



# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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## Dear Gates Chili Families:

On behalf of the Gates Chili Central School District, I would like to welcome you to our Interscholastic Athletic Program. Gates Chili CSD offers 78 different athletic teams for students in grades 7-12. This past year 1,433 student-athletes participated in our athletic program. Our coaching staff consists of certified, dedicated professionals who enjoy working with our student-athletes. They are a group of individuals who work very hard and care a great deal about the children for which they are responsible. For students in grades 7-8, we offer 23 modified B and modified A programs, which serve as a training ground for skill development and participation. The modified program prepares our young student-athletes for the higher levels of high school competition. Winning is not emphasized and large numbers on teams are encouraged for maximum participation.

To participate at the high school level, a higher refinement of skills is necessary and competition is viewed at a higher level of comprehension. Our 55 varsity and JV teams strive for success, and practice to produce as efficient a team and individual effort as is possible. The Gates Chili Athletic Department believes participation in athletics develops skills that athletes will use throughout their lifetime. The Spartan Way, which is taught and emphasized throughout the student day, encompasses some of these skills such as respect, responsibility, compassion and hard work. Each student-athlete is expected to develop and use these skills while participating in athletics at Gates Chili.

If you have any questions about Gates Chili Athletics or would like more information on one of our programs, please don't hesitate to call me at (585) 340-5050 ext. 21315 or email me at [patrick\\_iving@gateschili.org](mailto:patrick_iving@gateschili.org). I look forward to working with you as partners in your child's athletic career at Gates Chili CSD.

Patrick Irving  
Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics

## Mission Statement

***Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners.***

Our mission must be addressed through a shared vision that is based on the belief that we must establish healthy and caring relationships with every student we serve, as well as with staff, parents and the community at large. The content we teach must be relevant to the learner and rigorous in its expectations.

The district's mission and vision are driven by values that guide decision-making and behavior expectations for everyone. We define those values as The Spartan Way. The four values within The Spartan Way are respect, responsibility, compassion and hard work.

## Conduct of Athletes

1. All student-athletes are expected to follow the Gates Chili Code of Conduct and Character.
2. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times, be they officials, spectators or other student-athletes.
3. Participation in athletics is a privilege and should not be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct. Student-athletes are expected to deal with opponents with respect, shake hands after competition, and always respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
4. If a student-athlete has been assigned in-school suspension for any reason, they will not be permitted to practice or compete during the time they are serving the suspension.
5. If a student-athlete is assigned out-of-school suspension for any reason, they will not be permitted to practice or compete during the time of the suspension. Repeated out-of-school suspensions will affect eligibility as determined by the coach and director of athletics.
6. All student-athletes must ride the bus to and from athletic contests. If a student must leave an away contest with a parent, parents must notify the head coach and director of athletics at least two days in advance for confirmation.
7. The student-athlete must complete their sport's season to the full satisfaction of the team coach in order to receive awards and recognitions. Failure to do so may result in the student-athlete not being recognized for their participation.
8. Student-athletes may participate in a sport team activity outside of school as long as it does not conflict with their commitment to the school team.



# Student-Athlete Expectations

All Gates Chili student-athletes are expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility, compassion and hard work in all interactions. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Accept responsibility for their actions and contribute to resolution
- Maintain a safe environment
- Be respectful of others, property and self
- Demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning
- Follow direction given by all adults in a respectful, positive manner
- Embrace kindness, acceptance and tolerance of others
- Strive to put forth your best effort in all academic and athletic pursuits to the highest level of achievement possible

The Gates Chili Central School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly school and extracurricular environment. Appropriate student conduct is essential in achieving and optimal learning environment.

## Disorderly/disruptive behaviors

Running or disorderly behavior in hallways; making unreasonable noise; profane language or gestures; excessive displays of affections; tardiness to class; initiating a false fire alarm; or any physical or verbal behavior that causes substantial distraction from the learning environment.

## Insubordination

Not following directions of teachers or other school staff; missing, leaving, or being late to school without permission; missing detention; not identifying yourself to school personnel when asked.

## Violence

Hitting, kicking, punching, or scratching another student, a teacher, school staff, or anyone else; intentionally damaging or destroying the school's or someone else's property; having and/or displaying a weapon or what appears to be a weapon, threatening use of a weapon; acts summarized in the New York State Department of Education Violent Incident Report (VADIR).

## Academic misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, copying, altering records or helping another student to do any of the above.

## Endangering the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others

Making false statements or representations; discrimination of any kind; stealing; harassment (verbal, written, electronic, or graphic); intimidation; hazing; bullying; vulgar or abusive language; cursing or swearing; using or possessing obscene material; smoking or using tobacco; possessing, using, selling, distributing, or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances; gambling; sexual harassment (includes sexting, jokes, pictures, pressure); sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs; possessing a laser pointer; encouraging fights; carrying back packs/books bags or large purses during the school day without appropriate permission.

## Misbehaving on the school bus

The Gates Chili Central School District maintains and operates an extensive transportation system for the purpose of bringing students to and from school safely and on time. Since riding the school bus is an extension of the school day, the Code of Conduct and Character is in effect. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

## Off-campus misconduct

Behavior that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or negatively affects the educational process; cyberbullying; threatening or harassing over the phone or internet; using social media or message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments, or pornographic photos.

## Participation in school-sponsored events

In-season student-athletes are not permitted to participate and compete in school-sponsored events (i.e. Powder Puff and Seniors v. Faculty games).



## **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

The Gates Chili Central School District supports the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). The district strives to create an environment free of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment, foster civility in the schools and to prevent and prohibit conduct that is inconsistent with the district's educational mission. Since cyberbullying is a form of bullying, the term "bullying" as used in our

Code of Conduct and Character to implicitly include cyberbullying even if not explicitly stated.

The district condemns and prohibits all forms of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which becomes disruptive in school, may be subject to discipline.

The district will investigate all complaints of bullying and/or harassment and discrimination, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures as necessary. The Dignity Act emphasizes the creation and maintenance of a positive learning environment for all students by developing measured, balanced, and age-appropriate responses to the discrimination and harassment.

Additional information related to The Dignity Act is available on the district's website at [www.gateschili.org](http://www.gateschili.org).

## **Student-Athlete Personal Items**

All personal items are the responsibility of the owner. The district is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.

The district acknowledges the wide spread use of electronic devices, however, it is the responsibility of each student and his/her family to use all devices in accordance with school protocols. Electronic devices include, game consoles, iPods, iPads, MP3 players, tablets, or other telecommunications or imaging devices. Students who do not follow school building expectations may be subject to additional disciplinary consequences at the discretion of the building administrator or his/her designee.

## **Sportsmanship and Communication**

### **Enjoy the moment**

Sometimes, parents feel they must intervene on the behalf of their student-athlete(s). We encourage our student-athletes to advocate for themselves and communicate with their coach on the role they play and how to improve their status on the team. Our advice to the parents is to "Sit back, relax and watch your son or daughter compete in their sport."

Enjoy the precious moments that play out on the fields, on the courts or in the pools.

### **Questions, Concerns and Communication**

During the course of a student-athlete's career, parents and/or students may have questions or concerns that need to be addressed. The team's coach is always the best source of information and is the first step in the communication process. The initial step should involve the coach and the student-athlete. Any follow-up conversation (step two) would involve parent(s), athlete and coach; all meetings must be set up by email or phone. No meeting shall occur at a contest or practice site. Please understand that playing time, coaching philosophy or discussion of other athletes will not be part of any meeting.

# Athletic Academic Eligibility

## Purpose

The purpose of the academic eligibility and attendance protocol is to communicate the value of a well-rounded education and the importance of academic achievement. We strive to hold student-athletes accountable for their academic performance while monitoring and supporting them during this process.

## Eligibility

Student-athletes will be eligible if they maintain no more than one failing grade at any grade-check in any scheduled class.

## Probation

Student-athletes will enter probation when they initially have one or more failing grades during the grade-check process. After serving their probationary period, students can only maintain one failing class on their schedule to stay on probation. Students are encouraged to attend 9th Opportunity or after-school help with a teacher while on probation. When students are on probation, they may practice and compete on their team.

Note: student-athletes who end the fourth quarter of the previous school year or summer school with two or more failing grades will begin the school year on probation. The most recent grade-check will determine eligibility at the start of the winter and spring seasons.

## Ineligibility

If a student-athlete who is on probation has one or more failing grades at the next grade-check, they will enter academic ineligibility. Students are encouraged to attend Ninth Opportunity or after-school help with a teacher while ineligible. Academically ineligible students may practice, but are not permitted to compete. Students will be asked to continue to attend competitions to support their teammates. To return to full eligibility, a student must have no more than one failing grade at any grade-check. Students who demonstrate poor behavior will be subject to ineligibility at the athletic director and/or principal's discretion.

## Grade Checks

Grade-check dates will be defined before the season to all staff members, coaches and students. Only students on the probationary and ineligibility lists, whose grades are not updated in SchoolTool, will be given a run around sheet on dates identified.



# Athletic Program Philosophy

## Varsity

Varsity competition is the culmination of every athletics program. It is vital that each team member has a role and understands the importance of that role. The number of roster positions is relative to a student's acceptance of his/her individual roles in pursuit of team goals. While contest participation over the course of the season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed.

A sound attitude and advanced skills are prerequisites for varsity team participation, as is the realization that a varsity sport requires a six-day-a-week commitment. This commitment often extends into vacations periods for all athletic seasons. Student-athletes are expected to give priority to their in-season school team when it conflicts with an outside activity.

## Junior Varsity

The junior varsity level is intended to student-athletes who demonstrate that they have the potential of developing into productive varsity-level performers. Student-athletes are expected to make a visible commitment to the program, team and continued self-development. To this end, increased

emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play, as well as socioemotional development. Participants at the junior varsity level is expected to prepare themselves for a six-day-a-week commitment.

## Modified A - Grades 7-9

## Modified B - Grades 7-8

The opportunity to participate in a modified sport program is available to all seventh- and eighth-graders (modified A teams are available for all seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders). Teams offered are determined by the existence of leagues, student interest, and relationship to the high school athletics program. At this level, the focus is on learning athletic skills, game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth and healthy competition.

In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete and team to occur, practice sessions are vital. Occasionally, practices and contests will be scheduled for Saturdays. Opportunities for meaningful contest participation for each team member will exist over the course of a season.





## Practice and Game Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices and games unless excused by the coach in conjunction with the parent. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entire school day. Students who arrive late to school must have written permission from a parent for their absence to be eligible for after-school athletics.

## Equipment

Team members are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued. Equipment or uniforms must be returned to the coach on the last day of competition. Equipment or uniforms not returned will result in an invoice sent to the family for payment.

## Athletic Placement Process (APP)

APP is a process used to determine a student-athlete's readiness for athletic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness and skill level. The intent of this program is to provide student-athletes in grades 7-12 with the opportunity to safely participate at the appropriate level of competition based upon their individual readiness, rather than age and grade. Placing student at the appropriate level of competition is likely to result in increased opportunity, a fairer competitive environment, reduced injury and greater personal satisfaction. Please note that APP is not used to fill roster spots.

The varsity coach in each sport will recommend individuals for APP. In addition to the criteria mentioned, the socio-emotional maturity of each student-athlete is also considered, especially in situations where student-athletes would be participating at an advanced level.

## Substance Use

The use or possession of steroids, drugs (unless prescribed by a physician), tobacco or alcoholic beverages by a student-athlete are forbidden. All student-athletes must adhere to the Gates Chili Code of Conduct and Character.

## Physicals

Student-athletes are required to have a physical examination prior to trying out for or playing on an interscholastic sport's team. A physical is good for 12 months from the date of the physical.

The school district will provide physicals by the school nurse practitioner prior to each sport season. Dates and times for these physicals will be announced and posted. Students may receive physicals from their physician, however, the physical must be forwarded and approved by the health office prior to participation in the sport. All medical appraisal forms must be completed electronically before any student can be approved by their building's nurse for participation.

## Quitting or Leaving a Team

- If a student-athlete quits or leaves a team for any reason, he/she must notify the coach immediately in person.
- If a student-athlete quits a team, they are not eligible for participation on another team in the same sport season, unless consent is granted from the first coach.
- If a student-athlete is asked to leave a team for disciplinary reasons, they cannot, under any circumstances, become a member of another team in that sport season.
- Student-athletes that quit a team are not eligible for any end of season awards.

# Gates Chili Sports Boosters

## Purpose

The Booster Club is a group of dedicated parents who are dedicated to Gates Chili Athletics. Their main goal is to promote good will and sportsmanship between other schools, the Sports Booster Clubs and Gates Chili community.

## Goals for the Sports Booster Club

- Opens and operates the concession stand at all evening sports events.
- Purchases of new equipment for the school, upon request by the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, when it cannot be provided through the school budget.
- Donates money to interscholastic athletic teams to help with out of town costs (e.g. money for meals).
- Each spring, we award two to four Camp Scholarships up to \$150 to students attending summer sports camp.
- Awards Sports Scholar Athlete pins to Varsity athletes who maintain honor roll average.
- Purchases divisional patches for athletes that are on a County Champion Team.
- Purchases individual student plaques for Section V Championship Teams.
- Each time a parent volunteers their time to work at a concession event, \$10 goes in a revenue share account for the sport of their choice. Coaches can request funds earned from volunteer hours to help fund items and or events that are not covered by the district budget. This is a great way to help out your child's sport as district budgets tighten.

## What parents can do to support the Gates Chili Sports Booster Club

- Become an active member of the Gates Chili Sports Booster Club by attending monthly meetings.
- Volunteer to help in the outside concession stand during the fall and spring sporting events or inside the high school during the winter sporting events.
- Please fill out the Gates Chili Sports Boosters Club Volunteer form which may be found on our website at [www.gateschili.org/webpages/sportsbooster/](http://www.gateschili.org/webpages/sportsbooster/)





## Sport Field Assignments

### Spring Sports

Boys Track & Field	Stadium Track Complex
Girls Track & Field	Stadium Track Complex
Modified B Track	Stadium Track Complex
Boys Varsity Baseball	Field #14
Boys JV Baseball	Field #15
Boys Modified B Baseball	Field #08
Girls Varsity Softball	Field #11
Girls JV Softball	Field #12
Girls Modified B Softball	Field #17
Varsity & JV Golf	Brook Lea CC/Chili CC
Boys Varsity Tennis	Tennis Courts
Boys JV Tennis	Tennis Courts
Boys Varsity Lacrosse	Field #4
Boys JV Lacrosse	Field #5
Boys Modified B Lacrosse	Field #16
Girls Varsity Lacrosse	Field #9
Girls JV Lacrosse	Field #10
Girls Modified B Lacrosse	Field #20

### Fall Sports

Varsity Football	Stadium	Spartan Stadium (Practice)
JV Football		Field #3 (Practice)
Modified B Football		Field #20
Boys Varsity Soccer		Field #5
Boys JV Soccer		Field #4
Boys Modified A Soccer		Field #6
Boys Modified B Soccer		Field #13
Boys Varsity Volleyball		High School
Boys JV Volleyball		High School
Boys Modified B Volleyball		Middle School
Girls Varsity Volleyball		High School
Girls JV Volleyball		High School
Girls Modified B 1 Volleyball		Middle School
Girls Modified B 2 Volleyball		Middle School
Girls Varsity Soccer		Field #9
Girls JV Soccer		Field #7
Girls Modified A Soccer		Field #10
Girls Modified B Soccer		Field #16 (Practice)
Girls Modified B Soccer		Field #19
Girls Varsity Swimming		High School
Girls JV Swimming		High School
Girls Varsity Gymnastics		Bright Raven
Girls Varsity Tennis		Tennis Courts
Girls JV Tennis		Tennis Courts
Girls Varsity Field Hockey		Field #18
Varsity Cross Country		
Modified Cross Country		





**GC** **GATES CHILI**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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