

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
No. 716

# Belle Plaine Public Schools



## 2018-2019 Parent/Student Activities Handbook

Activities Director  
John Bergs

*Expecting Excellence from Everyone, Every Day!*

[www.belleplaine.k12.mn.us](http://www.belleplaine.k12.mn.us)

# **BELLE PLAINE ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY**

## **Philosophy and Purpose:**

It is the basic educational philosophy of the Belle Plaine Schools to prepare its students to become productive, contributing citizens of their community and society. Co-curricular activities are school sponsored and directed activities designed to provide opportunities for pupils to participate, on an individual or group basis, in school and public events for the improvement of skills. The activities program is a complete extension of this philosophy.

Within this context, it is the purpose of the school's activities program to foster and promote:

- The ideals of competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship while achieving the twin goals of success and participation.
- The development of self-confidence, self-discipline, organization, decision-making skills and goal orientation.
- The concept of an integral relationship between a sound mind and a sound body leading to lifetime appreciation for physical fitness and good health habits.

A positive feeling of school loyalty and pride which can be shared by all participants, other students, parents, coaches/advisors, and the community as a whole.

## **10 Commandments of Positive Parenting an Activities Participant**

1. Be positive with your child - let them know they are accomplishing something just by being on a team.
2. Encourage your child - don't offer excuses if they aren't participating at the level you wish.
3. Remember the "coach" represents authority, just like a parent, teacher, etc. Teach your child to be a doer, not a complainer.
4. Lead your child to follow MSHSL, School, Team rules. Being an activity participant is demanding and you need to help your child fulfill the duties and expectations.
5. Insist on good grades. It is your duty to be sure your child is making progress towards graduation.
6. The events are for your kids - let them have fun.
7. Support your child and be positive in your cheering. Don't be belligerent towards coaches/officials.
8. Self respect begins with self control. Teach your child to model good sportsmanship as he/she represents your family, school, team.
9. Encourage your child to improve his/her self image by having a strong "belief" system. Help them to be dedicated to their team and family.
10. Encourage your child to play for the "love of the game." Insist on Unselfishness. Good things happen to the unselfish, hard working student.

## **FEE SCHEDULE:**

A:	Football 9-12	\$150
	Football 7-8	\$115
	All Other Sports 9-12	\$135
	All Other Sports 7-8	\$100
	Fall Play	\$100
	Fall Musical	\$125
	One Act Play	\$125
	Junior High Play	\$50
	Visual Arts **	\$60
	JH Visual Arts	\$40
	Robotics	\$100
	Speech	\$125
	Weight Room	No Fee

\*\*\* A fee will be required of pit orchestra members(musical) and crew members only if the student is striving for a drama letter.

B: Families on Free or Reduced Lunch pay 50% of the fee.

C: Family maximum = \$330 if one child.  
\$500 if two children.  
\$600 if three or more children.

D: Refunds will be allowed during the first week of practice only; except in cases of extended illness or other situations that are unique and approved by the administration. In no instance will a refund be granted after half the season has been completed.

## **ADMITTANCE FEES**

Minnesota River Conference admittance fees will be:

\$6 for adults  
\$4 for students.

BPHS season passes will be available in the district office.

Family Pass Pricing will be: \$100 = for adults  
\$65 = for students  
\$250 = for family  
Free = for Senior Citizens

## **STUDENT / ACTIVITY CONDUCT POLICY**

Belle Plaine Public Schools recognizes that students who participate in any school sponsored extracurricular activity are important representatives of the school and community. Therefore

any Belle Plaine student who exhibits conduct that is unbecoming of a representative of the Belle Plaine Public Schools will receive disciplinary action as determined by school officials.

A Belle Plaine student participating in any school sponsored extra-curricular activity who is guilty of illegal possession and/or charged by a law enforcement agency will be considered in violation of the Minnesota State High School League Eligibility Rules. That student will be disciplined according to current standards established by Belle Plaine High School and the Minnesota State High School League Eligibility Rules.

### **WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY PRACTICES**

The district believes that it is important to help minimize family choices made between family time and scheduled pre Kindergarten-12th grade sponsored functions. Therefore, from September 1st to April 30th, no school sponsored activities for which the district controls will be held after 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, and no activities will be scheduled before 12 noon on Sundays.

The MSHSL bylaws prevent scheduling of practice or games on a Sunday, but there is not a bylaw to prevent scheduling games on a legal holiday. The Board discourages schools from scheduling games on legal holidays.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

In order for a student to participate in an extracurricular practice, game, event, or contest, she/he must be in class all day. Any exception must be approved by the Activities Director or building principal. (Exceptions can be, not limited to, funerals, college visit, field trips. Any student whose parents have called in to excuse them for a doctor or dental appointment will not be affected by this policy).

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

1. A student participating in MSHSL or Belle Plaine extracurricular activities must pass all classes or credits.

2. A student who receives a failing grade at the conclusion of a grading period may regain eligibility at mid-quarter of the next grading period if he/she is passing all classes at that time.

3. A student failing a class at quarter checkpoints will be ineligible until the grade is raised to a passing grade.

4. The cases of students not meeting academic requirements may be reviewed on an individual basis by the Activities/Academic Committee. Requirements for eligibility may be waived for those students determined to be working to their capacity. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed and acted upon by the Committee. (The Activities/Academic Committee will consist of the Building Principal, Activities Director, the Coach of the student and the teacher(s) of the student in concern.)

5. A student who receives an F at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be ineligible for any contests/games that happen before school starts the next year. The student will regain eligibility the first day of school. The only exception is if the student made up the credit during summer school. Participating in tryouts and scrimmages will be allowed.

## **BELLE PLAINE ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY: Amended Sept.04**

### PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

All student athletes desiring to participate shall meet attendance, conduct, and scholastic requirements.

The Athletic Department believes student/athletes in Grades 7-8 should play at grade level. Movement of players to a higher level is discouraged. However, it is recognized that exceptional student/athletes do appear in a program. If a 7th-8th-9th grade student is deemed talented enough to participate on a higher level squad ( in a sport where this is not the norm) and if the player's abilities are a necessary component to the current year's team as a whole, movement can take place upon approval of all the following: Athlete, Parents, Coaches, Activities Director and Principal(s). In Grades 9-12, coaches must have the flexibility to move players to their proper level of competition. Student athletes in Grades 7-8 who have been moved forward in a program and have spent the majority of playing time at the higher level may not be moved back down in order to participate in tournaments.

### **7TH AND 8TH GRADE TEAMS:**

The primary concern is to provide a program which will allow each athlete optimal participation regardless of their skill level. The following guidelines should apply to assure that the program is for the benefit of the athlete. These guidelines are as follows:

- All Athletes that meet the academic and attendance standard and actively participate shall be given practice time and game time.
- All team members have a uniform or are dressed alike (if possible) for competition. These three guidelines of participation are of philosophical nature. They are made possible by the coaches following the procedures listed here:
- Each junior high coach must follow the philosophy of participation. The desire to include every athlete is more important than the desire to win a given contest. Certain games or meet alterations are needed and worked out by all coaches to assure participation.
- Practices must be planned and organized effectively to deal with the large number of participants and the wide variety of skill levels.
- Facilities must be used to their greatest advantage. Cooperation is needed between boys coaches and girls coaches as well as between the other groups and organizations that share school facilities.

Coaches must remember that the above guidelines and procedures are a result of coaches working for the “development” of each participant. Each individual that comes to a coach has many human needs; physical, emotional, social, etc. It is important to coach the athlete as well as the sport. When dealing with athletes, several basic characteristics and needs of these athletes should be taken into consideration:

- Physical, mental and emotional growth and development.
- Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self- motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing graciously.
- Team play with the development of such commitments as loyalty, cooperation, fair play and other desirable social traits.
- A need to belong to a group and be accepted by peers.
- The need to explore a variety of experiences.
- A chance to channel their energies in physical activity of some kind.
- A means of achieving self-satisfaction (Opportunity for success)

The coach must be willing to work with any athlete who is interested and has a need to belong, not just work with the gifted, highly skilled athlete. As a coach of young athletes, we must constantly be seeking to aid our participants in the best way possible. Each of them is an important individual whose experiences shape attitudes and action for the future.

#### **“C” TEAM:**

“C” Team is considered a transition year. Participation in practice and contest will continue to be emphasized and no squad members will be cut on the basis of ability. “C” Team coaches will make every effort to give significant playing time to all players throughout the OVERALL season, (playing time may be based on practice, cooperation and attitude). With the philosophy of participation, teams will strive to be competitive.

#### **VARSITY AND “B” TEAMS:**

Participation by the most skilled that will enable possibilities for individual and team success (in some cases it may be necessary and permitted, to limit the size of the Varsity and “B” squads to a workable number).

#### **SELECTION POLICY FOR VARSITY AND “B” TEAMS**

##### Responsibility

- Choosing the members of athletic squads is the responsibility of the Head Coach and coaches of those squads.
- Prior to trying out, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:
  - Extent of try-out period
  - Criteria used to select the team

- Minimum numbers to be selected for the team
- Practice commitment if they make the team
- Game commitments
- When working with players that have *equal* ability and talent, preferential consideration will be given to juniors and seniors at the varsity level.

Procedure

1. When a squad number is limited, the process will include three important elements. Each candidate shall:
  - a. Have an opportunity to participate in a minimum of (5) practices.
  - b. Have performed in at least one intrasquad/scrimmage game/session.
  - c. Be personally informed of the reason why the candidate was not chosen by the coach
2. Candidates not chosen for the squad will NOT BE POSTED.
  - a. Participation fees collected from athletes will be fully refunded to those not
  - b. Athletes not selected to the squads will not be allowed to practice due to space.
  - c. Athletes not selected will be encouraged to be part of the team through team management positions.
3. Coaches will discuss alternative possibilities for participation in the sport, or other areas in the activities program.
4. If a coach foresees difficulties as a result of squad selection, he/she should discuss the situation with the Activities Director.
5. If the number of participants is low in any grade level, players will be allowed to move to equalize the numbers. This will not eliminate playing time for any individual.

**Recommended minimum number of players for teams/events.**

Baseball/Softball	12	Basketball	10
Football	18	Volleyball	

Any adjustment to the recommendations must be approved by mutual consent of the Activities Director, Coaches and Administration.

**PROBLEM/CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

As coaches we are professionals and are expected to conduct ourselves in a professional manner. We cannot promise that all concerns can be resolved to individual preferences, but we can promise that we will listen to concerns and respond to the best of our ability. In order for our programs to be successful, we must all work together-parent, coach and participant. We strive to do what is best for each individual student within the concept of team. As teachers and coaches we care a great deal about your son or daughter and want to contribute to his/her individual development in a positive way.

To allow for an appropriate exchange of opinions when the need arises in our program of activities, the following procedure has been developed to create an open line of communication between school, parent/guardian, student and coach. The procedure will allow for an exchange of opinion in a professional manner.

1. Most conflicts are better resolved with an appropriate cooling down period. No conflict between a parent, student, official or coach/advisor should be addressed during or immediately after an activity. The activity site, practice field, lobby or locker room are not appropriate places to handle conflict. If you have a concern, please call or arrange a meeting the following work day after the incident. Many of our coaches teach in the district. Most coaches have voicemail in the building where they teach. Leave a message and the coach will return the call. If you wish, a letter to the coach may be the most appropriate way to initiate a dialogue. If your concern has not been addressed to your satisfaction, then refer to the flow chart below. As you see, the first step is participant contacts coach.

2. Chain of Communication - Every organization has and needs orderly process to use when problems/issues arise. Follows is the Belle Plaine Schools chain of communication:

- Participant contacts Coach
- Parents contact Coach
- Parents contact Activities Director
- Parents contact High School Principal
- Parents contact Superintendent of Schools
- Parents contact School Board

Parents/athletes are strongly encouraged to follow this chain of communication whenever an issue arises concerning a coach or director. If a concern is not resolved to your satisfaction at one level, you are encouraged to go to the next level in the chain of communication. However, all concerns should begin with the coach/director and then advance up the chain.

## **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents are expected to encourage their children to perform to the best of their abilities both in activities and in the classroom. They should be a source of support for the athletes and the program in which they are participating.

Parents should be role models for children and set a good example for all of our students at Belle Plaine High School. As such, they will exemplify good attitudes by treating all players, coaches, fans, officials and other parents with respect and dignity. Parents must insist that students abide by rules established by the coach, school district and the Minnesota State High School League.

Parents should be positive in support of their own team and recognize the achievements of the opposing team. Vulgar, racial, derogatory or disparaging remarks are never appropriate.



Parents should all their children to enjoy the benefits of competition, remembering that not everyone can be the star, be on the first team, or have equal playing time.

### **SEASONAL MEETINGS**

Once each season BPHS will hold a mandatory meeting for parents and students in which the Activities Director will highlight rules of the MSHSL and Belle Plaine HS. After this initial section of the program, students in grades 7-12 will meet with their coaches.

### **BASEBALL/SOFTBALL POLICY**

The Community and School Policy states that:

- No member of the high school baseball or softball team will be permitted to join the city program until the high school season is completed, unless permission is granted by the head coach after consultation with the Activities Director. A player/student must have successfully completed his/her sophomore year to be eligible to participate in the city program.
- In city tournaments, no high school player can receive cash prizes. It is recommended that awards and prizes for non-school participation should be of a symbolic nature. However, the acceptance of an award valued at less than \$25.00 when received for non-school participation will not constitute a violation of the amateur status.

## **MSHSL CATEGORY I, II, AND NON HSL ACTIVITIES POLICIES**

### **Category I Policy:**

1. During the calendar year, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not:
  - A. Use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
  - B. Use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or,
  - C. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
  
2. Penalties and Recommendations for Category I Activities:  
Category I Activities: Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments:  
Athletic Activities: as listed in bylaw 412.00 - Sponsored Activities  
  
Fine Arts Activities:
  1. Debate
  2. Speech Activities including One Act Play - when a school schedules a season of interscholastic contestants.

### **First Violation Penalty**

The student shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

### **Second Violation Penalty**

The student shall lose eligibility for the next six (6) consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

Recommendations:

1) It is recommended that before being readmitted to activities following suspension for the second violation, the student shall now evidence in writing that the student has sought or has received counseling from a community agency or professional individual such as a school counselor, drug counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist.

2) It is recommended that, when appropriate, the school refer a student to a community agency or a professional individual outside the school for assessment of potential chemical abuse or misuse.

### **Third or Subsequent Violation Penalty**

1) The student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve (12) consecutive interscholastic contests or four (4) weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.

2) If after the third or subsequent violations, the student on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, and is assessed as chemically dependent and completes treatment, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six weeks after entering program. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

### **Pick Up From Practice**

Please be on time to pick up your child after practice. This will help with supervision of the building.

### **Bus to Events**

The school district provides transportation to out of town events. Students are encouraged and in some cases expected to ride the bus to and home from competitions/events. In the event you wish your child to ride home with you, please contact the Activities Director in writing. If that cannot work, a face to face/written message to the coach at the event site is necessary.

## **BELLE PLAINE LETTERING POLICY**

### **Awards:**

The Monogram BP will be given after a student has earned the first letter. Only one letter will be issued to a student while participating in activities at Belle Plaine. An emblem will be given with

the first letter indicating in which activity the student lettered. A medal bar will be given for each year and each activity a student letters in a sport or activity.

Senior students will receive a certificate, (known as the **Senior Activities Award**), with all letters noted on the certificate, which have been earned by the student.

In order to qualify for a letter the following criteria must be adhered to:

- The student must complete the season.
- No letter will be issued until all school equipment is returned.
- All fund raising money must be turned in or overdue fines paid before the letter will be awarded.
- Coaches discretion
- An injured senior who was unable to finish the season may earn a letter (depending on coaches discretion)
- Display conduct and attitude which is commendable to the team, school and community.

NOTE: Each coach/program will determine his or her own criteria for obtaining a letter. This criteria is in all cases approved by administration. A senior is not entitled to a letter unless the coach says he or she has earned one.

## **TIGER TARGET TEAM PROJECT**

*The following information was compiled through meetings with the Tiger TARGET Team (leadership students at BPHS). (May, 2005)*

### What Participants Should Expect from Coaches:

To show Leadership and guidance  
To Motivate, encourage, constructively criticize  
To understand the student has a personal life away from the activity  
To be Cooperative and knowledgeable  
To have a Positive attitude, Role model good behavior

### What Coaches Should Expect from Participants

Be to practice and games (events) on time  
Be leaders and a positive influence; always try your best  
To show good sportsmanship in and out of school  
Compete for your position (don't assume it's yours)  
Stay eligible - make good decisions by staying chemically free and following all rules of team and school  
Teamwork. The needs of the team come before his/her own needs

### What Coaches Should Expect from Parents/Guardians

Respect for decisions they make and support the program, participants, and coaches

Encourage their kids and set an example by showing good sportsmanship

To respect the coach's personal life

Enforce drug and alcohol regulations, school and team rules

Volunteerism

To contact them with open and honest concerns

### What Parents Should Expect from Coaches

Good, clear communication including updates on schedules, status, etc.

Respect their kids and give them a fair chance for playing time; bring everyone to their maximum potential

Be a good role-model and have good sportsmanship

Respect officials and the game

Be organized, dedicated, motivated, enthusiastic

Teach their children tea

## **Minnesota River Conference Sportsmanship Creed**

### **All coaches, players, and fans**

- Accept officials decisions
- Be respectful at all times
- Respect public property
- Display good sportsmanship
- Show respect for coaching decisions during and after games.

**BELLE PLAINE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**TIGER ACTIVITIES**  
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**MSHSL CATEGORY I**

Football  
Volleyball  
Girls Tennis  
Cross Country  
Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Wrestling  
Baseball  
Softball  
Track  
Golf  
Speech  
Dance Team  
Girls Hockey

**MSHSL CATEGORY II**

One Act Play  
Large Group/SE Choir  
Large Group/SE Band  
Visual Arts  
Trap Shooting League  
Robotics

**non HSL ACTIVITIES**

Three Act or Musical  
Art League  
FFA  
Pep Club  
Student Council  
Yearbook  
NHS  
Science Fair  
Tiger TARGET Team  
Tiger Pals  
Band  
Concert Choir  
Youth Teaching Youth

