

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 the APP Physical Exam, using the Tanner Scale. The district medical director will use the Tanner Scale to determine whether or not the applicant is physically mature enough to safely participate on the specific high school athletic team. The district does not accept Tanner ratings from private medical providers. Upon passing the APP Physical, the student may proceed to the APP Fitness Exam. The APP Fitness Exam can be challenging for some students. Students must score in the 85th percentile for their gender and age group in 4 out of 5 components in order to pass the APP Fitness Exam. There is no waiver process for being deficient in two (2) or more fitness areas.

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 the seventh 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. Beth Ford, the FMS School Nurse.

Sincerely,

David Austin

David Austin
Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics
Guilderland Central School District
518-861-8591 (ext 1400)
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. An APP Parent/Guardian Statement is required for each athletic season that your son/daughter participates in.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date