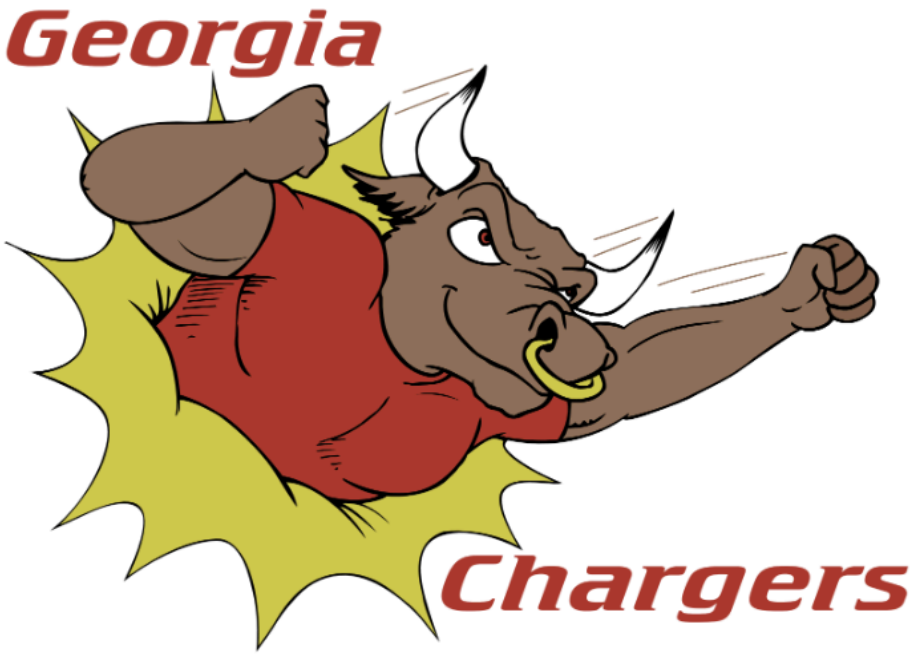
GEORGIA MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Our Mission

Our purpose as a school community is to develop confident, respectful, healthy individuals who connect learning and self-knowledge to understand their potential and make the most of future opportunities.

Our school values relationships and learning as the foundation for Competence, growth, and achievement.

Meaningful relationships depend on:
Valuing individual differences
Open and honest communication
A universal sense of belonging

Learning depends on:
Questioning, investigation, and reflection
Relevance to the learner
Participation and ownership in the process

At Georgia Elementary and Middle School, we strive to create a culture of learning guided by the needs of our students.

Updated 08/01/2026

The Sportsman's Creed

Student Athlete:

- Conduct themselves both on and off the field in an appropriate manner.
- Demonstrate proper sportsmanship at all times.
- Be safe, playing hard, and always trying their best regardless of the outcome.
- Show respect toward opposing teams, coaches, fans, facilities, equipment, and officials at all times.

Parents/Guardians:

- Support your student-athlete, their teammates, and coaches by positively modeling sportsmanship.
- Provide transportation to and from school for practices and games/events within the provided scheduled times.
- Communicate with coaches in a respectful manner regarding your student-athlete.
- Let students play, coaches coach, and referees officiate.

Coach:

- Teach techniques, skills, strategies, tactics, and playing rules.
- Teach sportsmanship, cooperation, work ethic, and responsibility.
- Support the school's position on academic and disciplinary policies.
- Condition athletes appropriately for activities requiring endurance, strength, coordination, and agility.
- Supervise and conduct practices and contests safely.
- Supervise locker rooms and buses.
- Respond to player injuries with approved first aid techniques. Completing the concussion course at nfhs.learn.
- Communicate to parents and administrators regularly.

Administration:

- Create athletic opportunities for all middle school students.
- Ensuring the program goals and objectives are meeting the needs of the Georgia Middle School student-athlete.
- Schedule practices and games (schedule qualified officials) within the VPA guidelines.
- Hire, supervise, and evaluate coaching staff.
- Distribute supplies, uniforms and maintain safe playing areas.
- Arrange adequate supervision for all athletic events.

Georgia Middle School is in agreement with the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) that all aspects of middle grade education should be driven by an understanding of the unique physical, physiological, emotional, and educational needs of the students.

In order to meet all of the above needs, coaches, and administration work closely together. Through our combined efforts the student-athlete will:

1. Develop a life-long interest in sports
2. Develop appropriate attitudes when adversity arises in their life
3. Develop proper time management skills
4. Develop healthy competitiveness with an emphasis on sportsmanship and teamwork
5. Develop self-confidence
6. Develop a sense of well being and respect for others

Philosophy

As a school, we place emphasis on the whole child and not just the competition. Teaching the fundamentals, the value of working together, displaying proper sportsmanship and appropriate conduct on and off the playing field makes for positive community members.

We will offer opportunities in which the participants will learn about leadership, hard work, dedication, self-control, respecting others, and honesty through such activities as athletics, clubs, intramurals, and participation in community activities.

Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for all student-athletes in grades five through eight are as follows:

1. Students must be a Georgia Middle School student or being homeschooled as a Georgia resident.
2. Students must be in good standing with all classes.
3. All student-athletes must meet the requirements set forth by the VPA.
4. All student-athletes are required to get a sports clearance physical with proof in writing from their physician's office every two years.

Quality Coach and Parent Communication

Communication expected from your coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations of your child and the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Any discipline that may result in the denial of your child's full participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts that may occur.
3. Specific concerns regarding philosophy and player/team expectations.

Transportation

- Busing: Buses will be provided for all away sporting events Monday through Friday. Saturday events require parents to provide transportation. Students may leave following an away game ONLY with a parent or guardian by signing out the student with the coach.

- Arrival and Pick Up: Students are not allowed to be on school property unsupervised. Therefore, players may arrive no more than 15 minutes early for a scheduled team function (practice or game/competition) unless otherwise communicated by a coach or adult that has committed to supervising student-athletes during that time.

  Likewise, players need to be picked up immediately following all scheduled team functions. We have instituted a 15 minute leeway. The first early arrival or late pick up results in a verbal warning, second early arrival or late pick up results in a written warning, and the third early arrival or late pick up results in dismissal from the team.

Uniforms and Equipment

Players not returning school issued equipment, including uniforms, will be asked to reimburse the cost of those missing items. Likewise, any players purposefully damaging school equipment or property will be asked to both provide monetary compensation for those damages as well as provide restitution through community service to our school or the community in which it is affected.

Student-Athlete Philosophy and Discipline Procedures

Student-athletes have a great responsibility as they are representing themselves, their school, and their community. This responsibility means that they strive to represent Georgia positively in meeting the academic requirements, school citizenship, and sportsmanship standards.

Sportsmanship:
We expect our students to work to embody the best sportsmanship possible during practices, games or competitions, including their behavior both inside and outside of the locker rooms, buses, and playing fields. Students who fail to maintain the standards of sportsmanship will be addressed first by coaches with the potential to have disciplinary consequences determined by coaches, the athletic director, or the principal.

The use of profanity at any time will not be tolerated. If it is something that reoccurs then a meeting with the player, coach, parent, and athletic director will take place to discuss a plan moving forward. This type of behavior can result in dismissal from the team.

Attendance:
Players are required to attend all practices, games, and team meetings. Players and parents need to communicate with the coach for all missed schedule events.

Excused Absences:
Family emergency or requirement, illness, doctor, dentists appointments, and injury. Playing time may be affected by unexcused absences. Three unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the team.

Student Discipline:
In an activity season, participants are held to a high standard. If a student-athlete commits a major incident during the season, the following process will be administered: *see appendix

1. First major incident results in a possible verbal warning.
2. Second major incident results in a possible one game suspension.
3. Third major incident results in a possible two game suspension.
4. Fourth major incident results in a possible removal from the team.

School Suspension:
If a student-athlete receives an in-school or out-of-school suspension, the following process will be administered:

1. A half day or full day of in-school or out of school suspension, the student-athlete will miss one game.
2. For any number exceeding one, the student-athlete will miss that number of games based on the days suspended from school.
3. Student-athletes must be properly dressed on the bench with their team for those suspended games to count.

If detention or suspension falls on a game day, then the student-athlete must serve the due process on that day and the missed fame will count towards their penalty.

Vaping, Drugs, and Alcohol Violations:
The use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs is strictly forbidden. This will result in immediate dismissal from the team. Other school consequences are also likely in accordance with school policy.

Defining and Sorting Problem Behaviors

(Minor) Behaviors that:	(Major) Behaviors that:
do not require administrator involvement	may require administrator involvement
do not significantly violate rights of others	Significantly violate rights of others
do not put others at risk of harm	put others at risk of harm
are not chronic	are chronic minors

These are defined in order to align to the SWIS program that will sort our data.

Georgia Elementary and Middle School: Minor and Major Behaviors

Minors	Majors
Dishonesty	False Accusations
Defiance	Insubordination
Inappropriate Comments	Directed Inappropriate Comments
Inappropriate Language	Directed-abusive Language
Physical Contact	Physical Aggression
Disrespect- Adult*	Disrespect- Adult*
Disrespect- Student*	Disrespect- Student*
Theft*	Theft*
Threat*	Threat*
Vandalism*	Vandalism*
Technology Violation*	Technology Violation*
Tardy/ Wandering	Leaving without permission
Cheating	Assault
Disruption	Biting/ Spitting
Incomplete Work/ Homework	Fighting
Unprepared	Exposure
Running (in inappropriate locations)	Self-harm
Trading/ Selling/ Buying	Possession of Inappropriate Items
Unsafe Behavior NOS*	Inappropriate Touch/ Affection
Inappropriate Behaviors NOS*	Unsafe behaviors NOS*
	Inappropriate Behaviors NOS*

*Depends on the severity
NOS- not otherwise stated
#Any student with repeated minor behaviors may be referred to as a major behavior after following set procedures.

2026-2027 School Year
Athletic/Extracurricular Activity Participation Agreement

Student Athlete Name (print): _____ is planning to participate in the following sports this school year: Please circle all that apply.

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Soccer (5-8)	Basketball (5-8)	Softball (7/8)
Cross Country (5-8)	Cheerleading (5-8)	Baseball (7/8)
	Volleyball (7/8)	Track & Field (5-8)

Athletes and parents are to sign below, indicating that they have read the athletic policies. As a reminder if any medical information changes or if your child receives an updated physical during the school year, please notify the Athletic Director, Corrina Favreau at cfavreau@fwsu.org so that we may keep the information on your child current.

_____

Athlete Signature Date

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

_____

GEMS Administration Date