

2025-26

Drexler Middle School



Student Activities Manual

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Drexler Activities

PREFACE

This handbook has been prepared to provide a source of information for parents and students that may be interested in the interscholastic activity programs of the Western Dubuque School District. It is impossible to list all the details about the various activity programs in this handbook. Each coach will use his/her discretion in handling the many situations which arise in fulfilling his/her coaching assignment. This booklet contains information which may be useful to students and their parents. This handbook will be reviewed annually and modified when necessary.

WELCOME

The contents of this manual are designed for the parent and athlete and hopefully will answer most questions you may have about the operation of our athletic department.

It is a privilege and an honor for any student to represent Drexler in competitive, performance, and leadership roles. Drexler offers numerous opportunities for students to become involved in school activities with a wide range of teams, organizations, and positions. Our school has a strong tradition of pride and sportsmanship, and we dedicate ourselves to these ideals by “empowering adolescents to achieve their personal best” through hard work, citizenship, and positive attitudes. Drexler students and staff believe that responsibility, respect, honor, and acceptance of others characterize what it means to be a Bobcat.

Our vision is to provide students with activities that are team oriented, based on fundamentals, and a fun, positive experience. Our goal is the development of the individual in the activity that they are participating in.

Western Dubuque Community School District Non-Discrimination Policy

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement: Pursuant to Title IX and other applicable state and federal laws, it is the policy of the Western Dubuque Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and activities and its employment practices, including applicants for employment.

The district has grievance procedures for processing and resolving discrimination complaints, including formal and informal Title IX sex discrimination and sexual harassment complaints, and will respond to complaints accordingly. Discrimination employment grievances that do not fall under Title IX should be directed to Dan Butler, Equity Coordinator, 310 4th Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046, 563-744-3885 x 6004, dan.butler@wdbqschools.org. If you have any questions related to this policy, Title IX inquiries may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, attn. Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202, 800-421-3481, OCR@ed.gov.

Organization and Administration Iowa High School Athletic Association -Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union -Iowa High School Speech Association -Iowa High School Music Association Western Dubuque High School is a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association, the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union the Iowa high School Speech Association and the Iowa High School Music Association.

The purpose of these organizations is to promote, develop, direct, protect, and regulate amateur interscholastic athletic, music and speech activity relationships between member schools and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities throughout the state.

Educational Based Activities

Drexler Middle School is proud that the foundation of their activities is educational based. Without the education component, activities would not be possible at the Junior High level. Activities should help the overall development of our students and offer an extension of the core Academics that are taught in the classroom. It is the belief at Western Dubuque that participation in activities will lead to increased engagement in the overall school system.

WDCSD Guiding Philosophy

It is vital to maintain and develop good, positive curriculum and co-curricular programs. The Western Dubuque School District has developed a Strategic Plan to guide it toward this objective. Strong, positive, and cocurricular programs are an integral part of this plan. Developing and maintaining a reputation for such an athletic program should be the goal of all personnel involved in Western Dubuque Athletics. "Better Every Day"

Western Dubuque County Community School District



VISION

Better Every Day

MISSION

Develop individuals through lasting education and opportunities.

VALUES

People First



We prioritize all people; students, staff, families, and community members are the driving force behind our success.

Continual Growth



We embrace improvement in academics, activities, engagement, environment, and mindset.

Opportunities for All



We promote opportunities for personal, professional, and collective advancement.

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029

COMMITMENTS

Provide a safe environment that supports student social, emotional, and behavioral development.

Secure efficient, effective, and equitable use of resources to support district unity and maintain fiscal integrity.

Ensure a satisfying and engaging partnership with families and communities.

Enhance student growth and achievement in all content areas and career-readiness skills.

Create a productive learning environment that utilizes exemplary professional practices.

Physical Exams/Sports Participation

Refer to School Board Policy [507.1](#) - Student Health and Immunization certificates

All athletes must have all forms filled out and turned in before they will be eligible to practice. The forms are student information form, concussion form, and physical form.

ARTICLE VII 36.14(1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. Every year each student (grades 7-12) shall present to the student's superintendent a certificate signed by a licensed physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, osteopath, advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), physician's assistant or qualified doctor of chiropractic, to the effect that the student has been examined and may safely engage in athletic competition. This certificate of physical examination is

valid for the purposes of this rule for one (1) calendar year. A grace period, not to exceed thirty (30) days, is allowed for expired certifications of physical examination.

Student Participation Policy for Activities

Students at Drexler who become involved in our activity program share in the responsibility of being at practice when it is scheduled. Thus, to be fair to all students, the following rules will apply to all activities unless a separate policy is developed by the sponsor and approved by the activity director prior to the start of the activity.

1. Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school one-half day the day of the activity unless permission has been given by the activities director or principal for the student to be absent.
2. Excused absences (i.e. doctor, dental appointments, family emergencies, etc.) should be discussed with your coach or sponsor BEFORE the absence whenever possible.
- 3 The FIRST UNEXCUSED ABSENCE from a practice, performance, or competition will result in a conversation between student and coach/sponsor. Missing part of the next game, meet, or performance will be determined by coach/sponsor.
4. The SECOND UNEXCUSED ABSENCE from a practice, performance, or competition will result in the student being withheld from the next scheduled game, meet, or performance.
- 5 The THIRD UNEXCUSED ABSENCE from a practice, performance, or competition may result in dismissal of the student from the activity.

There is also the possibility of students missing a performance or game. If UNEXCUSED, the student must:

1. Contact the coach or sponsor and discuss the problems and confusion caused by their absence. They will also be withheld from the next scheduled meet, game, or performance.
2. Any further unexcused absence from practice may result in their dismissal from the activity.

How Do I Communicate the Right Way?

Coaches have the authority over who becomes a participant of the team and when the participant plays or is removed from the team. The coaching staff determines coaching strategy, what positions athletes play, and playing time. Acceptance of a position on the team includes acceptance of this policy. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of an activity.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- Situations involving your child.

- Ways to help your child improve.
- Your child's attitude, work ethic, and eligibility.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches or AD:

- Playing time of any other student-athlete.
- What position any other student-athlete plays.
- Team strategy, practice organization, or play calling.
- Other student-athletes process.

Addressing Concerns-Goal is to solve problems at the lowest level.

Level-1 -Student and Coach

Level-2- Student, Parent and Coach

Level-3-Student, Parent, Coach and Activities Director

Level-4-Student, Parent, Coach, A.D. and Principal

** -If one these steps is skipped the parent and athlete will be referred back to proper step. The 24-Hour Rule will be utilized for any in-season communication with the coaching staff. Contact with the coaching staff will not be allowed until 24 hours after an athletic event. The only exception to this rule is reporting an injury, illness, or emergency situation.

Academic Eligibility Policy

Academic eligibility for a student at Drexler Middle School participating in extra-curricular/co- curricular activities* will be based on the student's grades. The student must be passing (60% and above) each class at the time of grades being posted. Grades will be posted every 2 weeks beginning at the 4 ½ week mark of the term. Students with a failing grade become academically ineligible for the next 2-week period to participate in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities (students may practice, but may not compete). The ineligibility begins on Monday after grades are due in the office to allow for parental notification and grade accuracy checks. Students desiring to reduce ineligible time from 2 weeks to 1 week, may request a grade review by the Principal or Assistant Principal. Students remain ineligible for 1 week; however, if passing all classes, the student may return to competition the following week. Coaches/ sponsors will be notified via email or personal contact.

Extra-Curricular	Co-Curricular
Football	Band Extravaganza
Volleyball	Solo/Ensemble
Cross Country	Concerts

Boys/Girls Wrestling	Drama production
Boys/Girls Basketball	Musical
Boys/Girls Track	TAG events
Quiz Bowl	
Archery	

Other activities as determined by administration

Students WILL be allowed to participate in the following activities to improve their grade:

1. Attend after school homework help from 3:20-5:15 p.m., (T & Th).
2. Attend in-school study session(s)

Ineligible students are expected to attend practices and home games/performances. Ineligible students are not allowed to ride the bus to away games/performances. Ineligible students will not dress in uniform at home games/performances.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Students participating in Drexler extra-curricular activities will abide by the WDHS good conduct Policy [503.4](#)

Any junior high, middle school or high school student whose habits and/or conduct both in and out of school during the school year or during the summer months, are such as to make him/her unworthy to represent the ideals, principles, and standards of the student's school, should be ineligible, and it should be the duty of the superintendent or a delegated principal to exclude the participant from participating in any of the Activity Group events until reinstated to eligibility by the local school administration. The Code of Conduct covers twelve months – during activity seasons, between seasons and during the summer months. The policy begins on the first day of high school eligibility and continues through the completion of their middle school eligibility.

Good Conduct Rule Application

A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Rule for any of the following behaviors:

- * Possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products, or look-a-like products/devices including vapes and electronic nicotine delivery systems, regardless of the student's age.
- * Possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine (having the odor of alcohol on one's breath is evidence of "use")
- * Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff or students, gross insubordination, serious hazing or harassment, or any behavior deemed inappropriate by school administration.
- * Possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of illegal drugs, or the unauthorized possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of otherwise lawful drugs

* Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or charges in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic or hunting/fishing violations), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s).

If a student receives a good conduct violation, they will miss the following games.

Sport	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense
Cross Country (7)	2	4
Volleyball (9)	2	5
Football (6)	1	3
Wrestling (9)	2	5
Basketball (12)	3	6
Track (7)	2	4
Drama (2)	1	2
Quiz Bowl (8)	2	4

*Suspensions from a second offense are in addition to suspensions from a first offense.

3rd Offense: suspension from all activities for a full calendar year.

Along with the suspension, students will perform 8 hours of community service.

Multiplier of 2 hours community service for games not served. Example: basketball only serves 1 game because at the end of season the 2 games not missed would be turned into 4 hours community service. This is to end the code of conduct promptly, so it doesn't carry over to next season.

Events not listed (quiz bowl, show choir, etc.) a percentage of approximately 25% first offense (or a minimum of 1 event) and 50% second offense.

Eligibility and duration of services will run for 1 year and reset at the start of the next school year. (Unless not served from previous year)

The student would become eligible upon completion of missed public performances and school/community service. Students will receive an educational component through the school/Resiliency Room. Failure to do this will result in continuing ineligibility until served.

Eligibility and duration of services will run for 1 year and reset at the start of the next school year. (Unless not served from previous year)

Students must start and end the season in good standing. They cannot go out for basketball, serve their 3-game suspension, and then quit. They cannot join a sport after the season has started and serve their code of conduct.

Students must attend practices, rehearsals, etc. during the time of their ineligibility at the discretion of the coach/sponsor and building principal.

Students may attend home games with their team. They will not travel with the team for away games. (Similar circumstances will exist with non-athletic activities)

APPEALS

Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may obtain review of this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within 3 days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will remain in effect throughout the review process. The grounds for review by the Superintendent are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the Handbook Rule or Board Policy. If the Superintendent reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

TRANSPORTATION

All students must ride in school transportation when taking part in all school activities. The Activities Director will set/approve travel to road events. Parent transportation will only be used in emergency situations when approved by coach or administration.

Generally, transporting students for school purposes is done in a vehicle owned by the school district and driven by a school bus driver. Students may not be transported in private vehicles for school purposes unless there is prior approval from the activities director.

Activity Bus

The school district does charge to ride the activity bus. Please refer to the WDCSD activity bus fee schedule for the fee amount. The activity bus is for students who are staying after school to participate in activities such as athletics, quiz bowl, homework room, band, etc.

The activity bus will leave Drexler each day at 5:25 and will drop off students in towns only. Students must be in a school sponsored supervised activity and all riders must have an activity bus pass to ride the activity bus.

Bus #1 Farley, Worthington, Dyersville (One Stop, Social Center, 2nd Avenue & 2nd Street), New Vienna, Luxemburg, & Petersburg.

Bus #2 Epworth, Peosta Casey's (Peosta), Burds Acres, Thunder Hills Club House, Centralia fire station, Bankston, Holy Cross, Rickardsville, & Balltown.

Buses returning from a game or after school activity will drop students off in towns along Highway 20. Dyersville-Subway, Farley-Drexler, Epworth-High School, Peosta-Casey's

Students can be removed from the activity bus for disciplinary reasons.

Uniform and Equipment policy:

Drexler will provide a uniform for your child to wear for athletic competitions. Once they are given the uniform it is their responsibility to turn the uniform back in to the school in good condition. If they do not, they will be charged for the damage or loss of our uniform. We do not provide shoes for each activity and the shoes vary from sport to sport. This will be supplied by the parent/guardian.

Any equipment damaged during inappropriate use, or damaged when use was not given with the coach's permission, students will be charged for replacement or repairs.

Practices

All Western Dubuque practices are closed to parents and the public. On certain occasions, a coach may open a practice to all parents and public (scrimmage situations).

If school is cancelled, we will not have practice or games. If students are released early for a weather-related incident, students will be sent home, and we will not have practice or games. If the late run bus is cancelled and we have school until the end of the day, practice or games will be cancelled.

All practices will end at 5:15. At that time students will be released to the activity bus or parents can pick up.

Joining Activities After Practice has started:

This policy ensures that students adhere to eligibility requirements, serve suspensions appropriately, and maintain good academic and behavioral standing while participating in school activities. Students should not join an activity after practices have started solely to serve a suspension and avoid a penalty at a later time. Depending on their eligibility status, students may join an activity after the season starts:

1. An eligible student may join at any point in the season if he/she:
 - a. Maintains good standing with academic eligibility policies
 - b. Maintains good standing with Code of Conduct policies
 - c. Receives coach approval
2. An ineligible student may join if he/she:
 - a. Starts before the first competition
 - i. By meeting this deadline, the student can serve his/her penalty in that activity.
 - ii. Students who fail to meet the deadline may still participate in the activity, but the ineligibility penalty will carry over to their next activity.
 - b. Starts after competitions begin but has administrative approval
 - i. Students can join an activity during the season if they are not in good standing (due to grades or conduct), but only with coach and administrative approval.
 - ii. However, any suspension days related to grades or conduct will not be counted during this period, and they will have to miss the appropriate days of the next full season they participate in.

Wednesday Early Outs:

Students participating in activities that take place afterschool on Wednesday Early-Out Professional Development days are required to attend academic support from 2:15-3:15 in the designated area and from 3:15-4:15 an athletic activity in the designated area. Students are released to practice at 4:15pm. Students are not permitted to go home and return to school for practice. Special circumstances like appointments need to be approved by Activities Director. Wednesdays practices are mandatory, and you do need an approved excuse if you are absent on a Wednesday practice.

Reporting Injuries:

Drexler does not have a trainer on site. It's the student athlete's responsibility to report any injuries or concerns to their coach or school nurse.

Spectator Behavior

Drexler Middle School adheres to the IAHSAA and IGHSAA expectations for spectator behavior at athletic competitions as outlined in their "Conduct Counts" initiative. As a parent of an activity participant, you should:

- Understand the Purpose: Remember that your daughter or son participates in educational activities for fun and that education always comes first.
- Privilege of Participation: Recognize that participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege, not a right.
- Model Character: Conduct yourself with character at all times and encourage your child to do the same.
- Respect for All: Treat all individuals—coaches, advisors, contestants, officials, and other spectators—with respect, and insist your child does the same.
- Support All Students: Support all students participating, not just your own child.
- Grace in Victory and Defeat: Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
- Respect Rules: Honor the spirit and intent of the rules under which your child participates.
- Prohibited Behavior: Refrain from threatening or abusive behavior, using foul language, or engaging in disrespectful conduct.
- Avoid Fanaticism: Strive to be a fan, not a fanatic.

The following spectator behaviors will result in removal from an athletic event without a refund of admittance:

- Disrespectful conduct, including profanity, obscene gestures or comments, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, or actions that demean individuals or the event.
- Throwing articles onto the contest area.
- Entering the contest area in protest or celebration.
- Physical confrontation involving officials, coaches, contestants, or spectators.
- Interfering with the event.
- Jumping up and down on the bleachers.
- Using artificial noisemakers, signs, or banners.
- Directing chants or cheers at opponents.
 - When an official or referee asks the coach or person in charge supervising the event to remove a spectator for comments or actions directed towards officiating.
 - Any behavior deemed inappropriate by game manager, supervisor, or administration.

By adhering to these guidelines, we ensure a positive and respectful environment for all participants and spectators at Drexler Middle School athletic events.

General start dates. These may vary per sport:

Fall Sports (football, volleyball, cross country)- August 25-October 13

Early Winter Sports (Girl's basketball, Boy's wrestling)- October 27- December 16

Late Winter Sports (Boys basketball, Girls wrestling)- January 5- February 24

Spring sports (Girl's track, Boy's track)- March 30- May 8

Quiz Bowl- September-May

Drama-November-March

Show Choir-Sept-Feb

Archery- December-March

Emergency Information:

Fire: exit out of the activities entrance, or nearest exit and meet on the West side of the parking lot

Inclement Weather: If inside: enter into girls and/or boys locker room and shut the door until threat is gone .

If outside: enter the building and go to the boys/girls locker room. If on football field, enter the downstairs entrance on the East side of the building and take cover in hallway.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Students-

- First Class in everything we do- DO WHAT's RIGHT (Sportsmanship and Ethics) on and off the field.
- Participation in multiple sports- 3 and 4 sport Athletes
- Positive attitude-understand everyone has a role. **Optimism is a competitive advantage
- Western Dubuque Athletes will not be outworked by anyone in the state! -Get better every day!
- Participate in service opportunities
- Embrace the process
- Enjoy the ride

PLAYERS ROLE The role of the players in sportsmanship is second in importance only to the coach. Players are admired and respected by students of all levels as well as adult spectators. They have significant influence over the actions and behavior of spectators of all ages.

REQUIRED RESPONSIBILITIES

Players will perform the following responsibilities:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and community.
2. Learn the rules thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.

3. Cooperate with the coaches and always exercise good sportsmanship by living the rules and role as stated.
4. Only the captain may communicate with the officials on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.
5. Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules, never argue or make non-verbal gestures, which indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may incite undesirable behavior in the stands and by teammates.
6. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character.
7. Exercise self control at all times, accepting all decisions, unusual occurrences, and abiding by them.
8. Treat opponents with the respect that is accorded a guest or friend.
9. Captains, shake hands with opponents prior to the contest and wish them luck.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

BEFORE

1. Shake hands with opponents and express good luck.
2. Learn the rules.
3. Practice your coach's rules in character development.

DURING

1. Help players who are down get to their feet.
2. Shake hands after an aggressive exchange.
3. Never gesture to officials, players, coaches, or the fans in a negative manner.
4. Never disagree openly with an official or coach's decision. Carry on ethically and maturely regardless of your true feeling.
5. Shake the opponent's hand if he fouls out or extend congratulations when he is leaving the contest.

AFTER

1. Make every effort to extend a congratulatory handshake to your opponent immediately at the game's conclusion.
2. Never debate something that occurred during the game with anyone, as it is in the past.
3. Be objective when communicating to the media about the contest. Don't be controlled by your emotions.
4. Show concern for injured opponents and teammates.
5. Promote sportsmanship and your athletic experience positively whenever and wherever the opportunity is available.