

## Athletic Eligibility

### Digest of LEADnet networking

#### **>>> From St. Peter, Reedsburg, Wisconsin (Luke Beck) ...**

Here at St. Peter's Lutheran School, academic studies are stressed that they come before athletics. If a student works hard in the classroom, we feel that they are also more likely to work hard as an athlete. In an attempt to raise the academic level, student athletes will be evaluated twice during each quarter (mid-quarter and at the end of the quarter). If a student earns a grade of an F or two D's (s)he will be considered academically ineligible for two weeks (10 school days) and participation in all games and practices will halt immediately. After that time, their grades will be reevaluated for that two-week period and if they have brought their grades up to meet the requirements, and then they may resume participation. However, if they are still ineligible, then they will be out for the remaining of the grading period. If an athlete has an incomplete on their report, they are also ineligible for athletics until those assignments that are missing are turned in to the appropriate teacher and graded.

Any students who do not meet the academic requirements listed above may be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities if (s)he has been referred for special educational need. The principal, teachers, athletic director and parent(s) will make this decision.

We check grades at quarter and midterms.

#### **>>> From Faith, Plano, Texas (Tim Merritt) ...**

Each student participating in an extracurricular activity is expected to maintain a passing cumulative grade (70 percent or higher) in every graded subject in which that student is enrolled.

Students who do not meet this expectation may not participate in any way (practices or games) in the extracurricular activity for two weeks from the time of notice from a teacher. After that two-week waiting period, if the student still has not met the passing requirement, the student will not participate until the grade is brought to a passing percentage (70 percent or higher).

#### **>>> From St. John, Maple Grove, Minnesota (Gary Volberding) ...**

Ineligibility occurs when their GPA falls below 2.0 or they are failing 2 or more classes. Eligibility is reviewed weekly.

#### **>>> From Grace, Modesto, California (Jim Scriven) ...**

We do not single out athletics. Rather, we have a policy that works well for us that applies to all Extracurricular activities. I believe it allows for a healthy balance of a Law and Gospel treatment of our students.

Here it is, as printed in our Student and Parent Handbook:

**Academic Probation/Extracurricular Eligibility:** Students not maintaining the minimum grade expectation may be placed on academic probation, of a length to be determined by the principal in consultation with the homeroom teacher. Each student's situation will be considered in light of the student's abilities. *However, as we provide weekly grade reports for students in grades 4-8, any student who is failing a subject area on the weekly progress report is automatically placed on academic probation until the failing mark has been improved to passing.* Students are blocked from **all** extracurricular school activities during probation, as academic improvement should receive their focus and energy. This includes drama rehearsals, basketball practices, handbell rehearsals, athletic competitions, performances, etc. Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances may be made in rare circumstances, upon approval of the principal and after collaboration with the student's parent(s). Students may be dismissed from the school in cases where academic probation results in no significant improvement.

As you may note, we have left ourselves the flexibility of using academic probation for any underachieving student. If the parents and teacher believe that a student who was previously getting all A's and B's but now is getting C's and D's is not trying hard enough, academic probation is an available tool. Even with the automatic probation triggered by an F, the principal is able to override (though rarely would - in fact I never have, but it's good to not be backed into a corner).

>>> See [LEA Online Library](#) for additional resources on this topic.

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