

## Extracurricular Academic Eligibility Policy

Students of Visitation Catholic School must perform to their academic ability as determined by the teacher and administration. Academic eligibility is used to ensure that every student is working to his/her capability. Eligibility determination is a weekly check of academic performance and not an arbitrary disciplinary action. When poor academic performance is a result of extracurricular activities, the student's ineligibility will be considered.

Students in grades 5 – 8 are subject to specific eligibility guidelines that affect interscholastic competitions; the detailed rules are below. Here are the three main points of eligibility for everyone to remember:

1. **Attendance**
2. **Academics**
3. **Christian Behavior**

### Attendance

A student must attend school on the day of the athletic or other contest or competition in order to be eligible to participate in any event, other than exceptional circumstances approved by an administrator. (PLKC Rules and Regulations, Article II, Section 8, p. 4)

This policy means that in order to participate in events/competitions on Saturdays, students must be in school on Friday.

### Academics

Academic eligibility guidelines ensure that every child is working to his/her ability during competitive sport/program seasons. The intent is to help students balance their time and talent in the classroom as well as on the court/field. Eligibility should be a tool that helps students learn to budget and use their time and talent constructively.

Eligibility determination is a weekly check of academic performance and not a cumulative record. The previous week's grades are not carried over for purposes of eligibility consideration. The determination is made one week at a time.

The minimum grade average in each class, for academic eligibility, should be a **C- (74%) or above** each week. If the weekly grade average for any class is **below a C-**, the student and his/her parents/guardians will be warned, but the student will not be deemed ineligible. **If the weekly average is below a C- in the same class for the second consecutive week, then the student is ineligible for that week.**

### Christian Behavior

Students must be good and respectful citizens, and good Christian behavior is expected at all times. An administrator will make this determination based on input from the faculty/staff. Unsportsmanlike conduct may be grounds for deeming a student ineligible without prior warning. Coaches/Leaders normally will make this determination.

### Procedures

Weekly eligibility status affects games/events from Tuesday to Tuesday. An administrator will notify students and parents when there is a warning or a determination of ineligibility. The athletic director will notify the coaches of ineligibilities. Notification on Mondays will give coaches/leaders sufficient time to plan for the week's competitions/events.

An ineligible student may not attend or participate in practices and suit up for games.

## Eligibility Process

1. Extracurricular eligibility pertains to grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.
2. Teachers assign grades.
  - a. The first time a student earns below a C- (74%), he/she is warned and the parent notified.
  - b. The second week in a row, the student is declared ineligible.
3. Teachers will turn in grades for the past week every Monday before 3:30 p.m.
4. The school office will process and notify the moderator/athletic director by Tuesday morning. Written notification is sent via backpack mail and by email to the parents on Tuesday. Eligibility runs from Tuesday to Tuesday.
5. Suspension from practices/games/events will begin at the time of notification and will be for a minimum of one week with further eligibility to be determined on a weekly basis.
6. An ineligible student may **attend** games/rehearsals/performances but may not play/participate. (In sporting events, the score table should be notified if a team player on the bench is ineligible before the game or match starts.)
7. If a student ineligible three times during the first semester, he/she is no longer eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for that semester. If a student is ineligible three times in the second semester, he/she is no longer eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for that semester.
8. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, approved by the principal, a student must attend a full day of school on the day of an extracurricular activity in order to participate in that activity.

Final authority and decisions regarding academic eligibility rest with the principal.

## Consequences

A Visitation Catholic School club/team will forfeit a contest/competition in which an ineligible student has participated. Each school moderator, athletic director, coach, or adult supervisor is responsible for reviewing/monitoring the eligibility of his/her own participants. All ineligible students and all adults who allow them to participate will be liable to suspension from involvement in extracurricular activities for one year. Consequences will be determined by the principal, subject to confirmation by the pastor.