**ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There is a New York State Education Department (NYSED) program that permits physically and emotionally appropriate students to try out for an athletic team that is outside of their grade placement. This program is called the Athletic Placement Process. Your child may be eligible to participate in the sport outside of his or her normal grade level and compete against older student-athletes. In order to establish the appropriate eligibility, we must have your permission to begin the APP.

This evaluation is a comprehensive evaluation of your child’s emotional and physical maturity (including height and weight); as well as athletic abilities, physical fitness, and sport-specific athletic skill in relationship to other student athletes at that level.

Physical maturity is determined by the district medical director during a physical exam, using the Tanner Scale. The Tanner Scale requires the inspection of the entire body, including the breasts and genitals. The district does not accept Tanner ratings from private medical providers. Upon passing the medical clearance, the student may proceed to the physical fitness and skill assessments. Students must pass **ALL** parts of the APP including 4 out of 5 standards in the physical fitness portion. However, unlike with the selection classification process, APP has no waiver protocol for students who are deficient in more than one skill assessment standard.

If your child successfully meets the requirements of the APP, he/she will be allowed to try out for competitive high school athletics during 7th and/or 8th grade(s). Under normal circumstances, a student is eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport for only four consecutive seasons, beginning with the student’s entry into the ninth grade. However, by meeting the APP requirements established by NYSED, your child’s eligibility can be extended to permit:

a) participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into the eighth grade; or

b) participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into theseventh grade.

It is important for you and your child to understand that, once the requirements are met **and** if he/she is accepted as a member of the team after the tryout period, he/she cannot return to a lower-level team (modified) in that sport in that season. Please know, at the higher level of play your child will be exposed to the social atmosphere that is common among older students in a high school environment. Therefore, it is important to take into account your child’s ability to handle the additional demands.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this program or to discuss any aspect of your child’s athletic placement. If you agree to allow your child’s participation in this program, please sign and return the parental permission form below to Mrs. Amy Steward in the FMS main office.

Sincerely,

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Dave Austin

Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics

Guilderland Central School District

Guilderland High School

8 School Road P.O. Box 37

Guilderland Center, NY 12085

(518) 861-8591 ext. 4000

Fax (518) 861-5874

austind@guilderlandschools.net

**Parent/Guardian Statement**

 **I understand the purpose and eligibility implications of the Athletic Placement Process. My son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name) has my permission to participate in the Athletic Placement Process. This statement is good for multiple seasons over the course of the same academic year.**

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