

Dear STEM Academy School Students and Parents/Guardians,

Please find attached the necessary paperwork that must be completed in order to play sports and/ or participate in any role for athletic teams at The STEM Academy. Please complete all attached forms. It is each student's responsibility to gain eligibility and maintain it throughout the sport season. Eligibility requirements and sports offered are subject to change.

The rules for Ravens Athletics eligibility are listed below:

1. Students must have been promoted to the next grade at the end of the previous school year or through successful completion of summer school (maximum of two subjects). All Students are expected to maintain an overall "S", or better, in conduct from the previous semester and/or the current quarter depending on season. If a student has a "N" in conduct, he/ she may be deemed ineligible, or be placed on an athletics behavioral contract. If the student receives a "U" in conduct, he/she is automatically ineligible. Students will receive an overall "U" if they were suspended for any reason. Students assigned to an alternative school or on out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reason, or adjudicated to YDC, lose their eligibility.
2. The average of the two previous quarter grades in each class, or current quarter (depending on season) must be a 70 or higher for a student to be eligible (including APPS classes). Grading eligibility must also adhere to district guidelines. The AD may put a student athlete on an academic contract with a one class failure.
3. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student may not turn 16 years of age at anytime during the 2018-19 school year.
4. A waiver and authorization form must be completed by all tryout participants.
5. An up to date physical completed and signed by a physician is required each calendar year to date. Physicals not completed on the district provided physical form will not be accepted. Physicals must be signed by a Physician.
6. All students must have pre-arranged transportation home daily. Failure to be picked up on time may result in dismissal and/or suspension from the team. Coaches **WILL NOT** provide transportation home for athletes after practices and/or games.
7. A pre-participation medical history form must be completed by each tryout participant's parent.
8. A completed Player/Parent/Guardian Agreement, Guideline form, and Code of Ethics must be signed and returned prior to playing games.
9. Referrals that result in documentation on the student's file will carry the consequence of immediate ineligibility or behavior contract (before or during the season) for the current season, and potential calendar school year.
10. Bus referrals resulting in a level III offense will carry the consequence of immediate ineligibility or behavior contract (before or during the season) for the current calendar school year.

***Due to the high standards expected from the students at the STEM Academy, the following will be taken into consideration when choosing athletic teams:**

- Previous year's/semester's/nine week's academic performance in each course.
- Previous year's/semester's/nine week's individual class conduct grades and overall conduct grades as well as teacher recommendations as needed.
- Previous attitude, conduct, dedication, sportsmanship, and work ethic when trying out and/or being a member of an athletic team at The STEM Academy.
- Previous and current work ethic and conduct in classes.
- Talent level, potential, attitude, and work ethic during the evaluation period.

****GHSAA Law 1.40 – Limits of participation: (p.30 GHSAA Constitutions and By-Laws Vol.97-Number 1)**
1.41 Students must have a certification of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in athletic tryouts, practices, or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

- A. Any physical examination taken on or after April 1, in the preceding year will be accepted of the following GHSAA school year.
- B. The physical examination must be conducted by a licensed medical physician.
- C. The doctor's stamp is acceptable if it is in script, and if the information appears elsewhere on the form identifying him/her as a medical doctor.
- D. The GHSAA requires that the member school use the physical examination form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Academics and Conduct:

- All student-athletes are expected to complete all classwork and homework assignments given to them by their instructors while earning passing grades in all courses.
- Any form of plagiarism will result in academic and behavior probation, and will require a parent and student-athlete signature on both contracts. A repeat plagiarism offense will result in immediate dismissal from the team, and will carry eligibility regulations for future sports for that calendar year.
- Team members are to abide by the code of conduct and school dress code at all times.
- Student athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect the rights of others. Failure to do so may result in suspension and/or dismissal from the team.
- The STEM Academy Athletic Behavior Contract outlines consequences for unacceptable academic grades and conduct. This form is to be signed by both the student athlete and their parent/guardian if deemed necessary by the Athletic Director.
- Anything posted to social media that violates the district and/or student code of conduct may result in immediate dismissal from the team for the season of that sport.

Students will receive an overall "U" if they were suspended for any reason. This "U" makes the student ineligible for the quarter the conduct grade was issued as well as the following quarter.

Team members that do not complete their sport's season (Regular and Post) are not eligible to participate in postseason awards, banquets, etc.

Failure to compete may also result in removal from the team.

Playing Time:

All student-athletes who try out for an athletic team want to play in as many matches/games as possible. However, due to squad size and talent level, it is hard to find playing time for all players in each and every game/match. There is ***NO guaranteed playing time***. Playing time will be based on performance and attitude in practice and previous games/matches. Practices are used as a time for student-athletes to improve their skills and earn playing time in games. Coaches will do their very best to put players in situations where they can be successful. They will not attempt to put players in a game/match situation where they will feel uncomfortable or intimidated. Each and every game is a valuable learning experience not only for the players on the court, but the players watching from the bench as well. All team members are to remain on the team bench during games/matches. All parents, friends and other family members are never to approach the bench/ designated player area or athlete during a game or match. Pick up may occur after the game has concluded and the coach has dismissed the team. If you have a concern that needs to be addressed with the coach, or Athletic Director, please contact him/ her the following day after the game or call to set up an appointment. Under no circumstance is a coach to be approached and questioned before or after a game/ match.

- Siblings of tryout participants/team members are not allowed to remain on campus during tryouts/practices)
- Tryouts and practices are closed to spectators unless otherwise posted by the head coach.

By signing below, you indicate that you have read the information regarding eligibility, team selection, academics and conduct and playing time. You also acknowledge that all required forms in this Participation packet are complete and accurate. Finally, you understand that incomplete paperwork will result in exclusion of playing time in games until finalized and turned in to the coach.

*****Failure to adhere to these rules may result in immediate dismissal
(or suspension) from the team.*****

Student's Name (Printed): _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Name (Printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

*State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletics programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Inquires or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the SCCPSS Athletics Department at 208 Bull St. Savannah, GA 31401, phone 395-5531.