

Weston Middle School

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Weston Middle School coaches and I wish to welcome you and your son/daughter to the 2016 WMS Football/Volleyball/Cross-Country season. We hope that it will be rewarding and enjoyable for all involved. Below are a few topics of importance before the season begins.

Away Games: Athletes should bring the following to all away games: complete uniform, snacks if needed, water bottles, and money if the coaches plan to stop on the way back for a meal.

Conduct at practice and at competitions: Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times while participating in practices or competitions. All school rules apply. Coaches and/or the principal may discipline students who break school rules or team rules during practice or competition. In locker rooms, athletes should respect the privacy and property of others. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from negative comments to fellow teammates, taking pictures with phones or other cameras, or using/meddling with/taking the property of others. WMS athletes are to represent their school positively at all times.

Discipline: The athletic program at Weston Middle School is committed to promoting good conduct and sportsmanship, as outlined by the school's discipline guidelines. (See the WMS Student Handbook for more information.) Behavior infractions at Weston Middle School are divided into Minor Infractions and Major Infractions, and the consequence for each type differs with regard to athletic eligibility.

Minor Infractions— Students who have a minor behavior infraction (minor referral and/or detention) will be allowed to practice and compete in that week's competitions. However if an athlete has a second minor infraction in the same week, he/she will be declared ineligible for one week's time or for the number of days beyond one week needed to include at least one competition. If a student athlete is declared ineligible for a second time in one sports season for minor infractions, the athlete will remain ineligible for the remainder of that season and removed from the team.

Major Infractions—A student who receives a major disciplinary referral is automatically ineligible for one week of competition, or for the number of days beyond one week needed to include at least one competition. However, depending on the severity of the referral, the principal may choose to remove the athlete from the team immediately. Examples include, but are not limited to, possession of weapons,

participation in a major fight, drug or alcohol possession/distribution, extreme disrespect. A second major referral during the same sports season will result in the athlete being automatically removed from the team. **In addition, any athlete who is placed on a bullying/harassment contract will automatically forfeit the remainder of the season, even if it is his/her first major disciplinary referral. Any student placed on a bullying/harassment contract in the off-season will forfeit the next sports season.**

Coaches will communicate disciplinary issues that occur at practice or during competitions with the athlete's parents, the athletic director, and the principal. If a coach determines that an athlete behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner at practice or during competition, the athlete will be disciplined during a competition or at a future competition according to team rules.

Dress: All athletes, managers, and coaches will be issued a school polo shirt. This shirt plus khakis, other slacks, or nice jeans with no holes will be our official game day attire. Athletes who fail to follow these guidelines will not participate in the contest that day.

Eligibility: Part of the purpose of extracurricular activities at Weston Middle School is to promote the academic success of our student athletes. Therefore, Weston Middle School has a "no pass, no play" policy, meaning that students cannot have a failing grade in any class and continue to participate. The athletic director typically checks grades and meets with all athletes on Thursdays. Those failing any classes then meet with their teachers and have until Monday to bring up failing grades. The following Monday, any athletes who are still not passing are declared ineligible for that week's competitions or for the number of days beyond one week needed to include at least one competition, though the athlete may continue to attend practice. Additionally, a student who has a failing grade at the end of a semester is automatically ineligible for the first week of competition in the next sports season. **Finally, when an athlete is declared ineligible for a second time in one sports season, he or she becomes ineligible for the remainder of that season and will be removed from the team.** Additional details about the academic eligibility policy and procedure can be found in the WMS Student Handbook.

Equipment and Uniforms: Each athlete will be provided a WMS uniform that is in good condition. Football players are also provided with a practice uniform (pants and jersey). Uniforms should be laundered after each contest. Football equipment (except the uniform) is to be kept at school, and any adjustments to the equipment need to be done by one of the coaches. Equipment and uniforms are expensive and therefore players are responsible for taking good care of all items issued to them. Normal wear and tear is to be expected, but if damage is beyond that standard or if uniforms/equipment are lost, athletes will be asked to pay the replacement cost.

In addition to uniforms and equipment issued to athletes, volleyball players need a pair of gym shoes for **indoor use only**, football players should have a pair of cleats, and cross-country runners should have a pair of running shoes – special cross country shoes are not necessary. If you are unable to secure these items for your student athlete, please notify the athletic director, coach, or the school office and we will try to assist in this matter.

Medical Release/Doctor's Notes: A current medical release from must be on record in the WMS office. If your athlete has a note from a doctor that limits his/her activity, the note must be delivered to the coach. Unless the note specifies an end to the period of limited activity, the doctor must send a second note releasing them from the restrictions before the coach will allow the athlete to resume normal activities.

Pay-to-Play: The Athena-Weston School District has a pay-to-play policy. The amount of **\$20 per student, per sport** was established by the school board. Athletes may not participate in a competition until this fee is paid. If you have questions or concerns about the pay-to-play fee, please feel free to speak with Mrs. Vescio. She and I are committed to allowing all students who want to participate in sports a chance to play.

Pictures: Team pictures will be taken at the end of each sports season. Athletes will turn in their uniforms following pictures. Please see the sports schedule for exact picture dates.

Playing Time (Applicable to football and volleyball only): At the middle school level, all eligible athletes will have playing time in all games/matches. We are committed to ensuring that all athletes have the opportunity to participate in competition, though playing time may vary at the discretion of the coaches.

Practices: Coaches expect athletes to be at all practices unless they have made prior arrangements with the coach. If your child is ill, please have him/her stay home and get well. Any team member who misses two practices in the same week will not compete in the contest(s) of that week. Also, tardiness to practice is not allowed unless there has been a prior arrangement with the coach.

Practice will begin at 3:15 each day and end at approximately 4:45. An activity bus will transport students from Weston to Athena at approximately 5:00pm. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children have a way to get home following practice. We welcome parents at practice who wish to observe as long as there is no interference with the coaches and athletes. Siblings may not attend practices unless they are under the direct supervision of their parent(s).

Spectators: Weston Middle School promotes good sportsmanship from both its athletes and its fans. Crowd enthusiasm is important to the athletes and to the enjoyment of competition. Therefore we at WMS encourage spectators to cheer positively for their athlete(s) and team. However, those in attendance should refrain from making negative comments about athletes, visiting teams, coaches, and referees. This behavior detracts from the enjoyment of competition for all involved. The school designates a staff member to supervise all home athletic competitions. Spectators who exhibit negative behavior will be asked to leave the competition by the game supervisor.

Sports Physical: All athletes at WMS are required to have a **sports physical every other year**, performed by a practicing physician. A completed sports physical form must be on file in the office in order for a student to even participate in practice. The form that WMS accepts is available from the office, the athletic director, the coaches, or may be downloaded from the school's website (wms.athwest.k12.or.us).

Transportation: An activity bus is provided for our athletes and managers (not siblings and other students) after each practice. This bus transports students from Weston to Athena only. The activity bus will leave Weston at approximately 5:00pm and will drop the students at the high school. There will be no activity bus following competitions in Weston.

Your child must ride the school-provided bus to and from all "away" contests with the following exceptions: 1) Athletes may ride home with you (parent/guardian) as long as you signed them out with the coach at the contest; 2) Athletes may be signed out to ride home with another relative (at least 21 years of age) or the parent of another player as long as the parent/guardian of the athlete has filled out the appropriate permission slip no later than when the bus leaves for the contest. This form is available at the WMS office or from the coaches and athletic director. There will be no exceptions to these sign out rules. All regular bus rules will be enforced on game trips. Disciplinary action will be taken against any athlete found in violation of these rules.



The coaches, principal, and I believe that this will be another excellent fall season of football, volleyball, and cross country at Weston Middle School. We are committed to much more than wins and losses. Integrity, discipline, sportsmanship, individual and team improvement, loyalty, and team unity are values we embrace firmly and seek to instill in students through our athletic program. Please let us know how we can support your athlete this season, and do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs. Vescio if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support of middle school athletics.

Sincerely,

Justin Funderburk
WMS Athletic Director

Please sign and return:

I (We) have read this letter and agree to its content.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student/Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____