



Amherst Central School District

Anthony J. Panella
Superintendent

Jeffrey Wheaton
Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

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. It is called the Athletic Placement Process (APP).

Your child may be eligible to participate in the sport of their interest outside of his or her normal grade level. 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 using the Tanner Scale as well as height, weight and muscle mass as compared to other athletes they will compete with. The Tanner Scale requires the inspection of the entire body, including the breasts and genitals. The district does accept Tanner ratings from private medical providers. The district does not accept a history of menarche for girls in place of a physical examination. Upon passing the medical clearance, the student may proceed to the physical fitness and skill assessments. Students must pass all levels in order to meet the requirements of the APP.

If your child successfully meets the requirements of the APP, they will be allowed to try out for competitive high school athletics during 7th and/or 8th grade(s), or compete at the modified level if in grades 9-12. 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 Athletic Placement Process 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 they are accepted as a member of the team, they cannot return to a lower-level team (modified) in that sport in that season. Remember, 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 to my office.

Take care,

Jeff Wheaton

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Director of Health, PE and Athletics