

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

MSAD #56 believes that the primary benefits of interscholastic athletic programs in MSAD #56 are for the student(s) who participate in them.

Interscholastic athletic programs shall be an integral part of the total educational program which has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum.

Interscholastic athletic programs are to contribute to the physical, social and emotional development of the student. The district expects the programs to emphasize the concepts of teamwork, sportsmanship, cooperation, respect, discipline, fair play, and pride.

Therefore, the responsibility of coaches shall be directed to their students with emphasis on teaching through the athletic activity in addition to teaching the skills necessary to participate in the activity. Consequently, coaches will provide each student appropriate opportunities to play in an interscholastic athletic event. Philosophically, the MSAD #56 Board of Directors advocates a “no cut” policy for grades 6-8. However, in order to provide students with meaningful athletic experiences while maintaining quality programs, it may be necessary to limit the number of participants at the JV and Varsity level.

The Board of Directors affirms the benefits of competitive athletics and takes great pride in winning. However, the Board does not condone “winning at any cost.” Success should also be measured by the physical, social, and emotional development of the student(s). Any and all pressures which might tend to submerge good sportsmanship and good mental health beneath the desire to win must be discouraged.

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