Children Learn Valuable Life Lessons Through Athletics

Athletics plays an important role in a child’s life. Because of this, it is considered an integral part of the curriculum and overall experience of every student at PPS. When students participate in athletics, they learn the importance of sportsmanship, discipline, goal-setting, and teamwork. They develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body, and gain valuable leadership skills. Athletic competition also adds to school spirit and helps all students—spectators as well as participants—develop pride in their school.

At PPS, we offer opportunities for both boys and girls in all grade levels to participate in sports. On the elementary level, there’s a track and swimming program, as well as a basketball club program. Contact your child’s school to learn more. Students in grades 6–12 may join a variety of different teams to compete against other schools.

Interested in Intramural Sports?

Every school offers some type of intramural competition, ranging from basketball and football to yoga, dance, or kick ball. Contact your child’s school to learn more.

Students who participate in athletics have been shown to have higher grade point averages, better attendance, lower dropout rates, fewer disciplinary problems, and higher graduation rates.

Be a Good Sport

Good sportsmanship is an important aspect of any athletic competition, and is highly valued by the PIAA and Pittsburgh Public Schools. We encourage all student athletes to assume a positive attitude and behave in a manner that supports the athletic programs at PPS.
Accepted Behavior Includes:

- Cheering for your team rather than against an opponent
- Showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team
- Encouraging surrounding fans/students to display sportsmanlike behavior
- Respecting and accepting decisions by contest officials
- Being humble in victory and gracious in defeat

Actions meant to demean players, spectators, coaches, and officials are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at any Pittsburgh Public Schools sporting event. This includes disrespectful or derogatory cheers, gestures, or criticism, the use of profanity, displays of anger, or distracting behavior that hinders the game.

Useful Information for Parents

For physical forms and parent permission forms, go to www.pghschools.org/athletics. To learn more about the organizations that guide our sports, as well as eligibility for college sports, check out the websites below:

NAIA Eligibility Center: www.playnaia.org

NCAA Eligibility Center: web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3


Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletics Association (PIAA): www.piaa.org

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA): www.ncaa.org


National Federation of High Schools (NFHS): nfhso.org

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA): www.pheaa.org

Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA): www.psada.org

Academics is every student’s priority. All students in grades 6–12 who participate in athletics must maintain a 2.0 or better grade point average. They must also not be absent for more than 20 days during the semester.

Every year the City League basketball championship is held at Peterson Events Center on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland. It’s a chance for all PPS students to show pride in their District and to support the basketball program.

Six high schools within PPS are now among more than 40 high schools in Pennsylvania to receive the National Athletic Trainers Association Safe Sports School Award. This award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes.

Need more information?
Contact the Athletic Office by telephone at 412-529-2222, email at mgavlik1@pghschools.org or visit www.pghschools.org/athletics.