



Athletics Philosophy

The athletic philosophy at MFS is inextricably linked with that of the school, and thus the athletic program is committed to providing MFS students with meaningful opportunities for personal and spiritual growth through the medium of interscholastic athletics. All participants in the athletic program are students first, and participation in athletics is a privilege for those who maintain academic standards.

Athletics is an integral component of the student athlete's overall educational experience at MFS. The personal growth and achievements realized by the student athlete on the court or playing field can be gainfully applied in settings beyond those in which they were originally learned. Participation in athletics provides the student athlete with a balance among academic pursuits, physical endeavors, and social interaction.

Through athletics at MFS, student athletes will be given opportunities to develop their self management skills, self esteem, personal values, sportsmanship, and physical fitness in a controlled and caring environment while being encouraged and motivated to strive for excellence. Of equal importance are the development of cooperation, team work, leadership skills, goal setting, time management skills and coping skills. All of these objectives are to be fulfilled under the guidance and instruction of a qualified coach. Commitment to these outcomes is stressed and reinforced.

Competition is a motivational influence as the student athlete engages in the pursuit of excellence via interscholastic athletics. It promotes and sparks an internal desire to perform at the student athlete's highest potential as an individual and as a team member. Competition must be kept in proper perspective, thus allowing the student athlete to use its driving force to achieve the desired goals of the athletic program. Competition exists as a valuable component of the athletic program and should never become an inhibiting factor in the acquisition of its desired educational outcomes by the student athlete.

Winning or losing is a direct result of having competition as a component of the athletic program. It is the aim of the MFS interscholastic athletic program to teach student athletes to win gracefully and to lose with dignity. This is not to say that losing should be viewed complacently, but rather as a springboard to improvement. Regardless of winning or losing, all student-athletes are encouraged to evaluate their overall performance so as to learn from and correct shortcomings and to take pride in accomplishments.

The influence that the athletic program has on the entire academic community is substantial. Interscholastic contests provide an opportunity for students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents and friends to gather and promote friendship, community spirit, good sportsmanship and positive interaction.. Student athletes have the responsibility of representing themselves, their family and their school. An impression about our values and beliefs as an academic community is formulated by those who view the conduct of our student athletes. Through the media, readers and listeners are introduced to MFS based on the progress and endeavors of our student athletes. The entire academic community needs to be aware of this important responsibility.