



Creative Montessori Academy Athletics Guidelines

Introduction:

Hello! Participation on an Athletic Team at Creative Montessori Academy can be a rewarding, memorable, and meaningful experience that can enhance your child's education. Parents of the Athletic Program at Creative Montessori Academy must realize the time, demands, responsibility, dedication, and sacrifices that are required when their child makes this kind of commitment to athletics. The following information listed in this document defines all of the policies and procedures for all student-athletes who are participating in the Athletic Program at Creative Montessori Academy. Student-Athletes and Parents, please read this important information!

Communication:

Parents and Student-Athletes, please check the CMA Athletics Board located in the Main Hallway for schedules and necessary forms. Also, please follow the CMA Athletics Facebook Page and Parent Square for news and updates regarding the athletic program.

Sports Schedule for the 2023-24 School Year:

September-November: Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball
November-February: Boys Basketball
February-April: Girls Volleyball
April-June: Girls Soccer, Flag Football

Philosophy of Athletics at Creative Montessori Academy:



At Creative Montessori Academy, we consider athletics to be an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students grow and develop socially, physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges the students to excel, discover his or her physical limitations, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a fundamental goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of self-confidence, good sportsmanship, giving maximum effort, and the enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times. All of these mentioned aspects enhance the educational values of athletic contests.

As your student-athlete becomes involved on an athletic team, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Likewise, it is essential to realize that there will be times when things do not go the way your student wishes or desires. At that time, your child should set up an appointment to talk to his or her athletic coach. This type of communication will provide the coach with a better understanding of each other's ideas and goals.

Academic Eligibility/Athletic Requirements:

The Present Athletic Academic Policy was established by the Administration and the Athletic Director and these guidelines are as follows whether a student is learning in-person or virtually:

- 1. If a student has a D+ grade (69 percent or lower) or below in ANY subject at Creative Montessori Academy at any time during the school year, they are ineligible to practice and participate in any CMA Athletic Sports.** During the ineligibility period, the time spent after school hours must be used for the student to work to get his/her grade up to academic eligibility. The ineligible student-athlete can attend practices and games until their grades are up to academic eligibility, but will not be able to participate until they are academically eligible.



2. The Classroom Teacher in which the student is failing a class or classes will inform the Athletic Director of the eligibility status. The
3. Athletic Director will then notify the respective coaches of the academic state. No Athletics Coaches are to approach a teacher at any time regarding a student's academic status or to dispute the educational situation with the Athletic Director. It's the student's responsibility to bring their grade up to eligibility status.
4. For a student to be declared eligible, the Classroom Teacher in which the student is failing a class must inform the Athletic Director of the decision, and they will direct the information to the respective Athletics Coaches.
5. If a student is suspended for behavior issues during school hours, they will be deemed ineligible and not be present on campus until the suspension has been lifted.

Attendance Policy:

All Athletes are expected to be at school, whether in-person or virtually every day, all day. Suppose they are not present for the entire school day; they are considered ineligible for practices or games on that particular day. We understand that there may be times when athletes need to miss a portion of the day for various appointments. If your child will be out of school for any appointments or unforeseen circumstances, a doctor's note needs to be delivered to the Athletic Director's office on that particular day. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletic Director to clarify any special situations that might arise. The Athletic Department will consider these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Cancellations for Athletic Events:

If there are any cancellations due to weather or any unforeseen circumstance for any CMA Athletic Events, whether it would be Home or Away, the Athletic Director will inform the student-athletes and their families as soon as they get the details. The cancellation will be made at CMA if it occurs during the school day, and it will be posted on the CMA Athletics Facebook Page. The canceled games will be made up at a later date.



If the cancellation is not made on the day of the game before noon, the referees assigned to that particular day's competition will decide on a delay or cancellation of the athletic contest. If school is canceled on a scheduled day for Creative Montessori Academy or the school CMA is playing against on that particular day, the game will be automatically postponed and rescheduled for a later date.

Home Games for Creative Montessori Academy Athletics:

A Home Game at Creative Montessori Academy's Soccer Field or Gym is exciting for the School Community. Admission is free to our home athletic events. The Athletic Department takes great pride in making sure that the experience on the day of the game is positive for our visiting schools and Creative Montessori Academy.

The Athletic Coaches will determine if the student-athletes need to stay immediately after school to set up for the home game. If the student-athletes are to leave for any reason after school ends, they will need to return to CMA thirty minutes before the game begins for team warmups.

Before and during the Home Games, CMA Students who aren't participating in the present competition will not be allowed in the playing area at any time. That time is designated for our CMA Student-Athletes and their opposing school to occupy the playing space.

If there are any changes to the schedule, such as a visiting team or referees being delayed by traffic or weather, the Athletic Director will inform the CMA coaches and players of the delay and also let the spectators attending the event know of the schedule change.

Away Games for Creative Montessori Academy Athletics:

All students are responsible for rides to and from games. There is no bussing system at CMA, and this can be a challenge. If a parent volunteers to drive student-athletes to and from games, they must have a background check on file in the CMA School Office. If you are on a student's emergency card, you may drive that student. All parents who volunteer to drive must be



able to drive to games and back to school if needed. For both Home and Away games, please be at the school on time to pick up your child.

If a parent needs clarification about the directions to a CMA Away Game, directions to the visiting school will be posted on the CMA Athletics Board and CMA Athletics Facebook Page. If you have any additional questions regarding any Away games on the CMA Athletics Schedule, please see the Athletic Director before or after school hours.

Support the Creative Montessori Academy Athletic Program:

Please be supportive of the Coaching Staff at CMA. Try to go to all of the meetings that are requested by the Coaches and Athletic Director. Support the coach's preparation plan. Talk to your student-athlete frequently about how things are going with his/her sport that they are participating in. Please make arrangements to talk to coaches privately and early about possible perceived problems.

- During the Athletic Season, take into consideration practice and game times when planning family events.
- Understand the needs of a particular sport. Some sports take more equipment, while other sports take more time.
- Always display positive behavior during our Athletics Events, whether it is Home or Away to the coaches, players, and referees. Please positively encourage our student-athletes regardless of the outcome of the game.

Parent Expectations:

- Support your son or daughter. Model positive behavior, especially during Athletic Events.
- Encourage participation. Allow the student to select the sport based on his/her perceived interests and abilities. Provide a pressure-free environment.
- Be supportive of your athlete. Ensure that his/her needs are met. Check that he/she has the right equipment for the desired sport. Please attend as many of your child's contests as possible.
- Please emphasize that his/her academics must always come first.



- Assist the student in structuring their time wisely so that Athletics does not interfere with academics.

Conflict Resolution:

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional, and as a result, issues about playing time, team selection, honors, and awards can arise. These issues must be addressed as soon as possible so that they can be resolved promptly. The following procedures listed below should be used when a potential conflict or problem arises.

Personal Contact between Athlete and Coach:

As a general rule, the issue should be reported to the coach by the individual athlete. It's best if the athlete sets up an appointment to meet with the coach so it can be done privately. If the athlete feels this meeting was unsuccessful, the athlete's parents should then contact his/her coach at an appropriate time. Times to avoid are:

1. Either before or immediately after a competition.
2. During a game or practice session.
3. During a time when other students may be present or when it may be readily apparent to others that a discussion is taking place.

Usually, the best solution is to ask the coach either over the phone, via email, or in-person if an appointment can be made to discuss the issue. Please allow 24 hours before approaching the coaches. A recommendation is that the student-athlete join their parent(s) at any meeting to ensure that all sides of the problem can be addressed.

Personal Contact between Coach, Athlete, and Athletic Director:

If a satisfactory resolution is not made through direct contact with the coach, the athlete or parent should contact the Athletic Director. As a courtesy, the coach should be informed of the communication. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a future meeting will be scheduled involving all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory solution. All athletes and parents need to know that the



coach will address any comments, concerns, or issues raised to the Athletic Director.

Athletic Physicals:

- The examination date must be on or after April 15, 2019, to be valid for the school year. Sixth Grade Students or new Student-Athletes who don't have an athletic physical on file with the Athletic Director will need to get a new physical.
- Parents can go to any Urgent Care or Family Doctor to get a valid sports physical. (\$25.00-\$35.00)
- Physical forms are located by the CMA School Office and the Athletics Board. Additional athletic physical information is posted on the CMA Athletics Board. If you have any further questions regarding athletic physicals, please see the Athletic Director.

We look forward to an exciting 2023-24 Athletic and School Year at Creative Montessori Academy. Our Athletic Program will continue to develop into the model program in our league in regards to team sportsmanship, operations, and facilities, and we need all of your help and support to reach this ultimate goal!

Thank you again, and as always, "Go CMA Dragons!"

"Be Legendary!"

Creative Montessori Academy (CMA) Athletic Department

Daniel Benedict: Athletic Director

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I have read, understand, and will abide by the CMA Athletics Handbook.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

This agreement page must be turned in prior to the student athlete participating in team practices.