

# **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

## **Middle School/High School**

The Board of Education encourages good sportsmanship and promotes maximum opportunities for participation by students.

Fitzgerald Public Schools believes in the educational value of interscholastic athletics and supports a full program of sports for males and females. This information is designed to give the students and parents a clear understanding of the rules and regulations regarding student's athletic competition.

High School athletes are students first and athletes second. A student who elects to participate in athletic activities must understand that schoolwork and academics come first. Beyond the classroom, these students have chosen to make a commitment to an athletic team. That decision involves self-discipline, sacrifice, and dedication, never losing sight of the fact that school activities should be fun and contribute to the physical, emotional, and social development of the athlete.

The middle school athletic program is designed to allow for individual differences in growth and ability, and each coach is looking for potential, hard work, and a good attitude. Attitude, skill, talent, time, and effort at practice will all contribute to the coach's assessment of who starts and what substitutions should be made.

Student athletes at Fitzgerald Public Schools are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship in work, action, and attitude. Athletes are an extension of the curriculum designed to promote good health, strong bodies, teamwork, and a sense of school ownership, and camaraderie that students will remember the rest of their lives.