

Browning High School  
Athletic Department  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation

Criteria for 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation in HS Athletics

A student who is enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall be eligible to participate in a Browning High School Athletic Program based upon need.

All eighth-grade students will be informed of this opportunity and will be allowed to participate in tryouts or beginning practices to attempt to make the team. This will be done by announcing at the middle school the opportunity, and providing information on our website.

A student who is enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall be eligible in an Association contest, but must meet the following requirements and parameters:

1. The eighth-grade student can participate in all MHSAs contests other than Football and Speech, Debate & Drama, based upon need at Browning High School.
2. The head coach of a sport must complete the participation form for each 8<sup>th</sup> grader that they have determined has made their team. All signatures must be signed by parents, administrators and returned to the athletic director for final approval.
3. Before an eighth-grade student will be approved to participate at the high school, their parents must give permission, they must be academically eligible based upon MHSAs eligibility requirements, approved by the Middle School and High School Administrative team. (Principals and Athletic Director).
- ~~4. Browning High School sport programs that have tryouts to make the team, will allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders to try out for the program based upon need of the program. Currently Browning High School has the following programs that have tryouts: Fall Cheerleading, Winter Cheerleading, Softball and Baseball. The tryout will be based upon need at the high school level.  
If numbers are below the following:  
Fall Cheerleading – 15 ————— Winter Cheerleading – 20 ————— Softball – 20  
  
Baseball – 20~~
5. Browning High School sport programs that do not have tryouts to make the team, will allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders based upon need of the program.  
If numbers are below the following:  
Golf – 5                      Soccer – 10                      XC – 7 ————— Tennis – 10
6. Browning High School Wrestling and Track programs

~~Track – Coach will need to determine based upon need in a track event, also head coach will set qualifier marks that an 8<sup>th</sup> grader must be able to meet.~~

Boys and Girls Wrestling – Need to fill a weight class, no more than 2 per weight class  
Adding 8<sup>th</sup> participations will allow our wrestling teams to field full teams. Currently the struggle has been not having enough wrestlers to field a full team and losing matches and points during the regular season and at the divisional and state wrestling meets. Allowing 8<sup>th</sup> participation in wrestling allows us to even the playing field during the season.

All eighth-grade students who make the team will need to follow the same educational expectations and MHSA as our high school students. This includes the understanding that:

- a. In the first semester of the year, eighth-grade students act as incoming freshmen and have a “free” semester of participation as far as grades go. If they do not pass 4 classes in the fall, they are not eligible to compete at the high school level in the spring semester. They will get another “free” semester as an incoming freshman.
- b. This does not count toward their 8 semesters of participation as that rule states they have 8 consecutive semesters to play once they enter high school.
- c. Grade checks will occur as they do with our high school, if they are failing a class, they will not participate that week.
- d. They must live in our district (homeschool is included) or transfer legally as according to MHSA guidelines to participate at the varsity level.
- e. If an athlete is approved for high school participation, they will not be allowed to participate in that sport at the middle school level if the middle school season is at the same time of the high school season.
- f. All eighth-grade students participating in a high school contest must adhere to all other MHSA rules and guidelines.