

# Arlington Memorial

Office of Athletics



June 19, 2017

Athletic Eligibility for Policy Review by Arlington School Board

Below is new language regarding the Athletic Eligibility requirements at AMHS. This proposal has been reviewed by the Athletic Director Ashley Hoyt, Principal Tim Stewart and AMHS faculty. I made these suggestions for change because I believe, with the support of the faculty, that:

- Academics, not athletics, should be the priority in an educational setting. We do our students a disservice if we don't ensure that academic success is stressed across the board.
- Although we encourage and want our students to be healthy and active, playing on a school-sponsored team is a privilege and not a right.
- As the state moves to a proficiency-based environment, Vermont AD's across the state have already implemented bi-weekly academic check-in systems to support student-athletes.

As a matter of personal opinion, it concerns me when I see students who are failing a class, leaving school early for a game or going to practice when they are not eligible to play. These students need to be in the classroom and studying.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

*Ashley Hoyt*

Athletic Director

## CURRENT POLICY 2016-2017 HANDBOOK

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

#### Fall Season

All Arlington Memorial students are eligible to play sports at the start of the fall season. However, any student who fails a Fourth Quarter course of the preceding year must be passing all courses when Progress Reports are first issued. A Progress Report in any course indicating a failing grade results in the student-athlete being ineligible for a minimum of two games.

#### Winter Season

A student, who failed a course in the First Quarter, must raise that grade to passing as of the date of the first contest. Failure to do so will result in the student-athlete being ineligible for a minimum of two games. If the student who fails the First Quarter subsequently receives a failing grade in any subject during the Second Quarter, he/she is then ineligible for the remainder of the season. A student who fails a subject for the first time during the Second Quarter is ineligible for a minimum of two contests.

#### Spring Season

Any student who fails a subject in the Third Quarter is ineligible for a minimum of two contests.

#### NOTE:

- If a student drops a class prior to the end of a quarter, eligibility will be determined by the student's average at that time of that marking period.
- An athlete cannot drop a class to retain eligibility.

## **PROPOSED POLICY for 2017-2018 Handbook**

All Arlington Memorial students (Grades 6-12) are eligible to play sports at the start of the fall season. Once school begins, the Athletic Director will check grades for all athletes (Grades 6-12) every other Friday, beginning September 15. If a student-athlete is failing a class at the check-in date, the student:

- is suspended for a minimum of one game and more if the grade remains as failing,
- will not be allowed to participate in practice until the grade is passing (60 or above) AND the one-game suspension has been served, and
- cannot travel to an away game during the suspension IF the bus departure time is before the end of the school day. IF the bus departure time is after the end of the school day, the student-athlete can ride the bus, but the player must remain on the bench in appropriate non-uniform clothing.

### **NOTE:**

- The one-game suspension is mandatory even if the player raises the grade before the next contest.
- To regain eligibility, student athletes need to meet with the teacher to discuss the failing grade.
- When the grade is at 60 or above, it is the student's responsibility to have the teacher send an email to the AD confirming the passing grade or bring a hand-written note from the teacher to the AD confirming the passing grade.
- If a student drops a class prior to the end of a quarter, eligibility will be determined by the student's average at that time of that marking period. An athlete must be passing a class when they drop a class in order to be eligible for play. *An athlete cannot drop a class to retain eligibility.*

### **Failing a Quarter**

If a student-athlete receives a failing Quarter grade, all of the above rules apply. However, the player is suspended for TWO games.

### **Failing TWO Back-to-Back Quarters**

If a student-athlete receives a failing grade in two back-to-back quarters, the player is no longer academically eligible to play sports at AMHS for the school year.