

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

School Attendance

Students who participate in Merrimack School District co-curricular activities are expected to attend school on the day of the meeting, practice, contest or performance. Any student who does not attend school by the beginning of his/her first scheduled class for reasons of sickness or truancy will not be eligible to participate in any scheduled meeting, practice, contest or performance on that date. First class absences are waived if parental written excuse is presented upon return. If the violation becomes known at a later date, it will be enforced at the next meeting, practice, contest or performance following disclosure. Repeated violations would be considered gross misconduct. Administration may grant exceptions to this for extenuating circumstances.

School Suspension

Any student suspended from school will not be able to participate in or attend any co-curricular program, game, performance, practice, and/or meeting on the day or days of the suspension.

Athletic Codes

An athlete may not quit one sport and try out for another sport after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches. "After the season has begun" is defined as the first scrimmage or game, whichever comes first.

An athlete who has been injured and has received medical treatment must receive written clearance from the treating physician or designee to return to participation.

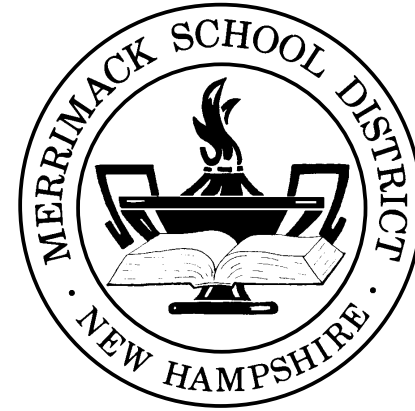
It should be understood that any person who participates in a sport is subject to injury. These injuries may occur despite proper training, safe practice and game environments

Parents agree to be supportive and encouraging of all participants, coaches and officials at all athletic events. Good sportsmanship will be displayed at all times by all spectators (refer to the "Communications and Behavior Guidelines brochure).

All NHIAA rules and policies will take precedence as the minimum level of expectation.

All athletes must travel to and from events with the team. Requests must be submitted in writing and approved by administration.

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS



The co-curricular program for the Merrimack School District includes the following:

- All interscholastic athletic teams
- The performing arts program (non-credit bearing)
- Student government and Class officers
- All clubs

The following co-curricular expectations are designed to:

- Uphold the educational value of programs where each individual contributes to the whole for the success of the group and or team
- Ensure students perform at peak levels, developing self and group/team discipline
- Prepare students for living within the law and contributing to their community.
- Reflect the school district's high standards.
- Ensure that students participating in co-curricular programs serve as good representatives of our schools and demonstrate appropriate representation through their character, sportsmanship, teamwork, mutual respect and trust.

Each co-curricular program may have additional expectations; these additional rules will be placed on file in the administrative offices.

Once a student has begun his/her first sport or activity of the year he/she is under the agreement for the remainder of the school year. In case of a violation of this agreement, all remediation must be completed before participation in an ensuing activity or event, even into the next school year.

ACADEMIC and BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Academic Performance

A student must pass 4 units of work and maintain a C minus average, 1.67, or better for the quarter prior to participation. A student may petition for an academic appeal (NHIAA criteria must be met for interscholastic sports). Eligibility status is determined on the day that official report cards are distributed to students. An incomplete is not considered a passing grade for purposes of eligibility. With the exception of Interscholastic Athletics (NHIAA rule prohibits), students may use summer school to improve a failing 4th quarter grade to a passing one to be eligible for a co-curricular activity in the first quarter of a year.

Behavioral Expectations

Students who participate in Merrimack School District co-curricular programs are expected to adhere to high standards, both physically and socially. The following behaviors constitute violations of these expectations:

- Illegal use or possession of tobacco in any form
- Illegal use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Illegal use or possession of drugs and/or mood-altering substances
- Gambling on any Merrimack School property or at any school sponsored event
- Vandalism
- Stealing
- Bullying and/or harassing others
- Being convicted of any criminal act on or off of school property
- Arrest and/or release to Protective Custody (PC) may be construed as a violation of the policy.
- Gross misconduct including, but not limited to: assault on an advisor, coach, judge, official, participant, opponent or spectator, leaving an activity in anger, interrupting the flow of the activity or inappropriate behavior and/or gestures directed toward any of the above (NHIAA policy criteria)
- Hazing and team activity initiations involving hazing (according to New Hampshire RSA 631:7)
- Any other behaviors not listed that the administration deems to be inappropriate

Students who participate in any Merrimack School co-curricular activities are expected to not attend gatherings at which alcohol or drugs are being illegally consumed or other illegal activities are taking place. If Merrimack School officials receive information that a student has attended such a gathering, the student and his/her parent or legal guardian will meet with

the administration to review the health, safety, legal and social risks associated with these activities. The student and his/her parent/legal guardian will work cooperatively with the administration to determine a corrective action and follow-up plan.

• First Violation

For whichever is longer of fourteen (14) calendar days or the period of time necessary for the student to meet the following conditions: (1) the student cannot participate in or dress for games, scrimmages, competitions, performances, voting etc. (2) the student must be present at all practices, meetings and contests (3) the student must attend a meeting with his/her parent and the coach/advisor and/or counselor to cooperatively develop a corrective action and follow-up plan which may include counseling and/or community service.

• Second Violation (within the same school year)

The student will be suspended from participation in all co-curricular programs for sixty (60) calendar days (violation time may proceed into the next school year). To regain eligibility to participate in co-curricular programs, the student must present and receive approval of and complete a remediation plan. The plan must include counseling and community service. Administration must approve the plan and proposed community service and confirm that all conditions have been met.

• Third Violation (within the same school year)

The student is suspended from participating in all co-curricular programs for one (1) calendar year. Any student wishing to participate in co-curricular activities in subsequent school years must meet with administration, guidance counselor and parents/legal guardians to develop a long term remediation plan before returning to activities or athletics.

• Appeals Process

Students will be accorded due process as is outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. All appeals (academic or code violations) must be submitted in writing to administration. Violation consequences will be in effect during the appeal process. Students who need confidential assistance or support concerning any of the behaviors or academic requirements listed above may contact their guidance counselor or administration.