

## INSTRUCTION – MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM

Extra curricular activities, including athletics, at the Middle School should be available to all interested students who are members of Bemidji Area Schools. The primary emphasis should be skills development and participation. Our general philosophy is to keep sixth, seventh and eighth grade students with other students of similar age, grade level and general maturity.

Within the Middle School, students will participate in activities at their academic grade level unless the activity is organized as multi-grade by the Middle School Principal.

When more than one team is organized for a particular activity or grade level:

- All teams shall have equal access to practice time.
- Balance in the number of student participants on each team is encouraged.
- All teams shall have equal number of competitive contests.

A critical issue for program success is communication with students and parent(s)/guardian(s). The coach or advisor is responsible for developing written rules, expectations, schedule of contests, and procedures for asking questions during the season. A preseason parent(s)/guardian(s)-student-coach meeting is required. Periodic memos are encouraged to share information about traveling schedules, meals and general information.

On rare occasions, a middle school student with exceptional talent in a particular activity may be given consideration to participate at a higher level than his/her grade level if the student is physically, emotionally or academically mature. The needs of the student and concern for his/her physical, mental, emotional and academic well-being requires a thoughtful and careful evaluation.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing thoughtful guidelines for exceptional Middle School students being allowed to play on higher grade level team within the Middle School or High School

Nonpublic students who enroll in and attend classes at Bemidji Middle School are eligible to participate in Bemidji Middle School activities and athletics. This provision only applies to nonpublic students in grades 6, 7 and 8.