VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VHS Extracurricular Code of Conduct & Handbook

Board Approved July 13, 2026

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Vermilion Local School District is to provide each student with an opportunity to develop as a complete person. To help accomplish this goal, we offer extracurricular activities that provide students with experiences outside the classroom. The value and learning outcomes fostered by these activities are an important part of a student's total experience. Participants are expected to adhere to the Activity Behavior Code and Competition Expectations as approved by the Board of Education and implemented by the District Administration. Participation in extracurricular activities is a *privilege*, not a right, extended to all students who meet the eligibility requirements.

Vermilion Board of Education Policy #5610.05:
Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, and assistant principals and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code.

In addition, students are further subject to the Student Activity Guide and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

This policy shall be included as part of the Student Activity Guide.

PREFACE

The Activity Behavior Code provides for disciplinary action for any student participating in extracurricular activities who falls below the minimum conduct requirements. Violations of the Activity Behavior Code will be subject to discipline administered under the direction of the Superintendent or designee, which may include removal from the event, or denial of participatory privilege in some or all activities for part of a season, for a full season, or a school year, and/or referral to the local authorities. The behavior may also warrant discipline under the Vermilion Local School District's Student Code of Conduct.

In addition, each student participating in extracurricular activities is obligated under the direction of the coach or activity advisor to strive to meet the Competition Expectations. Conduct or behavior which fails to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined under, the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Activity Behavior Code.

The administration of the Vermilion Local School District is responsible for administering the Student Code of Conduct and the Activity Behavior Code.

ACTIVITY BEHAVIOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Students who participate in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also the Vermilion Local Schools and the local community. Since student participants are the direct representative of their school, they are expected to maintain a high standard of exemplary behavior.

All students who wish to participate in an extracurricular activity shall be willing to accept the guidelines, rules and regulations that govern the activity in which they wish to participate. Since these activities are a privilege for each participating individual, it is important that students and parents/guardians be aware of the rules and regulations which are in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, and 365 days per year. The Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of penalties based on the severity of the violation.

As much as possible, this Student Activity Guide covers most issues of athletic policy and conduct. However, because future events and circumstances cannot always be anticipated, the administration of Vermilion Local Schools reserves the right to change these policies or establish new policies as issues occur.

A. GENERAL

1. The provisions outlined in this policy shall be in effect twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, from the time of completion of sixth grade to the transfer or enrollment into Vermilion High School, and ends upon graduation. These provisions also include those extracurricular activities that commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the conclusion of the school year.

2. Any offense that results in a student being suspended from school shall automatically become a violation of the Activity Behavior Code.

3. Violations of the Activity Behavior Code which occur outside of the school day, at a non-school sponsored event or activity, shall be subject to the penalties outlined herein, but may or may not be considered a violation of school rules and regulations.

B. DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this policy are defined as follows:

1. *Alcohol*: Any liquor, wine, beer or other beverage containing alcohol.
2. *Drugs*: Any drug, including illegal drugs, marijuana, inhalants, legal prescription and over-the-counter drugs used or possessed or distributed for unauthorized purposes, counterfeit (look alike) substances and tobacco products.
3. *Drug Paraphernalia*: Equipment or apparatus designed for or used for the purpose of measuring, packaging, distributing or facilitating the use of drugs.
4. *Substance Abuse*: The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products in violation of state or federal law or in violation of school policy.
5. *Out of Season*: The time in which a sport is not currently active or is out of season as defined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) calendar.
6. *In Season*: The time in which a sport is active or is in season as defined by the OHSAA calendar.

7. *Established Sport:* A sport or activity in which the student participated in the previous school year.

C. FORBIDDEN CONDUCT

1. *Disruption of Activity*: A participant shall not cause disruption or obstruction of athletic programs, by use of violence, force, coercion, threat or words.
2. *Damage of Property*: A participant shall not willfully or recklessly cause or attempt to cause damage to property owned by the Board of Education, private individuals or other public agencies.
3. *Assault and Battery*: A participant shall not intimidate, threaten, assault, or commit battery upon any person, nor shall a student behave in such a manner that could cause physical or emotional injury to such persons.
4. *Dangerous Weapons and Instruments*: A participant shall not illegally use, possess, handle, transmit, or conceal dangerous weapons, substances, or instruments which include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, mace, tear gas, firecrackers, explosives, incendiaries, or other similar devices.
5. *Obscenity*: A participant shall not use obscenity, profanity, or other offensive language or gestures.
6. *Theft*: A participant shall not wrongfully take, carry away, or exercise dominion and control over property of others.
7. *Insubordination*: A participant shall not fail to comply with the rules and regulations of the governing body of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. A student shall not fail to comply with any additional rules as required by a coach/advisor.
8. *Criminal Activity*: A participant shall not engage in activities which violate local, state or federal criminal laws.
9. *Use of Tobacco*: A participant shall not use or possess any tobacco product which shall include, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipes*,* or vaping/Juuling.
10. *Alcohol, Drug Use*: A participant shall not at any time possess, use, sell, deliver, conceal, or consume, any drugs of abuse, including alcoholic beverages. **This includes attending parties where alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are openly used or consumed, even if not directly consumed by the student**. Drugs of abuse include any substance that is directly or indirectly represented as a drug of abuse. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule. Participants shall not possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs of abuse.
11. *Misuse of Social Media*: The use of questionable or blatantly inappropriate digital posting of any kind is prohibited. This includes but not limited to email messages, text messages, blogs, websites or other electronic communications to make anger-inducing or derogatory comments and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school, another team, or other staff member, or any person is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

D. STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTARILY SEEK HELP FOR SUBSTANCE ISSUES

A participant who voluntarily seeks help with any situation covered by the substance chemical abuse section of the Code of Conduct prior to imposition of any discipline under the schedule set forth below, at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee, may be excused from full imposition of discipline, provided that the student voluntarily and fully participates, to the satisfaction of the principal or his/her designee, in a program designed to help the student avoid such situations in the future. A current list of available programs will be given to each student found in violation of this behavior code. The provisions of this paragraph are not applicable once an offense has been committed and becomes known to the coach, advisor and/or school administrator.

E. PENALTIES

The Administration has the obligation to determine the appropriateness of any penalty, including the right to increase or reduce the penalty imposed in light of the violation. The coach and athletic director will meet with parents and students when a violation occurs so that all understand what the consequence will be and what is required to become eligible again.

1. First Violation:

For activities that have a schedule of public playing dates or activities, a first violation of the Activity Behavior Code will result in removal from participation for 20% of the regular season contests. If the penalty cannot be completed prior to the end of the current scheduled season, the remainder will be carried over to the next “established sport or activity”. An established sport is one in which the student participated in the previous school year.

A participant is allowed to practice with the team or organization, but may not participate in public playing dates or activities. The schedule will be determined by the coach of the sport, the advisor of the activity, and/or the principal’s designee. The participant and parent(s) or guardian(s) will be advised of the penalty for a second violation.

Any participant violating the Activity Behavior Code sections regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or criminal activity will be subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy. Penalties for all criminal activity violations will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

2. Second Violation:

A second violation of the Activity Behavior Code will result in a student being removed from participation for a period of sixty (60) school days. The participant will not be allowed to practice or play during the period of time he/she has been removed.

A participant in violation of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy for a second violation is subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of said policy. Penalties for any and all criminal activities will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

3. Third Violation:

A third or subsequent violation of the Activity Behavior Code will result in removal from participation for a period of 180 school days. The participant is not allowed to practice or play during the removal. A participant in violation of the Vermilion Local Schools Drug Testing Policy

for a third and/or subsequent violation is subject to the terms, rules, regulations, and penalties of said policy. Penalties for any and all criminal activities will be determined by the Administration on the severity of the violation and disciplined accordingly.

F. NO RIGHT TO APPEAL

The Vermilion Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to deny participatory privilege or remove a student from participating in any or all athletic, extracurricular and co-curricular activities for violations of the Activity Behavior Code. The decision of the Superintendent or designee is not subject to due process procedures and there are no rights of appeal.

G. CHAIN OF COMMAND TO PROCESS ISSUES

Students participating in activities or their parents may have questions, complaints, recommendations or commendations. When these arise, please raise them in the following order:

1. First, speak directly to the coach or advisor of the activity.
2. If not resolved, or if the issue has to do with how the athletic activity is conducted in the District, speak with the athletic director. In the case of a non-athletic activity, please speak with the assistant principal or principal.
3. If still not resolved, speak with the principal.

H. COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

All students participating in extracurricular activities shall be expected to exhibit good citizenship and sportsmanship. These traits help build character. Students participating in activities learn truthfulness, fair play, honesty, self-discipline, courage, self-restraint and loyalty. A student participating in extracurricular activities which involves athletics or other activities should aspire to:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility and the privilege of representing the school, District and community.
2. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the Administration and the coaching staff.
3. Learn the rules of the sport or competition thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist the students and others to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the sport or competition.
4. Treat opponents the way the student would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. 5. Refrain from taunting and making any derogatory remarks to opponents during the game.
6. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
7. Wish opponents good luck before the game or competition, and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
8. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote the extracurricular activity. Treat the officials with respect, even if the students disagree with their judgment.

9. Win with humility; lose with grace, and do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebration after a play or at the end of a game.

Failure to meet these Competition Expectations may also violate, and be disciplined under, the Student Code of Conduct and/or the Activity Behavior Code.

I. SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

A performance (athletic event, contest, play, concert, etc.) has priority over any practice or rehearsal. When two events of equal value conflict, the student may participate in the event of his/her choice without fear of penalty or consequence unless the event is a co-curricular and part of a grade. In this situation, the student will need to attend the co-curricular event.

CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Students in a co-curricular course receive academic credit for participation. As such, a student who is absent during the school day will still be allowed, if able, to attend a graded, co-curricular event outside of the normal school day. Students in extracurricular activities, such as athletics, do not receive academic credit for participation. Therefore, on the day of an absence, a student will need to be in attendance for at least ½ of the school day, or 3.5 hours, and the absence must be called in and excused in accordance with board policy to participate in an extracurricular activity after school.

Students participating in any extracurricular activity are expected to attend and participate in all meetings, practices, games or performances, unless physically unable to do so, or there is good reason for which permission was obtained **in advance** from the coach or advisor.

J. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

VHS and SMS extracurricular participants follow the *OHSAA Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility*. For 7th or 8th graders this means PASSING a total of 5 CLASSES. Once entering the 9th grade, this means PASSING a total of 5 **CREDITS**. In addition, students at VHS who participate in extracurricular activities must maintain a minimum of a 1.5 GPA with no more than one (1) F. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of the requirements for academic eligibility in particular when dropping from a course.

A student who is ineligible to participate in a contest or program may be permitted to practice during the first nine weeks he/she is ineligible. If a student is ineligible for a second nine weeks during a school year, he/she may not participate in any athletic practices or activities.
Coaches and/or Advisors will monitor participant's grades weekly during their respective seasons or activities. The coach or advisor may also deem it necessary to apply consequences to those participants failing to maintain the academic standards required to be eligible for extra-curricular activities.

Vermilion Board of Education Policy #5530.01 - DRUG TESTING OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN NONACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Acknowledging that peer pressure has a significant impact on student life, and recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs by Vermilion Local Schools students is a serious concern, a program of deterrence will be instituted as a proactive approach to a truly drug-free school environment. Since participation in nonacademic activities is a privilege, this program shall apply to all students, grades 8 through 12, who participate in school-sponsored athletics or other extra-curricular activities for which a grade is not given. The purpose of the drug testing program is:

A. to provide for the safety of all students;

B. to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing legitimate reasons for students to refuse to use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol;

C. to encourage students who abuse drugs to participate in drug treatment programs; and

D. to prevent the impact drug and alcohol use has on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to achieve their full academic potential while attending Vermilion Local Schools.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Prior to participation, any student who intends to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities, and their parents will be required to provide written consent for random testing of prohibited substances. The Board of Education will pay the cost of testing, unless a split sample test is requested by parent and/or student.

The Board may contract with an external agency for the purpose of collecting and analyzing test samples. All samples will be collected under the supervision of medical personnel, and in a manner that protects the privacy of the students being tested. Any student who fails or refuses to produce a sample will be prohibited from participation in his/her designated activity until a sample is obtained and tested.

The results of the tests shall not become part of the students' permanent record. Test information shall only be released to persons designated in Board regulations and procedures. Test results will not be reported to law enforcement authorities, and test information will not be released to law enforcement or other parties except in response to a lawfully executed subpoena. In the latter case, parents will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the subpoena.

Except as stated in the administrative guidelines, violation of this drug testing policy will not result in suspension or expulsion. Nonetheless, the testing program does not affect current policies of the Board regarding student drug, tobacco, or alcohol possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is established by means other than testing as outlined in this policy. Additionally, any student who in any way aids or abets another student in violating this policy or the administrative guidelines for this policy will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for implementation of this policy, and for addressing

any violations.

CONSEQUENCES OF POSITIVE TEST RESULTS from Policy AG5530.01

First Positive Result

The student will be denied participation for the equivalent of 20% of one season's contests, or 20% of one year's events for non-sports activities, beginning from the date of notification. Reinstatement is pending the student showing proof of assessment by a chemical dependency counselor and completion of treatment in a substance abuse program as recommended by the chemical and dependent counselor.

Second Positive Result

After the second positive result, the student is denied participation for the equivalent of 80% of one season's contests, or 80% of one year's events for non-sports activities, from the date of notification. Reinstatement is pending the student showing proof of assessment by a chemical dependency counselor and completion of treatment in a substance abuse program as recommended by the chemical and dependent counselor.

Third Positive Result

The Student will be denied participation in an activity for one (1) school year from the date of notification of the positive test. After that time, the student may petition for reinstatement of privileges, provided the student shows proof of assessment by a chemical dependency counselor and completion of treatment in a substance abuse program as recommended by the chemical and dependent counselor.

Violations are accumulative throughout the student's secondary school career. (Grades 8 - 12)

SELF-REFERRALS

A student may make a self-referral while a student in the Vermilion Local Schools. Self-referrals can only occur **before** a student is selected for testing. Counseling as required for a first positive result must be followed, but no other punitive action is taken. The student will be required to produce such evidence of counseling and testing as determined by the Designated Official. Any student that tests positive after self-referral is subject to consequences for a second or third positive result.

Self-Referral shall be made to the following:

A. Designated Official
B. School Counselor
C. Building Principal

PAY-TO-PARTICPATE
Participation Fee Schedule, Guidelines and Form
VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOLS
2026-2027

Please read all information carefully and complete the form

FEE SCHEDULE
Maximum per student in Grades 7-8: $150.00
Maximum per student in Grades 9-12: $225.00
Maximum yearly participation fee per family:
$350.00

High School Varsity Sport or Travel Activity including Marching Band $225.00
Allows students to participate in an unlimited number of sports, activities or clubs at no additional charge.

High School Club $ 60.00.00
Allow students to participate in unlimited clubs. Travel activities will result in an additional charge of **125.00.**

Grades 7-8 Sport or Travel Activity $150.00
Allows students to participate in unlimited 7-8 grade sports, activities or clubs at no additional charge.

Grades 7-8 Club
Allows students to participate in unlimited clubs. Travel activities will result in an additional charge.

Participation Fee Examples:
Family A has 1 VHS student in soccer, drama club and track **Total Fee $225.00**
Family B has 1 VHS student in Model UN and Drama Club **Total Fee $ 60.00**
Family C has 2 VHS student in Marching Band, and 1 SMS Student in Drama Club **Total Fee $350.00**

PARTICIPATION
GUIDELINES 2025-2026

1. Payment of the participation fee DOES NOT guarantee playing time for any student.

2. **Refund and Fees**
   Full refund will be given if:
   a. A sport or activity is canceled due to insufficient numbers.
   b. The student does not make the team.
   c. The student quits or leaves the team before 5 days of practice are completed.
   d. The student suffers a season ending injury prior to the first game.
   e. The student moves out of the district prior to the first game.
   f. Student becomes academically ineligible before the first mandatory practice set by the OHSA

Student will not be eligible for a refund if:
a. The student quits the team after participation in five (5) full practices.
b. The student is removed from the team for disciplinary reasons (school or team discipline).
c. The student becomes ineligible during the season and cannot play under the OHSAA or Vermilion Local Schools eligibility guidelines.
d. The student or parent/guardian is not satisfied with playing time.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE SEASON STARTS

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH TRAVEL ACTIVITY, SPORT OR CLUB

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE 2026-2027 _____

FOR FAMILY MAXIMUM PAYMENT LIST ALL CHILDREN IN GRADES 7 THROUGH 12:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ACTIVITY: _____

I agree to pay the full amount due by the dates established by Vermilion Local Schools. I understand that if I do not pay the total fee by the due date the full amount due will be added to the student fee, and the student may be excluded from participation in any additional sport or activity until the fees are paid. Student fee policies and procedures apply.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT NAME (please print): _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ STUDENT NAME (please print) _____

DATE: _____