

# **St. Augustine Catholic Elementary & Middle School**

**K3 - 8th Grade  
1300 Galveston St.  
Laredo, Texas 78040**

**Mrs. Barbra Zurita, Principal  
Sister Christina Conroy, Vice Principal**



**Student/Parent Athletic Handbook  
2017-2018  
*“Excellence in Catholic Education”***

Dear Parents, Students, Volunteers, and Coaches,

Welcome to St. Augustine Elementary Middle School! Thank you for choosing St. Augustine Elementary Middle school to receive a Christ-centered Catholic education to pursue academic excellence.

Athletics are recognized as an integral part of education. Lessons of Commitment, teamwork, tenacity and overcoming adversity are advanced on our courts and fields. These lessons will help our students become life - long learners and will prepare them for their future. We hope that our student athletes develop a love for Christ through service to their teammates and their school.

This handbook outlines the philosophies, policies, and guidelines which will govern St. Augustine Elementary Middle School athletic program, as well as some of the more important rules and regulations required by the school and governing leagues. Please read this document carefully, sign the attachment agreement and return it to school before the first practice. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies and procedures of St. Augustine Elementary Middle School Athletic Program during the 2017-2018 school year.

We look forward to a great year in athletics,

**GO KNIGHTS!**

Mrs. Barbra Zurita  
SAEMS Principal

Sister Christina Conroy  
SAEMS Vice Principal

Mr. Ervey Trevino  
Athletic Director

Mr. Eduardo Valdez  
Coach

## St. Augustine Elementary Middle School Athletic Vision and Mission Statement

St. Augustine Elementary Middle School is a Catholic learning community forming young boys and girls to answer the call to lead and be active participants in their Church and community.

### St. Augustine Elementary Middle School

- Offers a quality, comprehensive academic curriculum
- Educates the whole person: mind, body, and spirit
- Instills a sense of responsibility and service to others
- Trains ALL students to meet the current and future challenges of society

### **Athletic Mission Statement**

St. Augustine Elementary/ Middle School Athletic Mission reflects the mission of the school.

St. Augustine Elementary /Middle School dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic learning community committed to developing leaders to meet the current challenges of society and developing the whole person.

### **Registration Information Nondiscriminatory Policy**

St. Augustine Elementary/ Middle School accepts and admits any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students of the school.

### **Athletic Permission Form**

St. Augustine Elementary/ Middle students who participate in a sport must fill out a transportation athletic permission form. Permission forms must be completed and returned on or before the deadline set before the first practice date. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline should see the Athletic Director before attending practice. Deadlines are not intended to prevent a student from participating on a sports team, but they are necessary to make sure that team sizes do not become too large to allow for proper instruction of participants. A permission form need only be completed one time during the school year.

### **Transportation and Travel**

1. When athletic events are being held at St. Augustine School, athletes will be responsible for their own transportation.
2. When travel outside Laredo, TX, occurs, St. Augustine School will provide transportation that all athletes will be required to use. Exceptions will occur on a case by case basis.
3. Athletes wishing to ride home with other relatives or adults after an event will be considered on a case by case basis. A signed parental waiver and/or verbal confirmation are required.

## **Fees**

Student athletes and their families are required to pay a fee per athlete, per sport to help offset costs for transportation, uniforms, equipment and tournament fees. The team coach or Sponsor will inform you if you have a fee. Sport Uniforms will be purchased by one sales representative. Coach Valdez will provide the team coach with this and the team coach will relay this message to the parents. Dance team uniform fee and information will be provided by dance sponsors.

## **Multiple Sports and Activities**

In regards to multiple activity participation, student-athletes will not be discouraged from participation in non-athletic department (i.e. fine arts, debates, academic competitions, etc.) programs. However, student-athletes must take into account the seriousness of the commitment to an athletic team and the necessary to reach a high level of excellence. As with any team, athletes will depend on each other for success. Student-athletes are expected to consider their responsibility to their teammates as an obligation to be taken very seriously.

Creation and size of teams Is determined by many factors including, but not limited to, the number of participants interested in a sport, facilities, and coaching resources. Decisions will be made on a season by season basis in order to insure a healthy experience for all parties involved.

## **Dress Code and Grooming Regulations**

Per St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School Parent Handbook, student-athletes must follow all regulations accordingly.

Of particular note for boys, no long hair allowed. Boys and girls may not have dyed hair of any color.

## **Practice Times**

Practice time outside the school day is limited to 5 hours per school week per activity from Monday through the end of the school day Friday. The maximum length of any single practice session is one hour.

## **Social Media Policy**

At St. Augustine Elementary Middle school student athletes are allowed to use social networking as a way to communicate with others, share in their athletic endeavors, record awards and experiences, and network within and outside the school community. While social networking is fun and valuable, there are some risks we need to keep in mind when using these tools. Student-athletes are advised to use good judgement; be respectful, responsible, and ethical; and be accurate and appropriate. Students must also respect private and personal information as well as posting images with care. It is the policy of St. Augustine Elementary/Middle school Athletic Department to uphold the St. Augustine Student-Parent Handbook in the event of a technology policy violation.

## **General Policies**

### **Sportsmanship**

All student – athletes are expected to represent St. Augustine Elementary/Middle school in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both on and off the court or field. Student athletes are expected to display the best courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or a game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director, and in consultation with the school principal. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. In extreme cases when an athlete has been ejected from a game, multi-game suspension, practices, and dismissal from the team may be appropriate. The athletic director, in consultation with the principal, will make the final decision following a meeting with the athletic, coach, and parent.

### **Expectations of Spectators**

Spectators at St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School athletic events are expected to remember that they are attending the contest to support and cheer for their team. Only language and cheers that are positive and uplifting should be used.

Member of the St. Augustine Community should at no time engage in inappropriate behavior such as:

The use of profanity

Fighting and arguing

Attempts to intimidate, ridicule and/or verbally abuse the St. Augustine faculty, staff, opposing teams and their fans, or officials.

Failure to comply with the school's behavior expectations for spectators may result in removal from the contest facility and/or prohibit from attending future events.

### **Prerequisites for Participation**

Each Student athlete desiring to participate must have the completed and signed documents that are given to the athlete by their coach or sponsor before the first day of practice in any given sport.

### **Student – Athletes**

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative, spirit, and desire to represent St. Augustine Elementary/ Middle School in a favorable way.

## **Eligibility and Probation**

Student – athletes are expected to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with St. Augustine Elementary/Middle school Student-Parent Handbook and the teaching of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and competitions, and in the public arena. A student will be considered ELIBIBLE to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School if the most recent academic report reflects the student:

\*Has no failing grades during the current marking period (no grades below 70);

\*Has no unsatisfactory mark during the current marking period.

If an Athlete fails 2 classes by the end of a 9 week period at the end of the report card they don't play for two weeks.

Eligibility is determined on the day report cards are issued.

Ineligible students may attend scheduled practices, but may not participate in any competition until eligibility has been restored. An ineligible student remains ineligible until the next progress report or on the 7<sup>th</sup> day the progress reports are issued. If progress reports indicate that the student is passing all classes, eligibility is restored. If eligibility is not restored at the progress reports, it will be reviewed at the next report card.

Passing summer school courses may remove a student's ineligible status for the previous school year.

A student – athlete will be considered ON PROBATION should his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct;

\*One failing grade or unsatisfactory conduct mark in any course

A student – athlete will also be considered ON PROBATION should his/her behavior require:

\*Removal from a classroom

\*In School – detention

\*In School Suspension

\*Out of School Suspension

Probation is a two-week period, during which a student – athlete works to improve his/her grades and/or conduct. During this two - week period, a student is still considered a full, participation member of the athletic team, but time should be spent wisely in improving one's grades and conduct. Student – athletes are encouraged to seek extra help from those teachers in courses where he/she is struggling, either before school, during class time, or after school.

St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and person growth.

Student who commit serious violations of the school's policies/procedures are subject to disciplinary measures by their coach up to, and including, dismissal from the team in consultation with the athletic director and principal.

### **Evaluating Probationary Improvement**

A student – athlete remains a full, participating member of a team if his/her grades at the end of the probationary two – week period reflect a passing average or better in every class, and the student – athlete maintains conduct in keeping with the St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School Student-Parent Handbook and the teaching of the Catholic Church.

### **Ineligibility**

Should a student – athlete earn a grade under 70, a mark below satisfactory, or a receive a serious consequence, he or she will be deemed ineligible. Ineligibility means that a student – athlete may NOT participate in athletics for the remainder of the season.

All student – athletes are allowed two (2) probationary periods per school year. Should a student athletic fail to meet the academic and behavior standards outlined above more than twice during the school year, he/she will be considered ineligible and will no longer be permitted to participate in our athletics program.

### **Student – Athletic Expectations**

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School Student-Parent Handbook. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student – athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.

### **Attendance**

All student – athletes must be marked as present on the day of practice or a game in order to participate. Students must attend school at least half a day on the day of practice or game in order to participate.

All student – athletes must recognize the time commitment made to a team. One is expected to attend all practices and games. If one cannot attend a practice or game, the coach and/or athletic director must be notified in advance.

### **Stewardship**

All student athletes are expected to be good stewards of all equipment, facilities, and uniforms entrusted to them.

\*Locker rooms, practice areas, gym, restrooms and all other facilities are expected to be clean and orderly at all times.

### **Athletic Uniforms**

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take care of the uniform. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform (if available) will be issued, once the lost uniform has been paid in full. Uniform pieces which are damaged outside of practice or competition will be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete.

### **Practice Rules**

Coaches must keep practice times and dates set. If a coach changes the time or day of practice he/she are responsible of notifying the parents. Students are not allowed to stay unattended before or after practices. Parents must pick up student – athlete and then drop off their child for practice at their schedule time. The coach must be present 15 minutes before practice begins and must leave until the last student – athlete is picked up from practice. The office staff will not be responsible for student – athletes before or after their practice times.

### **Communication with your child's coach**

Direct communication between the coach and players is essential to a team's success. This is the best way for any questions or conflicts to be handled. At the beginning of each sports season, a meeting will take place between the coach, student-athletes, parent of student-athletes, and principal at which time the following items will be explained:

1. The coach's philosophy
2. Goals and expectations for the team
3. Locations and times of all practices, contests, and games
4. Team requirements and special equipment
5. Team rules, guideline and consequences for infractions
6. Practice rules and procedures
7. Procedures for addressing injuring occurring during participation

### **Guideline to use when requesting a meeting with your Child's Coach and Athletic Director**

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 the Athletic Director or Principal 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 or academic grades

### **Things not appropriate for discussion and are left to the coach's discretion.**

1. Playing time
2. player position
3. Team strategy
4. Play calling
5. Other student athletes

**“I consider sports as an instrument of education when it fosters high human and spiritual ideals; when it forms youth in an integral way in values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, solidarity and peace. Surmounting differences of cultures and ideologies, sports offers an ideal occasion for dialogue and understanding among peoples, for building the desired civilization of love. To put into practice these values, based on the dignity of the human person, in face of possible interests that might darken the nobility of sports itself.” – Blessed Pope John Paul II (Sept. 16, 2002)**

**Note:** While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this handbook, St. Augustine School reserves the right to make changes at anytime without prior notice.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**2017-2018 Student – Athlete/Parent Handbook Contract**

We have received the 2017-2018 St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School Student-Athletic/Parent Handbook and have familiarized ourselves with its contents. We support and agree to abide by the policies contained therein.

I, the student, 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. We understand that these policies are applicable for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise notified of changes by the principal. Furthermore, we understand that the 2016-2017 St. Augustine Elementary/Middle School Student-Parent Handbook takes precedence over the Athletic Handbook at all times.

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Print Student-Athlete's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Legal Guardian's Name

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Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

