



VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENT ACTIVITY GUIDE

Board Approved
March 12, 2012

Updated & Board Approved March 11, 2019

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Vermilion Local School District is to provide each student with an opportunity to develop as a complete person. To help accomplish this goal, we offer extracurricular activities that provide students with experiences outside the classroom. The value and learning outcomes which are fostered by these activities are an important part of a student's total experience. Participants are expected to adhere to the Activity Behavior Code and Competition Expectations as approved by the Board of Education and implemented by the district administration. Participation in extracurricular activities is a *privilege*, not a right, extended to all students who meet the eligibility requirements.

Vermilion Board of Education Policy #5610.05:

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code.

In addition, students are further subject to the Student Activity Guide and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

This policy shall be included as part of the Student Activity Guide.

PREFACE

The Activity Behavior Code provides for disciplinary action for any student participating in extracurricular activities who falls below the minimum conduct requirements. Violations of the Activity Behavior Code will be subject to discipline administered under the direction of the Superintendent or designee, which may include removal from the event, suspension of participation in some or all activities for part of a season, a season or a school year and/or referral to the local authorities. The behavior may also warrant discipline under the Vermilion Local School District's Student Code of Conduct.

In addition, each student participating in extracurricular activities is obligated under the direction of the coach or activity advisor to strive to meet the Competition Expectations. Conduct or behavior which fails to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined, under the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Activity Behavior Code.

The administration of the Vermilion Local School District is responsible for administering the Student Code of Conduct and the Activity Behavior Code.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE

Students who participate in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also the Vermilion Local Schools and the local community. Since student participants are the direct representative of their school, they are expected to maintain a high standard of exemplary behavior.

All students who wish to participate in an extracurricular activity shall be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations that govern the activity in which they wish to participate. Since these activities are a privilege for each participating individual, it is important that students and parents/guardians be aware of the rules and regulations which are in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, and 365 days per year. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of penalties based on the severity of the violation.

As much as possible, this Student Activity Guide covers most issues of athletic policy and conduct. However, because future events and circumstances cannot always be seen clearly at print time, the administration of Vermilion Local Schools reserves the right to change these policies or establish new policies as issues occur.

A. GENERAL

1. The provisions outlined in this policy shall be in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days a week, from the time of completion of sixth grade, to the transfer or enrollment into Vermilion High School, and ends upon graduation. These provisions also include those extracurricular activities that commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the conclusion of the school year.
2. Any offense that results in a student being suspended from school shall automatically become a violation of the Activity Behavior Code.
3. Violations of the Activity Behavior Code which occur outside of the school day, at a non-school sponsored event or activity, shall be subject to the penalties outlined herein, but may or may not be considered a violation of school rules and regulations.

B. DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this policy are defined as follows:

1. Alcohol: Any liquor, wine, beer or other beverage containing alcohol.
2. Drugs: Any drug, including illegal drugs, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look alike) substances and tobacco products.
3. Drug Paraphernalia: Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs.
4. Substance Abuse: The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products in violation of state or federal law or in violation of school policy.
5. Out of Season: The time in which a sport is not currently active or is out of season as defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) calendar.
6. In Season: The time in which a sport is active or is in season as defined by the OHSAA calendar.
7. Established Sport: A sport or activity in which the student participated in the previous school year.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE

C. FORBIDDEN CONDUCT

1. Disruption of Activity: A participant shall not cause disruption or obstruction of athletic programs, by use of violence, force, coercion, threat or words.
2. Damage of Property: A participant shall not willfully or recklessly cause or attempt to cause damage to property owned by the Board of Education, private individuals or other public agencies.
3. Assault and Battery: A participant shall not intimidate, threaten, assault, or commit battery upon any person, nor shall a student behave in such a manner that could cause physical or emotional injury to such persons.
4. Dangerous Weapons and Instruments: A participant shall not illegally use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal dangerous weapons, substances, or instruments which include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, mace, tear gas, firecrackers, explosives, incendiaries, or other similar devices.
5. Obscenity: A participant shall not use obscenity, profanity, or other offensive language or gestures.
6. Theft: A participant shall not wrongfully take, carry away, or exercise dominion and control over property of others.
7. Insubordination: A participant shall not fail to comply with the rules and regulations of the governing body of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. A student shall not fail to comply with any additional rules as required by a coach/advisor.
8. Criminal Activity: A participant shall not engage in activities which violate local, state or federal criminal laws.
9. Use of Tobacco: A participant shall not use or possess any tobacco product which shall include, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipes, **or vaping/Juuling**
10. Alcohol, Chemical Use and/or Abuse: A participant shall not at any time possess, use, sell deliver, conceal, consume, or be under the influence of any drugs of abuse, including alcoholic beverages, or any counterfeit drugs of abuse. This includes attending parties where alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are openly used or consumed. Counterfeit drugs of abuse include any substance that is directly or indirectly represented as a drug of abuse. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule. Participants shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs of abuse.

D. STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTARILY SEEK HELP FOR SUBSTANCE ISSUES

A participant who voluntarily seeks help with any situation covered by the substance chemical abuse section of the Code of Conduct prior to imposition of any discipline under the schedule set forth below, at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee, may be excused from full imposition of discipline, provided that the student voluntarily and fully participates, to the satisfaction of the principal or his/her designee, in a program designed to help the student avoid such situations in the future. A current list of available programs will be given to each student found in violation of this behavior code. The provisions of this paragraph are not applicable once an offense has been committed and becomes known to the coach, advisor and/or school administrator.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE

E. PENALTIES

The Administration has the obligation to determine the appropriateness of any penalty, including the right to increase or reduce the penalty imposed in light of the violation. The coach and athletic director will meet with parents and students when a violation occurs so that all understand what the consequence will be and what is required to become eligible again.

A. First Violation:

For activities that have a schedule of public playing dates or activities, a first violation of the Activity Behavior Code will result in removal from participation for 20% of the regular season contests. If the penalty cannot be completed prior to the end of the current scheduled season, the remainder will be carried over to the next “established sport or activity”. An established sport is one in which the student participated in the previous school year.

A participant is allowed to practice with the team or organization, but may not participate in public playing dates or activities. The schedule will be determined by the coach of the sport, the advisor of the activity, and/or the principal’s designee. The participant and parent(s) or guardian(s) will be advised of the penalty for a second violation.

Any participant violating the Activity Behavior Code sections regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or criminal activity will be subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy. Penalties for all criminal activity violations will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

B. Second Violation:

A second violation of the Activity Behavior Code will result in a student being removed from participation for a period of sixty (60) school days. The participant will not be allowed to practice or play during the period of time he/she has been removed.

A participant in violation of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy for a second violation is subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of said policy. Penalties for any and all criminal activities will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

Third and Subsequent Violations: A third or subsequent violation will result in removal from participation for a period of 180 days (one school calendar year). The participant will not be allowed to practice or play during the period of time he/she has been removed.

A participant in violation of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy for a third and/or subsequent violation is subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of said policy. Penalties for any and all criminal activities will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

F. NO RIGHT TO APPEAL

The Vermilion Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee, to suspend or remove a student from participating in any or all athletic, extracurricular and co-curricular activities for violations of the Activity Behavior Code. The decision of the Superintendent or designee is not subject to due process procedures and there are no rights of appeal.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE

G. Social Media

The using of questionable or blatantly inappropriate digital postings of any kind is prohibited. This includes but not limited to email messages, text messages, blogs, websites or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school, another team, or other staff member, or any person is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/

descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

H. CHAIN OF COMMAND TO PROCESS ISSUES

Students participating in activities or their parents may have questions, complaints, recommendations or commendations. When these arise, please raise them in the following order:

1. First, speak directly to the coach or advisor of the activity.
2. If not resolved, or if the issued has to do with how the athletic activity is conducted in the district, speak with the athletic director. In the case of a non-athletic activity, please speak with the assistant principal or principal.
3. If still not resolved, speak with the principal.

I. EXTRACURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION

A Transportation Release Form must be submitted to the main office a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the date/event in question. The policy of the Vermilion Local School District requires all students in extracurricular activities to be transported to and from all scheduled school sponsored events in school approved transportation. Students will only be excused under the following conditions:

1. Students in extracurricular activities will only be transported by his/her parent, guardian or designated emergency contact person.
2. Only extenuating or special circumstances will be considered (not just as a matter of convenience). Examples include SAT/ACT testing, participating in another school approved function, special family gathering or event, etc.
3. This form must be submitted to the main office a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the date of the event involved.

J. COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

All students participating in extracurricular activities shall be expected to exhibit good citizenship/sportsmanship. These traits help build character. Students participating in activities learn truthfulness, fair play, honesty, self-discipline, courage, self-restraint and loyalty. A student participating in extracurricular activities which involves athletics or other activities should aspire to:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility and the privilege of representing the school, district and community.
2. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the Administration and the coaching staff.
3. Learn the rules of the sport or competition thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the students and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the sport or competition.
4. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
5. Refrain from taunting and making any derogatory remarks to opponents during the game.
6. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
7. Wish opponents good luck before the game or competition, and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
8. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote the extracurricular activity. Treat the officials with respect, even if the students disagree with their judgment.
9. Win with humility; lose with grace, and do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or at the end of a game.

Failure to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined, under the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Activity Behavior Code.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE

A. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Any student who arrives at school more than thirty minutes after the start of the school day will be ineligible to participate in any/all extracurricular activities on that day. This includes practices, as well as contests, performances and other activities. Exceptions to this requirement would include field trips, scheduled educational experiences, or other emergencies as approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Students participating in any extracurricular activity are expected to attend and participate in all meetings, practices, games or performances, unless physically unable to do so, or other good reason for which permission was obtained **in advance** from the coach or advisor.

B. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

VHS and SMS extracurricular participants follow the *OHSAA Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility*. For a 7th or 8th grader this means **PASSING** a total of 5 **CLASSES**. Once entering the 9th grade, this means **PASSING** a total of 5 **CREDITS**. In addition, students at VHS who participate in extracurricular activities must maintain a minimum of a 1.5 GPA with no more than one (1) F.

A student who is ineligible to participate in a contest or program may be permitted to practice during the first nine weeks he/she is ineligible. If a student is ineligible for a second nine weeks during a school year, he/she may not participate in any athletic practices or activities.

Coaches and/or Advisors will monitor participant's grades weekly during their respective seasons or activities. The coach or advisor may also deem it necessary to apply consequences to those participants failing to maintain the academic standards required to be eligible for extra-curricular activities.

Board Policy 5530.01

August 13, 2012

DRUG TESTING OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN NONACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Acknowledging that peer pressure has a significant impact on student life, and recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs by Vermilion Local Schools students is a serious concern, a program of deterrence will be instituted as a proactive approach to a truly drug-free school environment. Since participation in nonacademic activities is a privilege, this program shall apply to all students, grades 8 through 12, who participate in school-sponsored athletics or other extra-curricular activities for which a grade is not given, and to eligible students who wish to obtain a parking permit. The purpose of the drug testing program is:

- A. to provide for the safety of all students;
- B. to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing legitimate reasons for students to refuse to use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol;
- C. to encourage students who abuse drugs to participate in drug treatment programs; and
- D. to prevent the impact drug and alcohol use has on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to achieve their full academic potential while attending Vermilion Local Schools.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Prior to participation, any student who intends to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities, or to obtain a parking permit and their parents will be required to provide written consent for random testing of prohibited substances. The Board of Education will pay the cost of testing, unless a split sample test is requested by parent and/or student.

The Board may contract with an external agency for the purpose of collecting and analyzing test samples. All samples will be collected under the supervision of medical personnel, and in a manner that protects the privacy of the students being tested. Any student who fails or refuses to produce a sample will be prohibited from participation in his/her designated activity until a sample is obtained and tested.

The results of the tests shall not become part of the students' permanent record. Test information shall only be released to persons designated in Board regulations and procedures. Test results will not be reported to law enforcement authorities, and test information will not be released to law enforcement or other parties except in response to a lawfully executed subpoena. In the latter case, parents will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the subpoena.

Except as stated in the administrative guidelines, violation of this drug testing policy will not result in suspension or expulsion. Nonetheless, the testing program does not affect current policies of the Board regarding student drug, tobacco, or alcohol possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is established by means other than testing as outlined in this policy. Additionally, any student who in any way aids or abets another student in violating this policy or the administrative guidelines for this policy will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for implementation of this policy, and for addressing any violations.