MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE

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Students are offered a wide variety of extra-curricular sports activities. It is important to know that Caledonia is a member of the WMMSC (West Michigan Middle School Conference - Gold) League. 7th & 8th grade students are eligible to participate in the following sports offered by membership in this league: Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Track, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling, Tennis, and Cheerleading. 6th grade students are eligible to participate in Cross Country, Wrestling, and Tennis. Parents will be requested to attend parent meetings, per individual sport, which will be conducted by the coach of the sport. Information about physicals and participation fees are listed below:

- **Physicals:**
  - Students must have on file a current physical issued after April 15, 2018. Physical cards are available on the website or in the Athletic Office.
  - A completed Physicals card must be on file before participating in the first scheduled try-out and/or practice.
  - Each year, in May or June, sports physicals are offered at the high school, for a minimal fee.
- **Participation Fee Schedule:**
  - $75.00 per sport. If a second child, in the same family, is in a sport in the same season the fee will be $50.00 for the second child.
  - There will be a $300.00 limit collected per family per academic year. (Note: Middle school participation fees are separate from high school fees.)
  - Fees are due prior to try-outs/practices. If the fee constitutes a financial hardship for the family, the Athletic Office should be notified in writing before tryouts/first practice so that financial arrangements may be made.
- **Uniform Policy:**
  - Uniforms will be issued to athletes to use during season.
  - Uniforms are to be worn only during scheduled contests, not to and from contests or during school hours.
  - Uniforms need to be returned in the same condition as they were received.
  - Uniforms will be turned in to athletic office within one week of last scheduled contest.
  - If a uniform is not returned in the same condition as it was issued, the student will be charged for the cost of a new uniform.
  - If additional clothing is needed under the uniform, it MUST be a white short/long sleeved sleeve shirt and black leggings.
- **Game Cancellations:**
  - Every effort will be made to adhere to the posted schedules handed out by coaches. However, there may be times game dates must be changed. Cancellations will be made by 1:30PM. An email will be sent and an announcement will be made to inform the Athletes.
- **Travel/Transportation:**
  - Transportation to and from games must be carried out using school busses. Exception to this policy would be lack of available busses, or a very limited number of athletes to be transported.
  - The coach or other responsible adults may drive a school-owned van.
  - A schedule of departure times is to be worked out with the athletic office before the start of the season. It is the head coach's responsibility to check these times. If private vehicles must be used, then parental permission slips must be obtained.
  - Busses do not stop for meals going to or returning from sporting events. Nutritional sack lunches, brought from home, are recommended for athletes.
- **Trip conduct:**
  - Representatives of Caledonia Middle Schools are expected to look and act like ladies and gentlemen. This is especially important when they are on the road. Discipline in this area is manifested in the following manner:
    - Everyone should be on the bus, ready to leave, at the set time of departure.
    - Everyone should be properly dressed and remain so throughout the trip.
    - Mannerly conduct must be maintained on all road trips.
    - Athletes must obtain permission from the bus driver ahead of time to eat on the bus. Athletes are to make sure all trash is picked up before leaving the bus.

- All athletes should maintain emotional stability in the face of failure or success.
- Athletes riding the bus will return home on the bus unless the coach allows them to ride home with an authorized adult. Written notification must be submitted to the coach well in advance of the away contest. Athletes not riding the bus home from a competition must be signed out with the coach before leaving.
- Athletes, at all times, should follow the behavior guidelines of the middle school's six Character Pillars.

- **Changing/Quitting a Sport:**
  - Quitting any team sport must be regarded as a serious matter. No athlete should quit a sport without being in "good standing". This means that the athlete has talked with the coach involved, notified the athletic office in writing, paid all fees, and returned all equipment. An athlete will be permitted to participate in the next sport season if he/she is cleared according to the "good standing" guidelines.

TENTATIVE Middle School Sports Schedule:

FALL	WINTER I	WINTER II	SPRING
Cross Country Start Date: 9/4/18	Boy's Basketball Start Date: 10/23/18	Wrestling Start Date: 1/9/19	Track Start Date: 3/18/19
Girl's Volleyball Start Date: 9/4/18	Competitive Cheer Start Date: 11/5/18	Girl's Basketball Start Date: 1/14/19	Tennis Start Date: 3/18/19
Sideline Cheer Start Date: 9/4/18			

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility will be checked every two weeks.
- A grade below C- (70%) is considered failing for eligibility purposes.
- A student-athlete who is below a C- in two or more classes will appear on the ineligibility list.
- A student-athlete who appears on the ineligibility list will receive notification along with their parents and coach
- The student-athlete will be placed on probation for one-week in an attempt to improve their grades (They are still allowed to participate in athletic contests)
- After the probation week, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in any athletic contests if they still have below a C- in two or more classes; They can return to athletic contests once they no longer have below a C- in two or more classes
- Student-athletes are required to attend all practices and games for which they are ineligible, sit on the bench with the team, and take part in any non-game related activities.

Appeals may be submitted to the Athletic Office for extenuating circumstances. The principal must approve ALL decisions at this level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRAINING CODE

Caledonia Community Schools provide a well-rounded program of interscholastic and competitive athletics. It is a privilege afforded by the Board of Education to each member of a Caledonia athletic team. The athletic program at the middle school is a privilege.

Student athletes must develop and maintain habits of personal behavior and health that will enable them to perform at an optimum level. These requirements are in place to minimize the risk of injury and to also allow a student to represent themselves and Caledonia in a manner, which merits respect from all. Questions regarding the Training Code and its application may be directed to your head coach, the middle school athletic coordinator or the Principal.

I. WHO/WHEN

All members of athletic teams (players, managers, and trainers) are bound by the following training rules at all times throughout the entire calendar year.

II. TOBACCO USE/POSSESSION VIOLATION

- Athletic training rules forbid the use or possession of tobacco (in any form), including electronic forms of tobacco, by any athlete who represents a school athletic team.

PENALTY

- **First Offense** will result in immediate suspension from interscholastic competition for 30% of the scheduled athletic contests in the sport the athlete is participating in, or will participate in. The suspension (if not completely served) will carry over into the next season of competition if the athlete does not complete the required 30% in the season in which the offence was reported.
- **Second Offense** will result in suspension from all athletics for a period of twelve (12) months from the first date of the suspension.
- **Third Offense** will result in permanent suspension of the athlete from participation in athletics for his/her remaining time in middle school.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

- The student will be informed of the violation and suspension by his/her coach and/or athletic coordinator. A parental contact will be made by the coach and/or athletic coordinator to inform the parent/guardian of the violation and suspension.
- An appeal of the suspension may be requested by the parent/guardian and/or athlete to the building principal within ten (10) days of receipt of the suspension letter. Said appeals must be in writing to the principal.

III. CONTROL SUBSTANCE or ALCOHOL POSSESSION/USE VIOLATION

- Athletic training rules forbid the possession, use or abuse of any drugs (schedule1), anabolic steroids, look alike drugs, narcotics or alcohol in any form by any athlete who represents Caledonia Community Schools.

PENALTY

- **First Offense** will result in immediate suspension from interscholastic competition for 50% of the scheduled athletic contests in the sport the athlete is participating in, or will participate in. The suspension (if not completely served) will carry over into the next season of competition if the athlete does not complete the required 50% in the season in which the offence was reported.
- **Second Offense** will result in suspension from all athletics for a period of twelve (12) months from the first date of the suspension.
- **Third Offense** will result in permanent suspension of the athlete from participation in athletics for his/her remaining time in middle school and entire high school career.

IV. SCHOOL SUSPENSION

- An athlete serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to practice or participate on the days of the suspension. If a suspension carries over the weekend (Thursday-Friday-Monday), the athlete will not participate in any Saturday events. The suspension is not considered an unexcused absence.

V. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION

- An athlete shall conduct him/herself in such a manner as to not bring discredit to the school, team, or him/herself. Examples of behavior unbecoming an athlete are stated in this handbook under the "Student Code of Conduct". Athletes are to exhibit exemplary citizenship both on and off the playing field.
- Athletes referred to the SSC with two minor violations during a 2-week eligibility report period will follow the Eligibility Cycle previously mentioned in this section.
- If the SSC, with Principal review, determines that a major violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred, the athlete may be placed on the Eligibility Cycle immediately.

ATTENDANCE (AS IT RELATES TO ATHLETES)

SCHOOL ABSENCES

An athlete may not participate in an athletic event or practice if he/she has been absent from school the day of the athletic event or practice. **He/she must be in school for the ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY** unless the student athlete has received PRIOR permission by the principal or his/her designee.

- Types of allowable pre-excused absences include school functions, medical or dental appointments, funerals or other valid reasons that may not involve an illness of the athlete. School excuses students, who are ill for a partial day, and return to school the same day ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PRACTICE OR PLAY THAT DATE.
- A student athlete, who misses school on Friday, with an excused absence, may play in a Saturday contest if he/she has parental permission.
- Athletes are expected to be present for an entire practice or competition.
- Student athletes commit to putting their school team first when in conflict with a different outside sport in the same season.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Before the end of the first week of practice, athletes must present their coach with any anticipated absences that can't be rescheduled so that these absences will not be penalized.
- A parent/guardian must submit a signed note, e-mail or phone message to the coach, stating the reason for an absence before an absence will be considered excused. (A student absence from the school day will be considered excused, without a note, if the student's parent/guardian has contacted the office regarding the absence.)

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Athletes with an unexcused absence may not participate in the next competition. They will be required to attend and sit on the sideline/bench with the team during the competition.
- Athletes will be dropped from the team on the third unexcused absence,

TARDIES

- 3 unexcused tardies to practice will count as an unexcused absence. (Being on time means being dressed in appropriate clothing and shoes, ready to warm-up by the time of practice or report time for a competition.)
- A student tardy to a competition may not participate until after half time.
- Students who are picked-up late from practice or a competition will receive an unexcused absence if the coach has followed the cycle below:
  1st Occurrence = Conference with student.
  2nd Occurrence = Contact with parent
  3rd Occurrence = Unexcused absence

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR 2018/19 MS ATHLETIC CODE

(This page must be sign and returned to Athletic Office, before Athlete can participate.)

We consider the school to be an extension of the homes in our community and have a high regard for the role parents play in shaping the behaviors of their children. As you review this Athletic Code with your athlete, we thank you for your support of our policy. To signify your support and understanding, please take time to sign below. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies, please feel free to call the middle school.

"We, the undersigned, have read the Athletic Code and have reviewed it with our athlete.

Parent's/Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature_____ Date: _____

Student's Printed Name: _____

Student's Signature_____ Date: _____