

# **Gates Chili Athletics Handbook**

**For Student-Athletes and Parents**



## **THE SPARTAN WAY**

RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
COMPASSION  
HARD WORK

[www.schedulesonline.org](http://www.schedulesonline.org)  
[www.gateschili.org/sports](http://www.gateschili.org/sports)

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## **A Letter to the Parents**

On behalf of the Gates Chili Central School District, I would like to welcome you to our Interscholastic Athletic Program. This past year 1,433 different student athletes participated in our athletic program. We offer 78 different athletic teams for students in grades 7-12. Our coaching staff consists of certified, dedicated people who enjoy working with our student athletes. They are individuals who work very hard and care a great deal about the individuals for which they are responsible. In grades 7-8, we offer 23 modified B/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 Junior Varsity and Varsity 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, encompasses some of these skills such as Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, and Hard Work. Each athlete is expected to develop and use these skills while participating in athletics at Gates Chili.

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## **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 school district "Code of Conduct."
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 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 placed in "In-School Suspension" for any reason, he/she will not be permitted to practice or compete during the time they are serving the suspension.
5. If a student athlete is "Out of School Suspended" for any reason he/she 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 an email must be sent to the head coach and Director of Athletics at least two days in advance for confirmation.
7. The student athlete must complete his/her 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 his/her 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.

## **What Do We Expect from Our Student-Athletes**

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.

### **Student Conduct (Prohibited Conduct)**

The Gates Chili School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly school and extracurricular environment. Appropriate student conduct is essential in achieving an 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 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; cyber-bullying; threatening or harassing over the phone or internet; using social media or message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments, or pornographic photos.

## **Student Personal Items: Electronic Devices**

*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.

## **DASA: Dignity for All Students Act**

The Gates Chili School District supports the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), 2012. 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 which 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 DASA is available on the District's website at [www.gateschili.org](http://www.gateschili.org).*

## **Sportsmanship and Philosophy**

### **SIT BACK AND RELAX**

Sometimes, parents feel they must intervene on the behalf of their student-athletes. They have little or no trust in their children to do what they think should be done. Most of the time, the intervention either backfires or is successful - but many times at a price. The only time a parent should intervene is when the charges or allegations are serious or when your son or daughter isn't making any progress and needs your help.

My 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.

The thing that you need to do, before you can sit back and relax, is to teach your son or daughter some negotiating or communication skills. They should do the talking with the coaches. Teach your son or daughter to advocate for themselves but be polite and respectful.

Many coaches would welcome such an approach. Issues and events have to be addressed, but they should be taken care of by the coach and the student-athlete.

Parents can provide support, not only for their athlete, but also for other members of the team. They can work as a sports booster or as a volunteer for a fundraiser.

## **PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE**

So you aren't getting the playing time you think you should get, or you're not starting at that position you feel you should. Frustrating - isn't it?

Here are some thoughts about these situations. I would suggest that you visit with the coach and find out the factors that may be stopping you from achieving your goals. Ask the tough question, “What do I need to work on to get more playing time?”

Stay in shape, both physically and mentally, for your sport. Work hard in the practice sessions to win over your coach and fellow players. In practice sessions, you have more time to impress your coach than you have in a game - make good use of the minutes. Practice like you would play.

### **Athletic Academic Eligibility & Attendance**

#### **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 students accountable for their academic performance while monitoring and supporting them during this process.

#### **Eligibility:**

Students that maintain no more than one failing grade at any grade check, in any scheduled class, will remain eligible. Students are required to be in attendance and on time for all classes on their schedule to be eligible for practices, competitions and school-sponsored events.

**Probation:**

Students 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 9<sup>th</sup> Opportunity or after-school help with a teacher while on probation. When students are on probation they can practice and compete on their team.

\*Students that end the 4th quarter of the previous school year or summer school with two or more failing grades will start the school year on probation. The most recent grade check will determine eligibility at the start of the winter and spring seasons.

**Ineligibility:**

If at the next grade check, while on probation, a student has more than one failing grade they will enter academic ineligibility. Students are encouraged to attend 9<sup>th</sup> Opportunity or after-school help with a teacher while ineligible. While academically ineligible, students can practice but are not allowed to compete in competitions. 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 that demonstrate poor behavior will be subject to ineligibility at the Athletic Director's 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 School Tool, will be given a run around sheet on dates identified.

## **Practice and Game Attendance**

Each team member is expected to be present at every practice session and game unless excused from school by the school administration or personally excused by the coach. All interested students who are eligible for athletic participation are welcome to try out for a team with the clear knowledge that:

1. Absences from practices and/or contests (including because of school field trips) may impact one's standing on the team and playing time.
2. At any time, coaches may adjust playing time and/or position based on the performance and achievement of all players on the team. Unexcused

practice/game absences or tardiness to practices will result in disciplinary action and may impact one's standing on the team.

## **24 Hour Rule**

If the concern or complaint regarding a coach arises out of a particular game situation or specific incident, a "24 hour cooling off period" will be required before any meeting will be held. This requirement will help ensure that the meeting will be productive and help avoid emotional responses that might otherwise occur if such a meeting were held immediately after the game or incident in question. A parent should simply inform the coach that they wish to set up a meeting, and no further discussion should take place at that time between the coach and the parent. The coach is to immediately notify the Director of Athletics of the request. Initial parent meetings will include, the parent(s), coach and student athlete. If after the initial meeting, a concern continues, the Director of Athletics will attend.

## **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.

## **Sportsmanship Considerations**

### **Courtesy:**

- Mutual respect
- Opponents shaking hands
- Common courtesy
- Respect for opponent
- Fair play
- Positive acknowledgement of skill and talent
- Lack of taunting/baiting
- Met at site by opponent

### **Positive Environment:**

- Use of proper language
- Positive cheers
- Cheer for good play by both sides
- Positive recognition of sportsmanship

### **Follow Rules:**

- Listen to coach
- Follow directions
- Know rules
- Understand rules

### **Respect for Authority:**

- Officials introduced in locker rooms- both teams
- Refer to officials/coaches as sir
- Appreciation for one another
- Coaches meet pre-game
- Support decisions of coaches,

officials, and players

- Welcome signs/cheers
- No "hot dogging"

## **Philosophies At Each Level**

### **Varsity**

The Varsity level of athletic competitions is the culmination of each sport's program. At the varsity level of competition, team play, sportsmanship, individual physical ability, motivation, and mental attitude are very important. The goal at the varsity level is to prepare to win, however, athletes should also accept the fact that lessons are learned from losing as well. A continued emphasis on the Spartan Way (respect, responsibility, compassion, and hard work), along with academics, sportsmanship, and community service is to be expected at this level. It is to be understood that dedication and commitment is needed to participate on a varsity team.

### **Junior Varsity**

The Junior Varsity level of athletic competition places an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning and refinement of basic sport skills. The goal of this level of competition is to prepare student-athletes for the varsity level. Student-athletes should be taught how to cope with game situations and how to win and lose properly. An attempt should be made to play all participants, however equal play is not necessary in each game.

### **Modified A – Grades 7, 8 and 9**

The Modified A/Freshman level of athletic competition stresses basic skill development, with an increased importance in team and game strategy. The Freshman level is considered a high school level program and therefore, Grade 9 student-athletes and those approved through the selection classification program only, are eligible. The Modified A level is for Grades 7, 8, and 9 with Grade 7 and Grade 8 student-athletes needing an invitation from the Varsity coach to participate. Every participant who is eligible will play in each game, but playing time may not be equal.

### **Modified B- Grades 7 and 8**

The Modified B level of athletic competition focuses on the fundamentals of the game and team play. At this level, student-athletes should learn basic skills, rules, and obtain an introduction to the goals of the sport program. Academics, sportsmanship, and social growth along with commitment and dedication are key elements student-athletes will focus on at this level. A smaller emphasis is placed on winning and maximum participation is desired.

## **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.

## **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. Medical appraisal forms must be completed and submitted to the Nurse's office. The Code of Conduct and Concussion/Return to Play Protocol forms must be signed and returned to the Athletic office. Athletes will not be eligible to participate or try out without these forms completed. The forms are available in the health offices at the high school, middle school, or in the athletic office.

## **Quitting or Leaving a Team**

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

## **Training Rules for Athletes**

The purpose of these rules is to help student athletes become better citizens by seeking to demonstrate proper behavior and a good attitude at all times. These rules are designed to instill pride, discipline and team spirit in our student athletes. The student athlete is required to make a commitment to our community, school, team and coach. Adhering to the established rules and regulations is a condition that must be fulfilled for satisfactory participation in any sport. Enforcement of the rules and imposing disciplinary action for any violation is the responsibility of the coach and Director of Athletics.

### **Safety**

The District will take reasonable steps to see that physical risks to student-athletes participating in interscholastic athletic programs shall be kept at a minimum. These steps include requiring medical examinations of participants through physicals, obtaining appropriately certified and/or licensed coaches for each level of competition, and ensuring that equipment is both safe and operative.

### **Supervision**

Student athletes must be supervised by the coach in charge of the sport. Coaches are responsible for supervision in the locker room and supervision of student athletes at the end of practice. This may entail bus duty, or making sure student athletes have transportation home.

### **Citizenship/Sportsmanship**

The district Code of Conduct is expected to be followed at all times. Further, our student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship during all contests and practices.

## **Programs Offered**

### **Fall Season**

Varsity Football  
J.V. Football  
Modified B Football

Boys Varsity Soccer  
Boys J.V. Soccer  
Boys Modified B Soccer

Boys Varsity Volleyball  
Boys J.V. Volleyball  
Boys Modified B Volleyball

Girls Varsity Volleyball  
Girls J.V. Volleyball  
Girls Modified B Volleyball

Girls Varsity Soccer  
Girls J.V. Soccer  
Girls Modified B Soccer

Girls Varsity Swimming & Diving  
Girls J.V. Swimming & Diving  
Girls Modified Swimming and  
Diving

Girls Varsity Tennis  
Girls Modified A Tennis

Boys Varsity Cross Country  
Girls Varsity Cross Country  
Co-ed Modified B Cross Country

Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Varsity Cheerleading  
JV Cheerleading  
Modified A Cheerleading

## **Winter Season**

Boys Varsity Basketball  
Boys J.V. Basketball  
Boys Mod A Basketball  
Boys Modified B Basketball

Girls Varsity Basketball  
Girls J.V. Basketball  
Girls Modified B Basketball

Boys Varsity Swimming & Diving  
Boys J.V. Swimming & Diving  
Co-ed Modified B Swimming

Varsity Wrestling  
J.V. Wrestling  
Modified B Wrestling

Co-ed Bowling

Co-ed Varsity Indoor Track  
Co-ed J.V. Indoor Track

Boys Varsity Ice Hockey

Varsity Cheerleading  
JV Cheerleading  
Modified A Cheerleading

## **Spring Season**

Boys Varsity Track  
Boys J.V. Track  
Co-ed Modified B Track

Girls Varsity Track  
Girls J.V. Track

Boys Varsity Baseball  
Boys J.V. Baseball  
Boys Modified B Baseball

Girls Varsity Softball  
Girls J.V. Softball  
Girls Modified B Softball

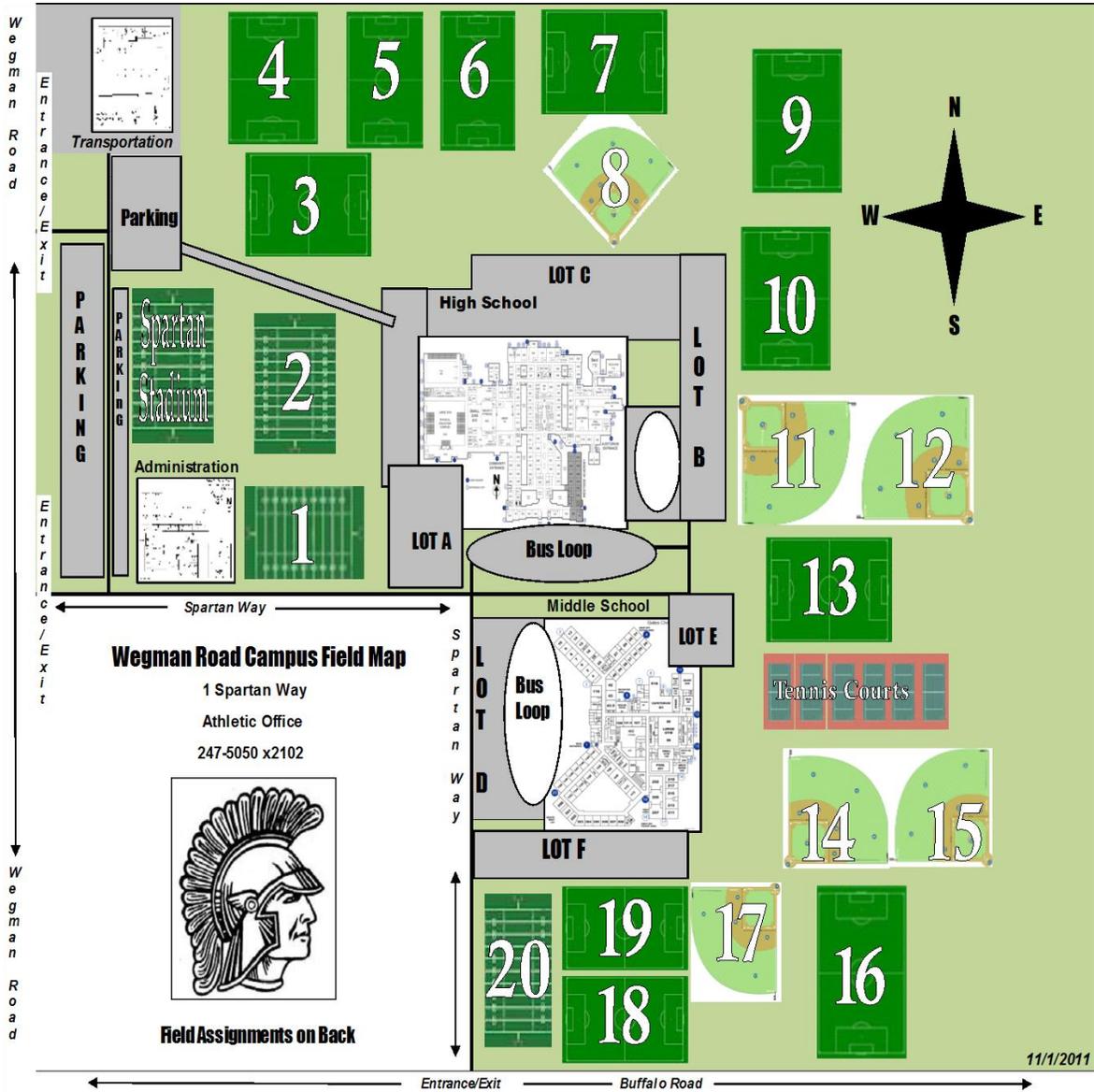
Boys Varsity Golf  
Boys J.V. Golf

Boys Varsity Tennis  
Boys Modified A Tennis

Boys Varsity Lacrosse  
Boys J.V. Lacrosse  
Boys Modified B Lacrosse

Girls Varsity Lacrosse  
Girls J.V. Lacrosse  
Girls Modified B Lacrosse

# Gates Chili Athletic Field Map



## **Boosters**

**PURPOSE:** The Booster Club is a group of dedicated parents whose sons/daughters are on an interscholastic athletic team at Gates Chili. Their main goal is to promote good will and sportsmanship between other schools, their Booster Clubs, and Gates Chili

### **WHAT THE BOOSTER CLUB DOES FOR YOU:**

1. Opens and operates the concession stand at all evening sports events.
2. Purchases new equipment for the school which cannot be provided for in our school budget.
3. Donates money to interscholastic athletic teams to help with out of town costs (i.e. money for meals).
4. Each spring, we award 2-4 Camp Scholarships up to \$150 to students attending summer sports camp.
5. Awards Sports Scholar Athlete pins to Varsity athletes who maintain honor roll average.
6. Purchases divisional patches for athletes that are on a County Champion Team.
7. Purchases individual student plaques for Section V Championship Teams.
8. Each time a parent volunteers their time to work at a concession event, \$10.00 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 son(s) or daughter(s) sport as district budgets tighten.

### **WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE BOOSTER CLUB:**

1. Become an active member of the Gates Chili Sports Booster Club by attending monthly meetings.
2. Volunteer to help out in the outside concession stand during the fall and spring sporting events or inside the High School during the winter sporting events.
3. Please fill out the Gates Chili Sports Boosters Club Volunteer form online at <http://www.gateschili.org/webpages/sportsbooster/>

## **Athletic Placement Process (APP)**

### **STEPS INVOLVED IN THE ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT ATHLETES.**

1. The Head Varsity Coach must submit the "Coach's Sport Skill Evaluation Form" to the Director of Physical Education & Athletics for an athlete to be considered.
2. Student must pass the Physical Fitness Test. No retesting will occur.
3. Student must also see their doctor or school nurse to be approved.
4. The Director of Physical Education & Athletics must approve.

### **Injury Procedures**

- Coach will make proper referrals for injury evaluations (ex. Athletic Trainer, Medical Doctor, etc.)
- Athletic trainer can complete an assessment
- If your child consults with a physician for an injury, the physician will need to clear the athlete, and then the school nurse and/or nurse practitioner will also clear the athlete before returning to participation.

### **After-School Procedures**

- Middle School – Sports study hall is available in the cafeteria. Students may also stay with a teacher or coach during this time if given permission.
- High School – Students must stay with either a teacher or coach until practice begins, pre-game warm ups begin, or the bus leaves for away matches. Students stay in sports study hall which is located in the field house foyer.

