

Horizon Montessori Public  
Schools (HMPS)  
Athletic Student/Parent  
Handbook  
  
2021-2022

To Parents and Student-Athletes,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 athletic season. You are now part of the HMPS Athletic Program, where “winning is a habit.”

Athletics, recognized as an integral part of education, complements our greater mission of the school. Lessons of commitment, teamwork, tenacity, and overcoming adversity are advanced on our courts, fields, and track. It is in the midst of “running to win the prize” that our student-athletes experience great life lessons. These lessons go beyond the x’s and o’s and into the heart. Along the way, our programs also provide wonderful opportunities to strengthen the larger community of Horizon Montessori Public Schools. Relationships built on the sideline provide cohesiveness among our parents as they support their children.

This handbook contains the philosophies, policies, and guidelines, which govern the Horizon Athletic program, as well as some of the more important rules and regulations required by the school and governing leagues. Although it is intended to be comprehensive in nature, there will inevitably be situations that occur that are not outlined in this handbook. Having a common understanding of the rules and regulations that govern athletics will assist in significantly reducing concerns and unforeseen problems.

We ask that you read this handbook thoroughly with your student-athlete(s). The athletic office must have a current, signed Parent/Athlete Handbook Contract, Waiver, and Concussion Awareness packet on file before a student-athlete can participate.

We look forward to another great year in athletics.

**Go HMPS!**

**Mrs. Yolanda Cantu- Dean of Instructions**

**Mr. Alim Ansari Superintendent**

**Table of Contents**

<b>VISION STATEMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>STUDENT ATHLETE POLICY</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION DONATION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TRYOUTS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DEPARTURE FROM TEAM</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION ON INDEPENDENT TEAMS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>STUDENT ACCIDENT AND INJURY</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ATHLETIC UNIFORM</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LETTERING POLICY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OUT OF SEASON EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PARENT EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>REQUESTING TO MEET THE COACH</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LATE PICK UP</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>HANDBOOK SIGNATURE</b>	<b>14</b>

## **Athletic Program Profile**

Teams: Horizon Montessori I, Horizon Montessori II, Horizon Montessori III, Horizon Montessori IV

Colors: Blue, Black, White, Grey, Gold, Yellow

Leagues: Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League

Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>) -Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, E-Sports (parent consent), Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Chess, Visual Arts

Elementary (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>) - (Spelling Bee, Chess)

Contact Information – Horizon Montessori Public Schools

Human Resources Department

2402 E. Business 83

Weslaco, Texas 78596

Email: [yolanda.cantu@hmeps.net](mailto:yolanda.cantu@hmeps.net) Phone:956-9693092

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the athletic department is to provide student-athletes a safe and healthy environment that promotes and supports academic, athletics and personal achievement. Athletic programs will encourage and empower student-athletes to become better students, athletes, leaders and citizens; to prepare for the transition to the next level of participation both academically and athletically.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The HMPS athletic department will provide an athletic program that helps develop the whole person through education and a healthy mind. In addition, the program will provide student-athletes an opportunity to pursue and understand the values of attitude, character, commitment, leadership, sportsmanship, responsibility, accountability, decision-making, work ethic and team.

## **ATHLETIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Involve as many students as possible in a positive athletic environment.
- 2) Instill in all students an exemplary work ethic and the qualities of: accountability, discipline, citizenship and a high degree of sportsmanship.
- 3) Develop and maintain a complete and comprehensive off-season program.
- 4) Have all programs represented with class, character and dignity.
- 5) Establish successful programs so that all participants enjoy a positive learning experience.
- 6) Demonstrate that each of our athletic teams is well coached, highly disciplined and very well organized.
- 7) Ensure that the athletic department objectives support the total mission of the school.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Responsibilities of the School**

- 1) Facilities, Supplies, and Equipment: To provide supplies, equipment, and facilities essential for our student-athletes to compete.
- 2) Student Safety and Development: To employ and teach proper training methods, to provide properly fitted safety equipment, to provide first aid to injuries, and to seek the care of a trained medical professional for emergency injuries.

### **Responsibilities of the Coaches**

- 1) To provide first and foremost the safety of the participating student athlete.
- 2) To encourage the student-athletes to give maximum effort in the classroom and to periodically monitor student grades to ensure academic success.
- 3) To schedule games and to make travel arrangements.
- 4) To carry out any needed discipline for infractions within the athletic program.
- 5) To complete eligibility forms and to adhere to all TCSAAL rules.
- 6) To teach the skills necessary for the student-athlete to successfully participate in sports.
- 7) To teach sportsmanship and respect for officials.
- 8) To set the proper example of sportsmanship.
- 9) To take care of equipment and facilities.

### **Responsibilities of the Parents**

- 1) To give moral support to their son/daughter for their participation in athletics. This could include verbal encouragement; going to practices, games, or meets whenever possible; or participating in the **HMPS Booster Club**.
- 2) To encourage the student-athlete to attend all practices, games, or meets and not to miss these events other than for illness or circumstances beyond his/her control.

- 3) To furnish transportation to and from school for practices, games, and meets.
- 4) To work with the coach in identifying and correcting potential problems.
- 5) To encourage the student-athletes to maintain passing grades in all subjects and to attend tutorials when necessary or scheduled due to unsatisfactory grade reports.

**Responsibilities of the Student-athletes**

- 1) To represent the school and the community with character and good sportsmanship. Other communities, as well as our own, judge our school by the conduct and attitudes of our student-athletes, both on and off the field.
- 2) To be responsible to the other members of the team. Giving less than his/her best effort is letting their teammates down.
- 3) To be responsible to his/her family. The student-athlete should not do anything that will bring shame or dishonor to his/her parents.
- 4) To be responsible to the younger students in the school system by providing an example to follow. He/she should always remember that they are important role models to younger student-athletes.
- 5) To strive for academic success along with athletic success. To continue to participate and remain eligible, the student-athlete must meet all eligibility standards set by the school and the state.
- 6) To adhere to all school policies and all athletic policies.
- 7) To train properly and refrain from activities that are potentially harmful to their bodies.

**TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL**

- 1) When athletic events are being held at home or away, athletes will be responsible for their own transportation.
- 2) When travel outside of HMPS campuses occurs, the school will provide transportation that all athletes will be required to use. However, parents can sign a student out with a coach.
- 3) For post event transportation, athletes often are allowed to ride home with their parents, when the proper waivers have been filled out in a timely manner.

**STUDENT ATHLETE POLICY****\* Student athlete disciplinary policy will reflect the Horizon Montessori Student Code of Conduct\***

- 1) **SUBSTANCE ABUSE-USE, SELL, OR POSSESSION**
  - a) Horizon athletics vigorously opposes any student's use, possession, purchase, or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances (including performance enhancement drugs) of any form, either on or off campus. Violation of this policy subjects a student-athlete to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the school administration and may lead to the involvement of local law enforcement. Penalties could include multiple day suspension, permanent removal from the team, or expulsion from school.
- 2) **GAMBLING**
  - a) Gambling will not be tolerated. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action.
- 3) **HARASSMENT**
  - a) Horizon athletics is committed to maintaining an atmosphere that is free from violence, personal abuse, bullying, intimidation or any other form of harassment. The athletic department will uphold the harassment policy as cited in the Horizon Montessori School District Handbook. Any form of unwelcome conduct towards another student whether verbal, written (typed or text included), physical, or visual that occurs in school, out of school, or at school sponsored events is not condoned by the school. Student-athletes in

violation may be subject to disciplinary action, by their coaches, athletic director, and school administration.

4) HAZING

- a) Hazing and other acts of initiation of students during athletic or extracurricular events are not condoned by the school, and are strictly forbidden. Before school activities and events, students will be advised of the school's policies in an attempt to ensure the safety of all participants as well as maintain the personal dignity of each student and the reputation of the school. Students participating or involved in a hazing activity will be subject to serious disciplinary consequences.

***\*\*\*ANY ATHLETE FOUND IN FAULT OF THE ABOVE CONDUCTS can lead to suspension from all athletic participation for one calendar year. \*\*\****

## **SUSPENSIONS**

With agreement from the Athletic Director, the head coach has full authority to suspend a player based on violations listed in the team or athletic handbook contract.

**1. Other suspension are as follows:**

- a. **In School Suspension (ISS)**- Suspended for 1 week from the date of suspension.
- b. **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**-Suspended for 3 weeks from the date of the suspension and possible suspension from the remainder of the season, depending on the severity.
- c. A student-athlete that is suspended out of season will serve the consequence in the next sport chosen.
- d. A student-athlete will have 3 days to appeal suspensions.

## **REQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION**

- 1) Each student-athlete desiring to participate in any Extracurricular Sports must have the completed and signed documents on file in the athletic office before the first day of participation in any given sport:
  - a) Signed Contract of Athletic Handbook and Parent Acknowledgement
  - b) Physical Examination and Medical History
  - c) Signed Team Contract
  - d) Student-Athlete Emergency Information Sheet

**Please Note:** Student-athletes may participate in organized team activities once all forms have been turned in, which should be before the first scheduled day of participation. All of the aforementioned documents can be found in hardcopy form in the athletic office or the athletic google drive.

## **PARTICIPATION DONATION**

In Horizon Athletics' ongoing effort to begin the school's successful athletic programs, the athletic program has decided to ask parents for monetary donation per sport. This fee is NOT mandatory for participation, but it helps support our entire athletics teams.

**Fee Schedule per sport:**

\$20 for the first student athlete in the family  
\$10 for each additional student athlete in the same family

The fee is non-refundable.

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Students are to turn in their grades every progress report. If a student is failing, the coach will make necessary action to ensure that he/she gets on track by the end of the six weeks.
- 2) A student who misses school due to athletic competition is responsible and will be held accountable for any missed assignments while out.
- 3) Any work that is due during a period that the student will miss should be turned in before the class period or specific arrangements made with the teacher prior to missing.
- 4) The student athlete is responsible for making arrangements with the teacher ahead of time for taking early or making up any tests or quizzes that may be scheduled.
- 5) Under no circumstances should a student fail to talk with a teacher whose class he or she will miss at least a day ahead of time.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- 1) Horizon Athletics requires that:
  - a) To be eligible for participation, a student must be in compliance with the Horizon Montessori Public Schools attendance policy, must be in good academic standing, and must be attending school on a Full time basis in person.
  - b) A student receiving one or more failing grade(s) (Grade of 69 or below) in a Six Week grading cycle will render a student ineligible to participate in Athletic Competition.
  - c) Eligibility is determined on the day that report cards are issued or inputted into the system with the approval of the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
  - d) Ineligible MIDDLE SCHOOL student-athletes may continue to practice with their team at the discretion of the Head Coach.
  - e) An ineligible student remains ineligible until the date that the next progress reports are issued. At that time, if the progress report indicates that the student is passing and in good standing in all of their classes.
- 2) If eligibility is not restored at progress reports, it will be reviewed at the next 6 week Report Card.
- 3) Passing summer school courses may remove a student's ineligible status, which has been incurred during the previous year
- 4) A student-athlete that is ineligible may not travel with the team if team travel occurs during school instructional hours. The Student Athlete may still attend the game after school hours after an agreement has been reached between the Administration, teachers, coaches and parents of the Athlete.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

- 1) Student-athletes must attend school in order to participate in a practice or a game that day, if he or she is late to school on a regular school day they must be present by 10 AM. A student-athlete may miss school for up to 3 hours, at any one point during the day if it is to attend a medical appointment, however, proper documentation and school procedures must be followed.



- 2) Students who are absent from school and determined to be excused by the attendance office may participate in practices and contests. Students who are absent from school and determined to be unexcused by the attendance office may not participate in practice or contests.
- 3) Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided the absence was excused. If the game or practice is scheduled on a school holiday and school was in session the day before, then the “Saturday rule” will still apply.
- 4) If a student-athlete is traveling at the beginning of the school day for an athletic competition and is to miss the entire day, then he or she must be present at school the day before under the same conditions.
- 5) Student athletes can only participate in sport events if they are receiving face to face instruction.

## TRYOUTS

- 1) Tryouts allow coaches to place like-skilled players together which aids in each player’s development. Whether a team should have tryouts and/or cuts, and how they are handled and executed will be left to the discretion of the team’s coach in consultation with the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director.
- 2) Tryouts are usually held 2 to 4 weeks before the start of the season.

\*Additional tryouts for additional players will be left to the discretion of the head coach and is not guaranteed. \*

## Organization of teams

- 1) **Middle School Teams** – At this level, students become accustomed to interscholastic practice and play. For many, it is their first introduction to competitive sports, different from recreation in its demands and philosophy. Gaining experience through training and play should be of utmost importance, not the win/loss record. At this level of play, the focus is on learning athletic skills and games rules, fundamentals of team play, social-emotional growth, and healthy competition.
- 2) **Freshman/Junior Varsity Teams** – This level of competition has an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. Although being successful on these levels is important, winning is not the sole objective. This is the level at which the athlete displays his/her readiness for the execution of skills at game speed. Athletic abilities, commitments, and positive attitudes will be rewarded and tested in competitive game situations. An attempt will be made to allow as many participants as possible to participate, but not all will participate equally. At these levels, participation will be based on the degree of effort, skill improvement, ability to compete and execution of skills at game speed demonstrated by the student athlete in practice and during contests.
- 3) **Varsity Teams** – Varsity competition is the culmination of each sport program. Squad size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of the number needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to participate in the contest. It is vital that each team member has a role and is informed of its importance. The number of roster positions is relative to the student’s acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team’s goal.

## DEPARTURES FROM TEAM

**There are three types of departure from a team:**

- 1) **Leaving a team** – An injury, poor health status, coach permission, academic reasoning, or family emergencies may all lead to permissible departure from the team.
- 2) **Incomplete season** – Any player quitting a sport after he/she has started the sport will not

be eligible to participate in the next sport until the current season is complete.

- 3) **Being dismissed from a team-** Any player who is dismissed from a team for conduct, rule infractions, or multiple disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to play in another sport.

### **PARTICIPATION ON INDEPENDENT TEAMS**

- 1) **A commitment to a school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the school team. School sport participation WILL take precedence over other non-school activity.** Penalty for violations could lead to suspensions or ineligibility of the season. If violation takes place in the last game of the season, the athlete could possibly be suspended from the following sport of his/her choice. For cheerleading purposes, this is defined as competition cheerleading on a school team vs. outside team.

**\*\*This rule is not in effect from June 1-July 31\***

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT AND INJURY**

- 1) If a student-athlete is injured during a school practice or a game for a school team, the coach will take precautionary measures and will give medical attention if needed. Please note that the team coaches are not certified medical staff, and parents are encouraged to seek professional medical help if any accident or injury may occur. Please see district handbook policy regarding Accident/Insurance.
- 2) All athletes should notify their coach when injured. Coach will fill out an injury report. Coach and player should then notify the school principal of injuries requiring treatment.
- 3) No treatment and/or rehabilitation program will be discontinued until authorized by the Student Athletes Doctor.
- 4) Injured athletes, regardless of grade, are still required to attend practices unless treating and/or rehabilitating an injury, or as approved by the Head Coach.

### **ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE**

- 1) Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take great care of the uniforms. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform (if available) will be issued, once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. Uniform pieces that are damaged outside of practices and games will need to be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete. The replacement cost for a uniform varies per sport.
- 2) A student-athlete must not have any outstanding uniform/equipment items; otherwise the athlete will not be able to attend his/her next sport of choice.
- 3) Any and all practice gear at all times should be **appropriate athletic apparel**.
- 4) Each coach will determine team dress code when traveling to an away game.
- 5) If there is an athletic team traveling during a school day that occurs either at or before the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> period, then the student-athletes belonging to the traveling team may come to school dressed down in their appropriate athletic uniforms or travel gear as approved by the team coach and/or Principal. If travel is going to occur during 3<sup>rd</sup> period or after, then team members traveling should come to school following the rules of the normal student dress code. Permission from the Principal must be received first.

### **OUT OF SEASON EXPECTATIONS**

- 1) During the summer all athletes are expected to work on and develop their athletic abilities. It is

understood that family and personal time take first priority during the summer, however, there are various opportunities for student-athletes to train when they can. If a student-athlete is in town and not committed to a family activity, it is assumed that he/she will be engaged in some sort of personal strength and speed development program.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

- 1) I will enjoy my child's opportunity to experience the benefits of playing sports
- 2) I will not talk negatively about the coach, athlete, the school/program, or any administrative personnel.
- 3) I will trust in my child's ability to have fun and to perform and achieve excellence on his own.
- 4) I will help my child learn the right lessons from winning, losing, individual achievement, and mistakes.
- 5) I will respect my child's teammates as well as fellow parents and fans.
- 6) I will give encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child or his teammates.
- 7) I will support the efforts of the coaching staff. I will not instruct from the sidelines unless asked to by the coach.
- 8) I will ensure that my child will attend all practices and games and will inform the coach in advance if unable to attend.
- 9) I will respect all facilities made available to my child.
- 10) I will respect the equipment and uniform loaned to my child for practice and play.
- 11) I will respect the officials and their authority during games.
- 12) I will never demonstrate threatening or abusive behavior.

## **MEETING WITH YOUR CHILD'S COACH**

- 1) Please consider waiting 24 hours before placing a call or sending an email to request a meeting.
- 2) Do not attempt to confront a coach or request a meeting before or after games or practices, this is never an appropriate time.
- 3) If a coach cannot be reached, please call their campus to help set up the meeting.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:**

- 1) Concerns about your child's general welfare
- 2) Ways to help your child improve
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior

### **Things not appropriate for discussion and are left to the Coach's Discretion:**

- 1) Playing Time
- 2) Player's Positions
- 3) Team Strategy
- 4) Play Calling
- 5) Other Student Athletes

*\*Failure to abide by this policy could lead to permanent removal of all athletic practices and games for the season or the year. Continuous abuse of policy could also lead to removal of child from the team.*

## **LATE PICK UP-Practice and games**

Parents will have a 15 minute grace period to pick up their child after the designated arrival time

or practice. Any time after that, parents will be charged \$1 for every minute, with notice or not.

Constant tardiness, with or without notice, may lead to removal from the team.

***THIS HANDBOOK MAY BE UPDATED AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IF NEEDED.***

## PARENT/ATHLETE HANDBOOK CONTRACT

2021-2022

**\*PLEASE SIGN AND REMOVE THIS FORM FROM THE HANDBOOK AND RETURN IT TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.**

*We understand that these policies are applicable for the 2021-22 school year, unless otherwise notified of the changes by the Principal and/or Coach.*

*We understand that addendums and amendments to the handbook may be enforced throughout the school year that will be in the best interest of our students and athletic program. You may be asked to sign a commitment contract that will be distributed by each individual coach pertaining to the sport they are coaching.*

*We have received the 2021-2022 Horizon Montessori Public schools Parent/Athlete Handbook and have familiarized ourselves with its contents. We support and agree to abide by the policies contained therein.*

*We, the undersigned student and parent(s) promise as a matter of personal honor and integrity to act at all times in accordance with the code of conduct outlined in this Handbook*

### ***Release Statement***

We, likewise, give Horizon Montessori Athletics permission to publish and use, in Horizon Montessori publications, any photos in which I/we appear that may be taken during athletic competitions or other Horizon Montessori events.

Athlete Print & Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*revised 5/7/2021