - The fourth violation would result in a one-year suspension from all athletic and co-curricular events as a participant.
 - The fifth violation would result in the participant not being allowed any further participation in athletic or co-curricular activities while a student of Dallas Elementary School District #327.

The violations for the third and fourth violations can be reduced by 50% if the student enrolls and successfully completes a drug/alcohol program pre-approved by the principal.

13. If a participant is arrested and charged with a felony or misdemeanor during the school years, the Board of Education may meet to consider the participant's privilege to participate in any or all school sponsored athletic and co-curricular activities or school related activities upon the principal's recommendations.
14. The accumulation starts over when the participant graduates from 8th grade. The participant then has a clean slate immediately following graduation from 8th grade.

Sportsmanship

Participants, coaches/sponsors, fans, community members, and any other representatives of Dallas Elementary School District #327 are expected to demonstrate the highest qualities of sportsmanship.

Swearing, use of questionable language, obscene gestures, inappropriate body language, arguing, or insubordination towards game officials, coaches/sponsors, other athletes, and spectators will not be tolerated.

The administration and coach/sponsor will handle these cases individually, and a violation can result in immediate dismissal from the team or activity. Poor sportsmanship is never acceptable.

Program Development

- Students shall be encouraged to attend appropriate camps and clinics to learn fundamentals and to practice the basic skills and techniques of the activity, but attendance at camps or clinics is not mandatory to participate in athletics or co-curricular activities.

Expectations for Participants

- Participants are to fully comply with district policies and regulations for participation in athletics and co-curricular activities.
- Participants are expected to observe all training/practice rules.
- Participants are expected to give their best effort at all times. This is for practices and contests.
- Participants are expected to represent their school in a positive manner and display outstanding sportsmanship, and high standards of acceptable social behavior.
- Participants are to be present for and participate fully in all practices and games/events/contests, unless excused by the coach or sponsor. Participants who know in advance that they will be absent from practice or an event for appointments or other good reasons must discuss his/her absence with the coach/sponsor in advance. Unexcused absences from practices or games will carry penalties as determined by the coach/sponsor.
- It will be required that every participant and parent/guardian sign off that they have read, understand, and will implement the activities handbook regulations.
- If a participant neglects or does not take proper care of his/her uniform, including lost items, they must pay the cost of replacing the individual uniform at a price determined by the activity director.

Chain of Command

Whenever a problem or grievance develops in an athletic or co-curricular activity, the following chain of command is to be followed by the person who has a problem or grievance:

- As soon as practical, the person must first attempt to solve the problem with the coach/sponsor involved. This process shall be completed in a prompt and timely manner. The participant should try to appropriately communicate his/her concerns with the coach/sponsor first before the parents are asked to step in on their child's behalf.
- If the situation is not resolved, the participant may appeal to the activity director or principal as appropriate.
- Superintendent
- Board of Education - If a problem or grievance cannot be resolved at the lower levels of the chain of command, the final decision regarding any part of this regulation shall be with the Dallas Elementary School District #327 Board of Education. It is the responsibility of the party in grievance to appropriately contact or confront the coach/sponsor first and then to follow the chain of command if the problem remains.

Miscellaneous

- All athletic practices and games/events are canceled on days when school is dismissed early or not in session due to weather conditions. If school is dismissed early for heat, practice is to be held before school or after 7:00 p.m. or not at all. The coach/sponsor may have an optional practice on these days if approved by the principal.
- A game may be played the night school was canceled due to weather at the discretion of the administration under certain circumstances.
- Specific rules can be added by each coach/sponsor or activity director as deemed necessary. Coaches/sponsors may impose certain rules that are stricter than the rules within this handbook with the approval of the administration.
- Administration has the final say on any disciplinary actions taken.

Cooperative Athletic Teams

In the event that the Dallas Elementary School District #327 is fielding an athletic team in cooperation with another school district, an agreement must be reached as to the regulations to be used for that sport. Dallas Elementary School District #327 participants who wish to participate in a co-op sport will be expected to comply with the rules reached in that agreement.

Co-op agreements have been made with LaHarpe for the following sports:

Boys' Baseball
Girls' Basketball
Track and Field

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Volleyball

