

**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK
2007-2008
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Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

Section 1 Extracurricular Programs

Students are encouraged to participate in those activities and organizations which meet their needs and interests. These activities give the student additional opportunities to develop skills in leadership and cooperation with other people. All students interested in participating in the activities program should contact the sponsors of the activity or the Activities Director. Extracurricular programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Johnson County Central Public Schools will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

Golf	Cross Country	Football	Volleyball	FFA
Basketball	Wrestling	Track	Cheerleader	
National Honor Society	Academic Quiz Bowl	JCC-Club	FBLA	
Academic Decathlon	Instrumental Music	Speech	Drama	
Vocal Music	Y-Teens	Art Club	Vica Club	
Student Council	Musical	Annual	Trap Team	

Section 2 Activity Philosophy

Activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education which provide experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Student/athletes are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. We believe that participation in activities, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is also to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To participate in athletics, the student/athlete must have on file in the Athletic Director's office the following:

- A. Completed physical form
- B. Parental consent to participate
- C. Parent confirmation of insurance coverage

To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, and to exercise common-sense. In addition, the District requires that activity team members travel to and from out-of-town events as a unit. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by both the parents and the coach/sponsor and should be done in writing prior to the departure to the event. The note should be given to the

Principal. If a parent wishes to take their student with them after an event the parent has to sign out the student from the sponsor/coach. Only those people involved with the activity will be allowed to travel in the school vehicle.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Section 3: Activity Code of Conduct

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Johnson County Central Public Schools student code of conduct which is in Article 8 of the Student Handbook and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

Grounds for Extracurricular Discipline

The grounds for suspension from practices, participation in interscholastic competition, or other participation in extracurricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for extracurricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also, their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for the reasons that:

Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of Our School: Participants in extracurricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school on the students conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

Activities are a Privilege: Extracurricular activities have an important place in the educational program of the Johnson County Central Public Schools. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions are a part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. (If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct). The conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority;
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person;
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student, or to any other person;
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
7. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;
8. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
9. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
11. Public indecency;
12. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school;
13. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska;
14. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
15. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Johnson County Central Public Schools buses;
16. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited;
17. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing, or attempting to cause, personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary;
18. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings;
19. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written

- handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation;
20. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

Extracurricular Activities Training Rules

1. Use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco of any kind while involved in extracurricular activities will not be tolerated. Use or possession may be determined by any of the following means:
 - a. Observance by the coaching staff, teachers or administration;
 - b. Charged by the police or other public official;
 - c. The word of a law enforcement officer.
2.
 - a. First offense—use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco of any kind may result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for a period of 30 calendar days that school is in session. If the offense occurs during the last 30 days of the school year the penalty may carry into the next school year. A student may be afforded the option of enrolling in a drug or alcohol education program at parental expense in exchange for a reduced suspension from activities. Such a program must be approved by the administration ahead of time. A first offense will also preclude the student from being nominated during that school year for local, conference, regional, state, or national honors related to extracurricular activities (i.e., all-conference, all-state, or outstanding local athlete or musician). This clause does not extend to honors that are earned through competition (i.e., qualifying for State Track Meet or State Speech Contest) that the student may be eligible to compete for.
 - b. Second offense—use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco of any kind at any time during the remainder of the student's junior high/high school career in Johnson County Central Public Schools may result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for a period of 90 calendar days that school is in session. If the offense occurs during the last 90 days of the school year the penalty may carry into the next school year. A second offense of this policy by a student may preclude the student from being nominated for the remainder of the junior high/high school career for local, regional, state or national honors as identified above.
 - c. Third offense—use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco of any kind at any time during the remainder of the student's junior high/high school career in Johnson County Central Public Schools may result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Johnson County Central Public Schools.
 3. Any student convicted of a felony will be denied participation in extracurricular activities for the duration of legal penalties, including but not limited to incarceration or probation. A student charged with a felony or high misdemeanor may be denied participation in activities at the discretion of the administration.

4. Any penalty for the above offenses will only take place after a reasonable attempt has been made by school personnel to meet with the student and his/her parent or guardian. The administration shall be involved in such meetings and disciplinary actions.

Suspensions from Extracurricular Activities

Students may be suspended by the Principal or the Principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extracurricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Johnson County Central Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school. Due process rights will be provided to the student as stated in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Attendance and Academics:

The administration has discussed ways to solidify our rules concerning student eligibility for practices and games if school is missed. Following are the guidelines that will be followed for all activities immediately:

1. If a student comes to school, then leaves school during the day because of illness that student will not be allowed to take part in practices, contests, or performances for the remainder of that day and evening.
2. If a student stays at home at the beginning of the day because of illness the student must be in school by the beginning of 5th period to be eligible to take part in practices, contests, or performances for the remainder of that day and evening.
3. Any student who misses the entire day or the last part of the day because of illness will not be allowed to be in attendance at practices, contests, or performances for the remainder of that day and evening. Students in this situation will be asked to go home if they were to show up at practices, contests, or performances, whether they are a part of the activity or not.
4. If a student misses part of the school day because of an appointment the student will be expected to be in school as much as possible in order to be eligible for practices, contests, or performances for the remainder of that day and evening. In most cases students should not expect to miss the entire day for an appointment and still expect to be eligible for participation. Each situation, however, will be handled on a case by case basis. The administration will expect a note from a doctor and/or communication from the parent/guardian before eligibility for practices, contests, or performances on that day or evening will be granted.

Section 4 "Team Selection" and "Playing Time":

"Team selection" and "playing time" decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of this criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

Section 5 Academic Eligibility

Any high school student failing one (1) class during a two week grading period will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity during the following two week grading period. However, each failing grade will be re-evaluated at the end of the first week and if the student's grades are all passing, he or she will become eligible the following week to participate in extracurricular activities.

Although there are no specific academic eligibility guidelines for junior high students, the administration may declare a junior high student ineligible due to a lack of academic effort.

Unless arrangements are made in advance with the administration, students are to be in attendance at school for at least the last half of the school day to be eligible for participation in evening activities.

Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to: cheerleaders, athletics, vocal and instrumental music, drama, Math Club, student managers, field trips, quiz bowl and dances.

To represent a high school in interscholastic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

All school work to be missed because of extracurricular activity participation must be made up or arrangements to make up approved prior to departure. The coaching staff or activity sponsor shall have the authority to establish any other rules which will aid in the administration of their sport or activity during the season with the approval of the Principal and Athletic Director.

Section 6 Lettering Format

Many of our participants receive awards throughout the activity season. At the end of the school year an Athletic Banquet will be held to recognize students/athletes who have achieved excellence during the school year. One of the most valued awards is the "letter". Individual coaches/sponsors will set the standards for lettering in their respective activity, and will convey the requirements to their students at the beginning of the activity.

Section 7 Student Fees Policy

This policy is addressed in the Middle and High School Student-Parent Handbook.

**RECEIPT OF 2007-2008 ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK
OF JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2007-2008 Activities Handbook of Johnson County Central Public Schools. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to responding to harassment or discrimination.

Date: _____

Date: _____

Student's Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

Return to:

Mr. Rick Lester
High School Principal

Mr. Kirk Gottschalk
Elementary/Middle School Principal