

Dear Parents/Guardians of student-athletes,

Seventh grade students interested in participating in athletics in the 2008-2009 school year should familiarize themselves with the following eligibility requirements and athletic policies. Listed below are the sports seasons and the athletic programs during that season.

Fall

Cheerleading
Football
Soccer – girls
Volleyball - girls

Winter

Cheerleading
Basketball - boys & girls

Spring

Soccer - boys
Track – boys & girls
Softball - girls

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for any athletic activity, the athlete:

- Must meet all eligibility requirements prior to the first tryout/practice date.
- Must complete a WCPSS Middle School Athletic Participation Form and turn in to the school's Athletic Director. **The physical portion of the form is valid only for 365 days from the date of the examination.**
- Must purchase regular school accident insurance or provide proof of insurance coverage by filling out the insurance information waiver on the Middle School Athletic Participation Form.
- Must meet promotion requirements for the previous school year in order to be eligible for the fall semester. The State Board of Education defines promotion as “progressing to the next grade.” Students retained either by the school or the parents will be ineligible. Students must advance from one grade to another.
- Must earn passing grades (D or better) during each semester in one less course than the required core courses to be eligible for participation during the succeeding semester. Passing grades must be attained in language arts and mathematics. In addition to the core course requirements, at least fifty percent of all remaining courses must be passed.
- Must not have more than 14 total absences (85% attendance requirement) in the semester prior to athletic participation.
- Must not turn 15 on or before October 16th of that school year.
- Upon first entering grade seven, a student is academically eligible for competition on middle school teams. All academic and attendance requirements must be met the first semester (fall) in order for this student to be eligible for athletic participation the second semester (spring). No student may be eligible to participate at the Middle School level for a period lasting longer than 4 consecutive semesters beginning with the students first entry into 7th grade.
- Must live with a parent or legal custodian within the Wake County Public School System attendance area. (Must notify the athletic director if not living with a parent or legal custodian.)
- Must, if you miss five (5) or more days of practice due to illness or injury, receive a medical release from a licensed physician before practicing or playing.
- Must not practice **OR** play if ineligible.
- Must practice a total of six (6) days before playing in a game in all sports except football, where a player must practice nine days.

- Must not, as an individual or a team, practice or play during the school day.
- Must not play, practice, or assemble as a team with your coach on teacher work days, Saturday (includes year round schools), Sunday, holidays or vacation days.
- Must be present 100% of the student day on the day of an athletic contest in order to participate in the event.
- Must not participate (practice or play) in any athletic event if assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of School Suspension (OSS) during that assigned time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will you play the games since the school is not built yet?

We will play all of our games on various different school campuses and the Wendell Community Center. A list of all games and venues will be made available to all participating athletes on the web page and through school announcements.

How does my child try out for a sport at WMS?

First, your child must attend a pre-season informational meeting with the coach. The coaches will describe expectations of team members. Next, verify that you meet the WCPSS eligibility standards. You should then turn in a completed WCPSS Middle School Athletic Participation Form to the Athletic Director/coach. Make sure you keep a copy of the physical form. Please turn this in **BEFORE** try outs begin! Allow the AD to check your eligibility and ensure that you are eligible. Last, your child should meet with the coach at the specified time on the first day of try outs.

How much will I have to pay to see the games? Do students have to pay to attend the games as well?

The games will cost **\$4.00** for everyone to enter the game. Pre-kindergarten children are free to all events. This price is recommended for all Wake County Public Schools.

Who is the athletic director and how may I contact that person?

Michael Howes is the athletic director and he can be reached at 365-1681 or by email at mhowes@wcpss.net.

What time do the sporting events start?

All contests begin at 3:45 except for softball, which starts at 4:00 p.m.