

## **Searsport District Middle School Co-Curricular Philosophy and Guidelines**

Middle school students are in the midst of one of life's most important developmental stages, and co-curricular programs should be shaped and conducted in a manner consistent with our knowledge of early adolescence.

The Board of Directors believes that all middle school students should be provided the opportunity to participate in a variety of co-curricular activities both athletic and non-athletic. This is best accomplished with a no cut policy. All eligible students will be given the opportunity to participate.

The purpose of these activities is to develop skills, behaviors, and values that will become integral to a student's character as he or she achieves the goal of transitioning to high school and adulthood. Co-curricular activities nurture leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and excellent skills, all of which are important aspects of the co-curricular experience.

Decisions regarding all co-curricular programs at SDMS will be governed by a sincere concern for the safety, health, developmental needs and educational well being of middle level students.

In order to support this philosophy the following guidelines will be followed. All participants including students, coaches, parents, and community members will be expected to support and/or practice:

- Modeling common courtesy and respect.
- Demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Committing to self-discipline in order to see the connection between hard work and results.
- Committing to the self-discipline required in extensive training and practice.
- Honoring the district's substance abuse policy.
- Developing desirable health habits including sleep and nutrition.

In the case of athletics, "reasonable and meaningful" playing time will be given to each athlete provided that the athlete has put forth appropriate effort and commitment to the teams. This philosophy remains in effect for playoff and championship games. The Board of Directors believes that winning should never take precedence over this stated philosophy or be at the expense of any individual participants.

References: Sports Done Right, 2004

Adopted: September 13, 2005  
October 24, 2006 (code change only)