

*Eaton Rapids
Middle School*



*Athletic
Handbook
2023 - 24*

ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC FEES

ERPS may implement participation fees for student activities including sports. Students will be made aware of these fees in advance. They will be responsible for payment in full upon participation in an activity or upon being selected for an athletic team. Fees can be collected in the main office and through your Bigteams/Student Central Account. Scholarships, partial payments, or payment plans for athletics are available. Please check with the MS office for further information.

Fee's = \$100 yearly fee *please note that Football, Cross Country & Swimming are considered 'club' sports and may have their own separate fee.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

It is the goal of ERPS to offer positive and meaningful experiences that will enhance the growth and development of young men and women. Athletics can be one of the most significant aspects of student education. However, the athletic program is only part of the total process. The athletic program is an extension of and complimentary to the total educational program. The program offers each student an opportunity for self-growth, development of physical skills and fitness, sportsmanship, teamwork and the satisfaction found in competition.

ERMS is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and, as such, abides and is governed by the MHSAA rules and guidelines.

ATHLETIC TEAMS

ERMS students may participate in the following interscholastic sports:

Fall

*Boys/Girls Cross Country
*Football
Volleyball

Winter

Boys Basketball (Oct - Dec)
Girls Basketball (Jan - Mar)
*Boys/Girls Swimming & Diving (Dec - Jan)
Wrestling (Jan - Mar)

Spring

Boys/Girls Track & Field

All students interested in participating in a sport are encouraged to try out. There are not cuts in several of the sports. Basketball and volleyball may experience cuts due to a limited number of positions and a large number of interested students. Due to limited budget and facilities there may be times when cuts are necessary. Athletes cut from any team will be encouraged to try out next year.

A current MHSAA approved physical must be on file in the office in order to try out.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

MHSAA rules state that a first year middle school student may compete in athletics without reference to his/her academic record in the sixth grade.

Eighth grade students who attended Eaton Rapids Schools in the seventh grade and wish to try out for a fall sport must meet all eligibility requirements during their last marking period of seventh grade. All transfer students will follow the same requirements as incoming seventh graders.

In order to try out and/or participate in interscholastic athletic programs, a student must meet the following qualifications:

- Eligibility status checks will take place every marking period. To be eligible a student must have no more than one E in the most recent marking period. Two D's shall count as one E.
- A student athlete will not be eligible for contests on a weekly basis if they have more than one E on the Friday weekly grade report. Two D's shall count as one E.
- Any student who falls below the minimum eligibility standards for three weeks may be removed for the season.
- Age Policy: MHSAA requirement, Section 2 - A seventh or eighth grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest must be under fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age, respectively. However, a student who reaches that birthday on or after September 1 of the current school year is eligible for interscholastic athletic contests for the balance of the year.

If the local school administration and parents can agree and arrange, seventh or eighth grade students who may be fifteen (15) before September 1 may participate in a 9-12 program, even if it is in a different building. Those students would be limited to four (4) years of High School eligibility.

ATHLETIC CODE

To the parents:

It should be remembered that participating in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The major focus is teaching skill, attitudes, knowledge and sportsmanship. The lesson students learn, by being part of a team, teaches them responsibility, cooperation, dedication, and determination, which are all valuable lifetime skills. Parents and athletes should wait at least 24 hours before approaching/contacting the coach on any issues.

To the student athletes:

1. The privilege you have earned to be a part of an interscholastic athletic team at our school is a true extension of your work in the classroom.
2. An athlete will be defined as a student participating in an athletic sport **IN SEASON**.
3. **Each athlete must pass a physical examination and must have an approved MHSAA physical form on file in the office BEFORE he/she is allowed to TRY OUT, PRACTICE, or HAVE EQUIPMENT ISSUED.**
4. Each athlete will be required to wear the equipment and uniform issued by the school. Anyone who fails to return, in good condition, any equipment or uniform issued will be ineligible for any award and for participation in any other sport until the equipment or uniform is returned or the replacement cost is paid.
5. Athletes must use transportation arranged by the school for all contests away from home, unless other transportation is approved in writing, one day in advance by the athletic director or ERMS office prior to such contests. If the athlete rides home with a parent without prior consent they will be unable to participate in the next contest.
6. Athletes will not be allowed to compete in an athletic contest or practice unless they have attended school **ALL DAY** on the day of the contest or practice. Extenuating circumstances such as funerals, medical appointments, court appearances, etc will be given consideration.

7. Athletes who attend school are expected to be at practice unless excused in advance by the coach. Unexcused absences to practice will result in suspension from the next contest. The coach will contact the parent if a student has an unexcused absence to practice. Repeated incidents may result in removal from the team.
8. Athletes with notes not to participate in gym will not be allowed to practice or compete for the day(s) stated in the note.
9. Certificates will be issued for completion of a sport.
10. An athlete found to be in possession of a prohibited substance and/or materials will forfeit the privilege of athletic participation as determined by the athletic director.
11. Student athletes who are suspended or referred to RTC for violation of school rules and/or policy will adhere to the following guidelines:
 - A. RTC Referral - may have a one game suspension.
 - B. First Suspension - one game suspension.
 - C. Second Suspension - two-week suspension. Remaining days of suspension will be carried over to the next season/year, if necessary.
 - D. Third Suspension may result in immediate termination of all athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.
 - E. Athletes may not practice with their team on the days they are suspended out of school. This is in addition to their game suspension(s).
12. If a coach has additional rules they will be provided in writing before the first contest.

EATON RAPIDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
EMERGENCY CARE PERMISSION

STUDENT NAME _____

In case of illness or injury, you should contact one of the following:

1. _____ Phone _____

2. _____ Phone _____

If it is impossible to contact one of the above persons, you may contact our family doctor:

Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

In case of serious illness or injury, I hereby request that authorized school personnel transfer my child directly to the hospital, or send by ambulance if needed, and I will assume all financial obligations.

Hospital preferred: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

List any allergies, medications, special care needs, or the wearing of things such as contacts, braces or diabetes:

You may also want to list any serious injuries or illnesses your son or daughter has had or other physical problems of which you are aware.

We have read the athletic handbook and agree to abide by its policies.

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

