

# St. Charles Extra-Curricular Policy

## PHILOSOPHY

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Participation and competition in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, at St. Charles provides an opportunity to teach the values of our Catholic faith in a Christ-centered environment with the hope that these values will be transferred into the real world of responsible teenage and adult behavior. While our primary mission is academic and religious development, extra-curricular activities enhance the classroom experience by promoting unselfish play, trust, working as a group, commitment, respect and faith. Just as in the classroom, competition is acceptable within St. Charles' extracurricular activities. Competition fuels the desire to excel. It teaches the life lessons that hard work and dedication to achieving goals are expectations. It enables the athletic and the artistic students alike to live by the parable of the talents, where Jesus tells those that have been given talents not to bury them in the ground, but rather that God expects them to make the most of what they have been given [Matthew 25:14-30].

## NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

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St Charles provides a wide range of non-athletic, extra-curricular activities. These include, but are not limited to, Student Council, Academic Teams, Field Trips, Jazz Band, School Musicals, and Circle the State with Song.

## ATHLETICS

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### **St. Charles offers the following sports:**

Football – seventh and eighth grade boys team

Basketball – fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys teams and girls teams.

Cheerleading – seventh and eighth grades girls.

Cross-country – fifth through eighth grade boys team and girls team.

Swimming and diving – fifth through eighth grade boys team and girls team.

Track and field – fifth through eighth grade boys team and girls team.

Volleyball – sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls teams.

Team structure may vary based on factors such as the number and athletic ability of students participating in each grade, and the structure and competitiveness of the league in which the team participates. Such factors may necessitate the combination of grade levels to form a team, or permit participation by students in earlier grade levels.

### **Fifth and Sixth Grade Team Sports**

Fifth and Sixth grade is a developmental time in a student's life and these students should be strongly encouraged to participate in sports. Therefore, all students who try out for the sports offered to fifth and sixth graders shall be offered a position on the team, providing they are not otherwise ineligible.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Team Sports**

Sports at the seventh and eighth grade level shall be more competitive. Although all students will be offered a position on the team(s) they try out for, the students will be placed on teams based on their level of athletic talent in an effort to field at least one (1) competitive team. Playing time will also be determined by athletic talent, attitude and other factors as determined by the coach.

**Participation**

Participation in extra-curricular activities at St. Charles is a privilege earned by its students and not a right. This privilege carries with it honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Students, who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities, are ambassadors of our school. It is the student's duty to conduct himself or herself, both on and off the field, court, or stage in an exemplary manner. All student actions should reflect positively on themselves, the team, the school and the community.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Any contestant who is ejected from a contest for an unsportsmanlike act will be suspended from the team until the player/student, parents, coach, and Athletic Director (athletic event) or Principal (non-athletic activity) meet to discuss what steps, if any, the student must take in order to return to the team.

**School Attendance**

A student must be in attendance for at least four (4) classes during the day of a contest to be eligible to compete that day. Special considerations will be given for doctor appointments or funerals.

**Practice Attendance**

Participation on teams at St. Charles requires that the student attend practice. Unexcused absences from practice may lead to loss or reduction of playing time or dismissal from the team as determined by the coach. Participation on a club team which results in failure to attend a practice or competition may be deemed an unexcused absence. Each athlete/student is responsible for communicating with their coach regarding their attendance at a practice or competition.

**Suspension or Dismissal**

The decision to dismiss or suspend a student from a team and the reasons for the decision shall be provided in writing to the student and the student's parents. Any decision made by a coach may be appealed as provided below.

## ELIGIBILITY

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**Physical Eligibility**

Participation in athletics will be permitted only after the student has a valid physical examination form from a licensed physician on file in the St. Charles Athletic Director's office. Physical examinations must be taken each year after May 1st to be good for the entire school year. A copy of the CYO Physical Examination Form" may be found on the school website or obtained from the Athletic Director. The form must be completed and signed by the examining physician, the student, and, at least, one of the student's parents before turning it into the Athletic Director.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

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St. Charles School highly recommends that a student who participates in extra-curricular events, including athletics, should be in good academic standing by passing all courses and maintaining a minimum of a "C" average. Ultimately it is the parents' responsibility to implement their own policy regarding grade point and participation in school events. If a student fails a class, parents are strongly encouraged to take appropriate actions which may or may not include withdrawal from participation. Additionally, for students receiving a failing grade on a quarterly report card, a conference among the student, parents, and teacher(s) must be scheduled to create a specific action plan for making significant academic progress based on individual needs. Written confirmation of the action plan must be turned into the Athletic Director within one (1) week for the student to continue their participation. Thereafter, communication among the student, parents, and teacher(s) shall be ongoing.

The principal has the right to end participation of a student in any extracurricular activity based on her/his discretion.

**Conduct**

Students who do not represent St. Charles in a becoming manner or whose habits, conduct, language or character IN OR OUT OF SCHOOL, YEAR-ROUND, discredit St. Charles, shall be subject to disciplinary measures, which shall

include, but not be limited to, the Threat Assessment Procedure followed by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, after school detention, community service, suspension or dismissal from extracurricular activities (including class field trips) as determined by the coach, Athletic Director and Principal. Any decision regarding conduct shall be given to the student and the student's parents in writing. This conduct includes relationships with coaches, team members, fellow students, teachers and the general public.