**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS**

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

**Philosophy of Extracurricular Activities**

In keeping with our middle school philosophy, the Board believes that the educational goals and objectives of the district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular classroom program. These activities expose students to a wide variety of experiences which may or may not have been explored previously. Participation provides an opportunity for the development of self-esteem through positive experiences in non-academic school settings.

Extracurricular activities also serve as a link between academics and socialization. Peer interaction and relationships as a team or club member develop a sense of responsibility and commitment through dedicated participation.

**Purpose of Eligibility**

While students benefit from participation in extracurricular activities, they are expected to work up to their individual potential and to achieve academic success. Students need to develop a dual sense of responsibility to both academics and extracurricular activities. Cooperation between the family and school protects students from becoming over-involved in community or school activities.

**Procedures**

1. Students must be in school at least a half-day to participate in any extracurricular activity. The principal may grant exceptions due to extenuating circumstances.

2. At the middle and end of each marking quarter, teachers will review the academic status of students within their interdisciplinary team. The eligibility policy will be applied to any student who is: a.) failing one or more academic subjects; b.) performing "D" work in two or more academic subjects; c.) in danger of dropping two or more letter grades from previous report card grades in a given subject. The student's school attendance record will also be reviewed.

3. A conference will be held between the team of teachers and each identified student for the purpose of reviewing the student's academic progress. The team of teachers will determine if, in their professional judgment, the individual student's participation in an extracurricular activity is the "cause" or "significantly" contributes to the student's academic difficulties.

4. If the teacher team determines that an individual student's extracurricular involvement is the cause of the academic problems, a conference will be held between the student's parents, the student, and the team of teachers. The purpose of this conference will be to discuss the concern for the number of activities and/or the time commitment associated with these activities and the impact extracurricular activities have on the student's academic performance.

5. Parents and teachers will make a cooperative decision as to full, limited, or non-participation in specific extracurricular activities as a strategy to allow for remediation of the identified academic difficulties. The details of each decision will be unique to the individual student as agreed to by the child's parents and teachers.

6. If parental cooperation is not obtained, the administration will send a letter to the parents requesting further consideration of the school's recommendation to curtail the student's extracurricular activities. The building principal or his/her designee will participate in any follow-up conference which may result. Parental support will be requisite to the final determination which will be a joint decision between the parents and the building principal.

7. Activity advisors will be appraised of and/or be included in the process noted above.

8. A copy of the eligibility policy will be attached to the permission slips for all interscholastic sports. A statement on the permission slip will acknowledge the parents' reading of the policy.

*"A Community of 21st Century Learners"*

Back to School Forms/SportsPermission September 2014