



Creative
Montessori
Academy

Student Athlete Handbook

2011/2012

Athletic Program Offerings

Creative Montessori Academy is pleased to offer competitive sports for grades 6-8 again this school year. As in the past, we plan to offer girl's and boy's basketball, volleyball, flag football and cheerleading. It is our hope to also offer soccer, softball, and cross-country. In order to continue our sports program, we will need volunteers.

This year we will need volunteers for:

- Coaches
- Concession
- Drivers
- Photographers

Please contact Rebecca Gardocki, Athletic Director, at (734) 248-5600 ext. 120 if you would like to be a volunteer.

Parents/Guardians of Student Athletes,

Your child had expressed interest in participating in Creative Montessori Academy's athletic program. It is our belief at CMA that participating on athletic teams provides the opportunity to develop skills that will last a lifetime.

Please review the handbook with your child. Once you have read through the information, you and your child will need to sign and date the Athletic Consent Form and return it to his/her coach. Your child will need to return the consent form in order to participate in practice. In doing so, you and your child understand and accept the responsibilities of a student athlete, committing to a full season of his/her chosen sport. Please keep the handbook as a reference.

In addition to permission, it is required that all students interested in participating in an athletic program have one physical examination per year on file with the Athletic Director. Although CMA is committed to providing outstanding supervision for each sport, the potential for some injury may exist due to the nature of athletic events. CMA is not liable for bills incurred for physical examinations or as a result of athletic injury. Such bills are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Finally, it is the belief of the Academy that all student athletes must adhere to the character and academic standards outlined in this handbook. Any student athlete who cannot uphold these standards may be excluded from participating the remainder of the season in progress.

Creative Montessori Academy is a member of the Public School Academy League and abides by the rules and regulations set forth by the Michigan High School Athletic Association pertaining to interscholastic sports programs. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Rebecca Gardocki, AD at (734) 284-5600.

The information provided in this handbook is only effective when we all work together to promote and encourage CMA's program. Participation in a team sport promotes school spirit while providing our students with the chance to grow and learn, the opportunity to understand the importance of teamwork and fair play, and a sense of self-accomplishment.

Section One: Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles

I. Goals

The goals of CMA's athletic program are to promote fair play, teamwork, physical health, good sportsmanship, and school pride through competitive athletic play.

II. Objectives

- A. For the Athlete – Students will grow mentally, physically and socially through their involvement in the athletic program. This growth will result in a healthy lifestyle that will prevail throughout the lives of the participants.
- B. For the School Community – The school community will embrace the Montessori philosophy by being exemplary models of sportsmanlike conduct, courtesy, and moral conduct for visiting athletes and spectators.
- C. For the Local Community – Through the athletic program, CMA will enhance its relationships with the surrounding community.

III. Guiding Principles

- A. The athletics program is for all students grades 6-8 who are physically, mentally and socially able to participate.
- B. The athletic program at CMA maintains the expectation that each athlete is representative of the Academy, consistently working together towards a common goal to achieve a successful experience.
- C. Athletics must be educational, containing desirable learning experiences, which embrace the Montessori philosophy and are under the leadership and guidance of the Academy and its staff.
- D. Participation in the athletic program shall foster a healthy lifestyle, encourage positive social interactions, develop a sense of cooperation and teamwork, and promote an overall sense of self-discipline and respect.
- E. Athletics practices, games and contests shall be organized and supervised with an emphasis on good sportsmanship and physical development.

Section Two: Rules and Regulations

I. Attendance

- A. Student athletes must be in attendance, at school or on a field trip, for the entire day of the scheduled game and/or practice in order to be eligible to participate in that game and/or practice, unless previously excused by the Athletic Director.

- B. Student athletes must be in regular attendance at scheduled practices as it is essential in the development of individual skills and team cohesiveness. Coaches will be responsible for keeping daily attendance sheets for practices.
 - 1. Any student athlete who fails to attend an individual practice shall be ineligible to participate in the next game or contest.
 - 2. Any student athlete with three unexcused absences from scheduled practices will be ineligible to participate in the sport for the remainder of the season.

- C. Student athletes must make every attempt to attend all practice sessions, including any scheduled practices and contests on Saturdays, holidays, and over school vacations
 - 1. Any student athlete who fails to attend an individual practice shall be ineligible to participate in the next game or contest.
 - 2. Any student athlete with three unexcused absences from scheduled practices will be ineligible to participate in the sport for the remainder of the season.

- D. Student athletes ineligible to play due to academic reasons are required to be in regular attendance at practices.

II. Academic Standards

Student athletes are expected to maintain their grades and consistently perform up to his/her academic ability. Team rosters will be generated for each sport's season and distributed to the faculty.

- A. Student athletes shall manage their time in such a manner as to not miss practices, competitions or school in order to achieve academic success while participating in athletics.

- B. The teacher will notify the AD of students ineligible to participate in scheduled games due to grades.

- C. Student athletes must maintain a C average and meet the requirements for all core classes as determined by the classroom teacher.
 - 1. Student athletes who fail to meet the academic eligibility will be ineligible to participate in any contests for the week; however, they must be present at all scheduled practices for that week.
 - 2. Student athletes may regain eligibility to participate upon certification by the classroom teacher that the student's performance has improved or that all requirements have been met by the next scheduled Weekly Academic Eligibility Report.

3. Any student athlete who is ineligible for three consecutive weeks due to academics will be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the season in progress.

III. Student Athlete Conduct

It is believed that student athletes are representatives of CMA and their behavior is a direct reflection upon the Academy. It is the Academy's expectation that all students shall be the reflection of good citizenship and upstanding moral character, in and out of school. Student athletes shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to not damage the reputation of Creative Montessori Academy.

Additionally, student athletes' conduct shall:

- Reflect the Montessori philosophy of respect towards self and others
- Possess self-discipline
- Have a positive influence on the discipline and educational environment of the Academy
- Conduct themselves in a respectful manner towards teachers, coaches, peers, and competing athletes

IV. Contest and Competition Conduct

It is the responsibility of a student athlete to exhibit self-control during any level of competition. Student athletes who exhibit inappropriate behavior will be subject to the following:

- The athlete will meet with the Athletic Director and coach to discuss the incident
- The incident will be documented and remain on file with the Athletic Director
- Parents will receive written notification from the Athletic Director

In addition, the student may receive a one game suspension or be excluded from participating in the remainder of the season in progress.

Such behaviors include: inappropriate language or action, taunting or hazing (classmates, other teammates, or the opposing team), disrespect to officials, throwing equipment, spitting, or inappropriate behavior while traveling to and from away contests.

V. Practice Attire, Equipment and Uniforms

- A. Student athletes are required to wear appropriate attire for practices and will be prohibited from practicing if they do not have the proper gym clothing and footwear. Additionally, student athletes will remove all jewelry prior to any practice, game or contest. Coaches may apply further stipulations as deemed necessary to ensure the overall safety and protection of the participants.

- B. Student athletes are responsible for the proper maintenance and security of their team's equipment and uniforms. All equipment shall be returned to its proper location after each practice and game. Student athletes are prohibited from accessing their team's equipment outside of their regularly scheduled practices, games, or contests without the expressed approval of the coach or Athletic Director.
- C. Game or contest equipment shall not be used for practice unless specified by the coach. Likewise, game or contest balls and equipment shall not be used in gym class or during latchkey hours.
- D. Student athletes will return school-issued uniforms to the coach within one week of the end of the season. Parents of students failing to return his/her uniform will be billed for the replacement of the uniform.

VI. After School Care

- A. For practices taking place immediately following school, student athletes who do not have transportation home immediately following practice must proceed directly to after-school care until a parent/guardian arrives.
- B. For evening practices, student athletes are not permitted to wait on school grounds for evening practice sessions to begin unless they are signed into after-school care.

There are no exceptions to the rules.

VII. In and Out of School Suspensions

A student athlete serving an in or out of school suspension shall be excluded from participating in practice, and will be ineligible to play in the next scheduled game.

VIII. Smoking, Drinking, and Drugs

During the school year and the season of practice and competitive play, student athletes shall not:

1. Consume a beverage containing alcohol
2. Use tobacco
3. Use, consume, or have in their possession any controlled substances, illegal drugs, mind altering drugs, or steroids.

Upon confirmation of the offense, the student athlete will lose participation in the sport for the remainder of the season.

IX. Participation Limitation

CMA strives to provide its students with every opportunity to learn and grow through its athletic programs. If a student wishes to participate in one or more athletic programs simultaneously, he/she must have the approval of the

Headmaster and Athletic Director. Students who quit or are suspended from one athletic program after the first scheduled game may not participate in another activity for the remainder of the season.

Section Three: Injuries, Insurance, and Physical Examinations

I. School Liability for Athletic Injuries

In the State of Michigan, public schools do not assume liability for injuries incurred by students who participate in interscholastic athletic sports.

II. Insurance and Accident Benefit Plan

Creative Montessori Academy does not insure students/student athletes. Student athletes must provide evidence of a current insurance plan in case of accident or injury.

III. Parent/Guardian Consent Form

All student athletes must have a signed consent form on file before participating in any sport. Additionally, all student athletes are required to have a current physical form with a physician's signature on file with the Athletic Director prior to competing in any sport.

IV. Physical Examinations

No student shall be allowed to participate or represent CMA without a signed physical examination for the current year stating that, in the opinion of the examining doctor, the student athlete is fully able to participate in athletic competition.

V. Injury Reports

For all injuries that occur during the course of athletic competition, an injury report is to be completed by the coach of the team involved. The injury report will remain permanently in the Athletic Director's office.

VI. Injured Athlete Returning to Participation

If an athlete has been removed from a practice or contest because of an injury requiring a physician's attention, the athlete cannot return to practice or compete until he/she is given a medical release. A medical release needs to be obtained from the physician and provided to the Athletic Director for approval.

Section Four: Traveling to Away Games/Contests

I. Consent to Drive

- A. Any parent/guardian interested in providing transportation for student athletes to away contests must have a Consent to Drive Form on file with

the Athletic Director accompanied by a copy of the parent/guardian's valid drivers license.

- B. Prior to departing CMA, all eligible drivers will provide the coach with a list of student athletes of whom they will be responsible for transporting to the game. The coach is responsible for providing a list of drivers and student athletes to the school office personnel. No driver shall leave without the permission of the coach.
- C. Any student athlete returning from an away contest must return to CMA with the same driver. Any student athlete wishing to return with another driver must seek the consent of the coach prior to making the change.
- D. Prior to returning from any away contest, the coach is responsible for verifying that all student athletes are present and will be returning to the school or home with the originally designated driver.