



**MGCS**  
**Athletic Handbook**  
**(Revised August 2021)**

## ATHLETICS

The athletic program at MGCS is designed to help us achieve our mission, which is to educate students by exposing them to biblical principles as a framework for all that is taught. There are lessons that may be taught and learned on the athletic field that are difficult to teach in the classroom. Student-athletes learn to set goals and strive to achieve them, develop strength in the face of adversity, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and face victory and defeat with grace. Accordingly, we have adopted the following Four Core Values and Three Principles to guide our approach to athletics:

### **Four Core Values: Excellence, Team Work, Service, and Integrity**

#### **Three Principles:**

- **Coaches, players, and spectators will represent the Lord well to our community by conducting themselves in a manner that honors Him.**

*“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:16*

- **Coaches will use athletics as a tool to teach biblical principles.**

*“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”  
1 Timothy 4:8*

- **We will always compete to win.**

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”  
1 Corinthians 9:24-25*

A competitive emphasis is perhaps the most scrutinized element of a Christian school's athletic program. However, the Christian life demands a level of strength, courage, perseverance, and tenacity that athletic competition may help to cultivate. When believers are exhorted in the Scriptures to “fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12),” we are presumably expected to know how to fight. When there comes an hour in which God commands us to “be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:7-9),” we must have developed strength and courage. For the one who is given talent, succeeding with that talent is not only honorable but demanded (Matt. 25:14-30). While athletic competition

is by no means the only avenue through which these qualities can be developed, we approach sports with these characteristics in mind.

*Athletics Offered by MGCS*

**Fall (Aug-Oct)**

Girls' Volleyball  
 Girls' Tennis (No Cuts)  
 Boys' Soccer  
 Boys' & Girls' Cross Country  
 (No Cuts)

**Winter (Nov-Feb)**

Girls' Basketball A&B  
 Boys' Basketball A&B  
 Girls' Cheerleading

**Spring (Feb-May)**

Girls' Soccer  
 Boys' Baseball  
 Boys' Tennis (No Cuts)

1. Below is a list of sports for which students in each grade are eligible to try out:

<b><u>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b>	<b><u>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b>	<b><u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b>
Girls' Tennis	Girls' Tennis	Girls' Tennis
Cheerleading (girls)	Cheerleading (girls)	Cheerleading (girls)
Boys' Tennis	Girls' Volleyball	Girls' Volleyball
Cross Country (boys and girls)	Boys' Soccer	Boys' Soccer
Girls' Basketball	Girls' Basketball	Girls' Basketball
Boys' Basketball	Boys' Basketball	Boys' Basketball
Boys' Baseball	Boys' Baseball	Boys' Baseball
Boys' Tennis	Boys' Tennis	Boys' Tennis

2. Participation in sports such as Girls Tennis for 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be evaluated on a year-to-year basis.

1. A current physical must be on file with the Athletic Director prior to attending tryouts. Physicals are valid for one calendar year.
2. Athletes must attend all tryouts on the date(s) scheduled. The coach must be notified ahead of time if an athlete is going to miss any part of tryouts for an

excusable reason (death in the family, illness, etc.). It will be up to the coach's discretion as to how they will handle the situation.

3. Athletes must demonstrate a Christ-like attitude, be coachable, and commit to attend all practices and games.

In several sports there are limited spots on the team, which requires coaches to select some players and cut others. Coaches do their best to conduct tryouts in a way that allows them to evaluate players thoroughly and objectively. Ultimately, the coach has the authority to determine how many players to keep and which players make the team.

Because of the inherent potential of a conflict of interest, parents of current upper school students will not be permitted to be head coaches of a sports team that their child could be on (exceptions would include, for example, a parent coaching a girls sports team but only having sons, therefore their child is not eligible to be on the team). Current parents (as of August 2021) who are coaches are grandfathered in and can continue coaching.

The School may take all action necessary to ensure the operation of the School in all matters as it may apply to the Student. A positive and constructive relationship between the School and Parent or other adults interacting with the School and/or School community by virtue of their relationship with the Student is essential to the mission of the School. Thus, if the behavior, communication, or interaction on or off campus (including during School-sponsored events) of Parent or other adults interacting with the School and/or School community by virtue of their relationship with the Student is disruptive, intimidating, overly aggressive, or reflects a loss of confidence or serious disagreement with the School, including but not limited to disagreement with its policies, procedures, responsibilities, personnel, leadership or standards, or imperils accomplishment of its educational purpose or program, Parent understands and agrees that the School has the right to dismiss the Student and/or the Student's family from the School community. In addition, Parent understands and agrees that the School has the right to place restrictions on that party's involvement with or activity at the School, on School property, or at School-related events if the party engages in behavior that the School determines in its sole discretion to warrant such a restriction. If a parent's behavior is deemed inappropriate at games, their child could potentially be benched and/or ineligible to play based on the discretion of the coach or Athletic Directors.

1. Once an athlete has joined a team, he/she has committed to that team until the last game of the season for that sport.
2. Each athlete is required to attend **ALL** practices and games unless excused for one of the following reasons:

- Illness
  - Doctor's appointment
  - Death in the family
  - Previously scheduled church commitment
  - Emergency absence pre-arranged with the coach
  - Out of town trips during scheduled school vacations
3. Regardless of why student-athletes miss practice, their playing time will be affected at the coach's discretion.
  4. If an athlete misses practice or a game due to any reason mentioned above they must give their coach a written note. If practice or a game is missed due to school absence, then a note should be given to the coach as soon as the athlete returns to school. Emails may be used as well. Only use emails when the athlete is absent during the day and not for something like a doctor's appointment as it may be difficult for the coach to check email during the day before practice or games.
  5. Missed practices or tardiness due to detention will result in limited game time at the coach's discretion.
  6. Missing work due to extended absences from school must be made up in the time required by school policy, normally one (1) day per day of absence. Any work not completed by the end of that period will result in immediate suspension from practices and games until the work is completed. This policy is also found in the Student Handbook under Absences.
  7. Athletes with an "Incomplete" grade on a report card or progress report are immediately suspended from practices and games until **ALL** work is caught up. The athlete is expected to stay after school each day until all missing/incomplete work is completed. The athlete will go to the after school detention room until 4:00 and then go home unless or until all work is completed satisfactorily. It is the responsibility of the athlete to obtain a note from the teacher(s) acknowledging that all missing work has been completed, and then submit the note to the Athletic Director; OR the teacher may e-mail the Athletic Director acknowledging the student-athlete has completed all missing work.
  8. All athletes must maintain an **80** combined average in 6 core subjects (Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science, History, and Bible) ***with no subject earning a score below a 75***. Grades will be checked every 3 weeks for compliance to the academic standard. Failure to comply with the established academic standard will result in an immediate suspension from practices and games until the next grade check. If the athlete continues to struggle to maintain this minimum academic standard, a conference may be necessary to determine the best course of action for the student-athlete. Grades will be regularly checked for compliance.

9. ***Any athlete with an “F” in any core course is restricted from participating in games or practices until the grade reaches 75 or above.***
10. Athletes must be present the **ENTIRE** day at school in order to participate in practices and games unless they are at a doctor's appointment, funeral, or other event approved by the Athletic Director. In that event, a doctor/dentist note needs to be supplied at check-in. If a student-athlete is **ABSENT**, then that student-athlete is not eligible to practice or play.
11. Athletes must stay in class until they are dismissed from class with an announcement from the office. They may not leave class to change into uniforms until authorized to do so.
12. Athletes in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) are **SUSPENDED** from practice and games each day in ISS/OSS.
13. Athletes who quit or are dismissed from a team are not eligible for postseason awards.

### ***At Practices***

1. Athletes may not be in the gym or on the practice field/courts without their coach.
2. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. Coaches must be notified of any absences or tardies.
3. Athletes should report to practices and games on time.
4. Athletes are expected to respect, obey and cooperate with the coach.
5. Athletes must use godly speech when addressing coaches, staff, opponents, officials and parents. Profanity will not be tolerated!

### ***At Games***

1. Team members must sit with their coach. They should not run around or sit on the stage. They should be where the coach has instructed them to be during games/matches.
2. Officials and opposing teams must be treated with love and respect. Ungodly speech or gestures during the games/matches will not be tolerated.
3. Most importantly, God must be given the glory whether we win or lose. We are all winners if we are playing on God's team.

### ***At School***

1. During school hours Athletes must maintain conduct in compliance with the MGCS Student Handbook.

1. Parents are completely responsible for their elementary-aged children at all times. All students, 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under, must be accompanied by a parent and sit with their parent(s) during games/matches.
2. Playgrounds are off-limits to children unless accompanied and supervised by their parent(s). Playground rules and age limits must be followed at all times.
3. Students are not allowed to shoot at halftime during our home basketball games. Please do not bring basketballs or allow students to use the team's balls.
4. Officials and opposing teams must be treated with love and respect. Ungodly speech or gestures will not be tolerated during the games/matches.
5. Siblings are not allowed to stay after school for practices or games without parental supervision.
6. Please follow the chain of command when team issues arise. The chain of command is as follows: Coach, Athletic Director, Administrator
7. If issues arise concerning coaching decisions, please wait at least 24 hours before approaching the coach.

### ***Offenses Leading to Suspension***

1. Poor grades
2. Ungodly speech/profanity
3. Blatant disrespect of coach/school staff
4. Student's failures to cooperate with coach
5. Blatant insubordination towards coach/school staff
6. Consistently breaking team rules

### ***Offenses Leading to Dismissal***

1. Repeated suspension due to poor grades
2. Repeated disrespect/insubordination issues
3. Repeated cooperation issues
4. Repeated speech issues
5. Chronic detentions/tardies
6. Inappropriate gestures
7. Any other behavior deemed sufficient by the Administration for dismissal