



# ATHLETICS

## Academic Eligibility Standard Operating Procedures

### **Key Aspects of Academic Eligibility Process:**

1. Process allows for a comprehensive lens of the student-athletes academic standing.
2. Provides routine connections with student-athletes (triage approach).
3. Encourages self-advocacy of the student-athletes.
4. Works to develop student-athletes in communicating with their teachers and coaches and taking an active role in their academic success.
5. Creates connections between the faculty, coaches and administrators to support student-athlete growth (as students and athletes).
6. Supports the meeting of expectations both inside and outside the classroom.
7. Identifies student-athletes who may require additional academic support.
8. Assists in the implementation of 'academic mentoring'.
9. Is meant to be PROACTIVE v REACTIVE.
10. Works to uphold the student-athletes to the standards and expectations of the faculty and South Middleton School District.

### **Goals:**

- Assist the student-athletes and families in understanding that succeeding in the classroom is critical in their ability to remain an active member of an athletic team.
- Communicate and utilize our strengths as influential leaders to instill positive student development traits not only in-season but throughout their entire academic and athletic careers.
- Support the academic goals and expectations of South Middleton School District as it relates to policies and curriculum requirements.



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## **Aspired Results:**

Data demonstrates that:

- Student-athletes graduate at a higher rate.
- Athletics provides development in life skills such as time management, goal setting, leadership, work ethic, and perseverance, all transferable skills in the classroom.
- Student-athletes typically perform better academically in-season.
- Coaches can reach student-athletes through the lens of mentorship, providing additional supports

This process assists in the development of communication and collaboration among the athletic and academic departments. It is the athletic department's goal to assist the student-athletes and families in understanding that succeeding in the classroom is critical in their ability to remain an active member of an athletic team.

Data demonstrates that student-athletes graduate at a higher rate and that athletics provides student-athletes with the skills of time management, goal setting, leadership, work ethic, and perseverance, all transferable skills in the classroom. Data has also shown that student-athletes typically perform better academically in-season. Our goal as an athletic department is to communicate and utilize our strengths as influential leaders to instill positive student development traits not only in-season but throughout their entire academic and athletic careers.



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## **Reporting Procedures:**

Reports are run 2 times a week (in most cases), typically beginning and middle of the week

- Beginning of week Report:
  - Athletics department will send the head coach an email with the specific populated student-athlete who is in an 'at risk academic standing' and relevant information on the class/ faculty member of that student.
  - Coaches should connect with the players listed to assist in academic mentoring. Please note that players are NOT ineligible at that point, but rather this is an important preventative step to allow us to catch any student-athletes who may be struggling. It is a way to provide communication and gather better insight on their status and where they are headed.
  - If needed, the Athletic Director will set up a meeting with an at-risk student-athlete to gather more information and/ or as an additional resource.
- Mid to End of week Report:
  - The Athletic Director will share the Academic Standing Comprehensive report with BSHS Faculty.
  - The Athletic Director will connect directly with faculty members regarding specific student-athletes of concern to make determinations.
  - The Athletic Director will continue to work with faculty directly to gather any additional feedback on 'academic standing' at that point to assist in determining next steps for the upcoming week.
  - The Athletic Director will provide feedback to head coaches received from faculty and inform them on the student-athletes who may potentially become 'ineligible beginning Monday of the next week'.
  - If the student-athlete does not 'populate' on Monday's report and/ or we have received information from the Faculty that supports the student-athlete in their academic standing as 'eligible' the student-athlete will not be considered 'ineligible'.



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### ***Important to note:***

If a student-athlete has 'populated' for the first time on a Mid-week or End of week report, we review where they are on the Monday after the first time populated and per process, the student-athlete would be considered ineligible for the FOLLOWING week if they still populate.

Junior High rosters are provided to the YBMS Principal and Assistant Principal who will work with YBMS faculty regarding academic standing. When a student-athlete populates in 2 classes, the Principal and/ or Assistant Principal will meet with the students regarding their academic standing and faculty to determine status. Information will be provided by the Principal and/ or Assistant Principal with the Athletic Director / Assistant Athletic Director to appropriately inform Head Coaches for the purpose of mentoring.

### **Examples within the Timeline:**

#### *Example 1:*

*Student-athlete populates on 12/6/2021 (Beginning of week report).*

*Student-athlete still populating on 12/10/2021 (End of week report). Student-athlete ineligible status would be in place on 12/13/2021 (if still populated).*

*Student-athlete and AD would meet on 12/13/2021 to discuss ineligibility status and opportunities for academic support during the week that they are ineligible.*

#### *Example 2:*

*Student-athlete DOES NOT populate on 12/6/2021 (Beginning of week report).*

*Student-athlete DOES populate on 12/8/2021 or 12/10/2021 for FIRST TIME.*

*Student-athlete would become 'at risk' for ineligibility which would be implemented on 12/20/2021.*