



2024-2025 ECCS EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAM POLICIES

Mission: To assist in training and enriching children as whole persons created in the image of God through the use of athletic, artistic, dramatic (or other) gifts through after school programming.

A. Purpose/Philosophy

1. As God has gifted students with various gifts and skills, we wish to provide limited opportunities for students to express these gifts and skills in a supportive, encouraging and discipleship-focused environment.
2. As in the covenant school, students desiring to participate in these after school offerings are best trained and coached by godly, mature adults who can help equip them in the young, impressionable years. This process is enhanced by fellow classmates/ teammates who share rather than resist the same biblical approach to these activities and respect for authority. (Prov. 3:14, 20)
3. As all gifts and skills need an outlet for expression, proper artistic participation and/or athletic competition is the venue for our student athletics. As Eric Liddell, Olympic champion and Christian missionary, stated: "When I run, I feel His pleasure." Participation in these activities with the purpose of glorifying God leads to respect and positive relationship with peers and/or competitors (I Cor.9:24, 25)
4. By exemplifying a Christ-like approach to these activities, teachers/coaches/directors and students have the opportunity for outreach to others both in the example they set, the relationships they form, and the words they say. Plus, they are being grounded in godly principles and habits in these activities/ sports that will prepare them for being salt and light in other environments where others may not embrace Christ or biblical principles. (Matt. 5:16)

B. Administration

1. All extra-curricular programs at ECCS are under the supervision of the School Administration.
2. All Extra-curricular policies and the administration of those policies are governed by School Administration under the authority of the SMT.
3. While some costs of Extra-curricular programs can be supplemented by the school annual fund (or other targeted fundraisers), participation fees are required to meet the total costs of these programs. These participation fees are non-refundable. Registration forms indicating parent permission and liability waiver are also required for those interested in participating in any ECCS extra-curricular activities.
4. Extra-curricular programs that are currently offered are:
 - Boys' Basketball
 - Co-ed Cross Country
 - Girls' Cheer
 - Co-ed Drama Club
 - Co-ed Code Club
5. Each activity may require participants to purchase some type of equipment/supplies (e.g. basketball shoes, socks, etc...). The school will provide any other necessary equipment (e.g. uniforms, balls, scorebook, score clock, props) as well as practice facilities, referees, coaches and necessary supervision.
6. Students who do not return school owned equipment (including uniforms) from any extra-curricular activity will be placed on probation (unable to participate in other extracurricular activities) until that equipment is returned or paid for at a rate to be determined by School Administration (please note that this rate will normally be significantly higher than the original cost due to administrative costs, set-up costs, shipping costs, etc.).

C. Participation Guidelines/Standards

1. Extra-curricular programming at ECCS is not to substitute for the healthy exercise of students through physical education or appropriate other training in the activity being offered, but rather is established as extra-curricular opportunity for students that are adequately prepared/ gifted for these activities. Therefore, all students may not qualify, as some activities may hold tryouts to determine who is eligible to participate (this will be avoided whenever possible).
2. Competition can be overemphasized in our culture at the expense of teamwork and cooperation. Therefore, we believe that middle school age students are better suited for regular competitive athletics and other programs than their younger elementary school companions. Middle school at ECCS is currently defined as grades 6-8. While extra-curricular programs are primarily available to middle school students, 5th graders may at times also be included as eligible to participate on our middle school teams if there is a need to add players/participants to fill out a team/roster. In addition, priority may be given to 7th and 8th graders to participate where spaces on a team/roster are limited.
3. In extra-curricular programs with enough interest and when scheduling allows, JV teams/rosters may be fielded. JV teams/rosters will normally consist of 5th and 6th grade students.
4. Punctual and regular attendance is necessary to have the privilege to participate in extra-curricular programs. ECCS attendance policies are as follows:
 - Students with a pattern of tardies or unexcused absences at school or extra-curricular practices may be suspended from participation until that pattern is corrected.
 - Students who have an unexcused absence may not participate in extra-curricular activities on that day.
 - Students who have an excused absence (depending on the circumstances) may or may not participate in extra-curricular activities on that day.
 - Students who are sick or who leave school (and do not return) due to sickness may not participate in extra-curricular activities without a doctor's note.
 - Students who vomit, run a fever of 100 degrees or higher, or have diarrhea should not participate in extra-curricular activities until they have been free of these symptoms for 24 hours or have a doctor's note allowing participation.
 - Students who miss practices leading up to a game/event for any reason may be held out of extra-curricular activities at the teacher's/coach's/director's discretion.
5. Since the academic and character growth and nurture of students must be considered as the primary assist of the school to parents, those students whose progress in these areas is impeded by extra-curricular activities may be denied participation.
 - Any student with lower than a C average in any subject or an incomplete grade in any subject not due to excused absences may be suspended from participation until that grade is raised and/or work is completed.
 - Any student with NI conduct ratings, who is under disciplinary probation, or who is exhibiting a pattern of inappropriate behavior at school or during extra-curricular activities may be suspended from participation until the Head of School (in consultation with the teachers and/or coaches) determines appropriate improvement has been made.
 - An exception to a student being suspended due to inadequate grades or behavior is the development of an improvement plan that puts in place modifications or accommodations that are approved by the Teacher, Head of School and Coach/Director. With this signed agreement in place, the student may continue participation in athletics on a probationary basis. If the terms of the probation are broken, the student will then be suspended from athletic participation until grades or behavior is documented to have changed.
 - Any student who violates the extra-curricular program code of conduct (see below) may be suspended from participation until the Coach/Director (in consultation with the Head or School) determines appropriate improvement has been made.
 - Any student who is suspended from school for any purpose during the extra-curricular season may be dismissed from participating in an extra-curricular program for up to the rest of the season.
 - After a conversation with the coach/director, parents are at liberty to remove their child from athletic participation if they feel that such participation is impairing their academic or relational progress.
6. Playing/participation time: Students who are eligible to play/participate, are subject to a coach's/director's decision about how much playing time/ what role they are offered. Part of the coach's/director's job is to both a) develop players/participants to improve their ability/skill as well as to b) utilize differently skilled players/participants in different roles in order to help the team compete/perform well. As coaches/directors strive

to fulfill these sometimes competing priorities, coaches/directors, parents, and students commit to abide by the following guidelines:

- Coaches/directors will strive to provide meaningful participation opportunities for eligible students in any given event though this cannot be guaranteed (please note that playing time/performance opportunities cannot always be guaranteed).
- Coaches/directors are not expected to provide equal playing/participation time for each member on their team though they are expected to do their best to provide opportunities for meaningful playing/participation experiences in competitive situations during the season. Just as a play director will have leading and supporting roles in a play based on skill and ability, a coach will utilize players in different roles as he or she believes will best suit the game situation. A certain amount of playing/participation time is not a guarantee for any student.
- Parents are asked to support a coach's/director's decision and encourage their son or daughter to respectfully approach his or her coach/director regarding any playing/participation time questions/concerns they may have.
- If, after approaching their coach/director, a student remains unclear about a coach's/director's decision or needs further help or support regarding his or her level of participation on the team, parents are encouraged to approach a coach/director for clarification. Parents should not approach a coach/director about playing time/participation decisions in the time right before or after a game/event. It is preferable that parents contact a coach/director another time to schedule a mutually convenient time to talk further if needed.
- If a player or parent believes they are in conflict with a coach/director and unable to resolve the matter on their own after following Matt 18 guidelines, the Head of School should be contacted.

D. Coaching, Directing, and Mentoring

1. The hiring and development of godly Christian coaches/directors in all extra-curricular activities is an important priority of the school, not only for physical training but the spiritual training of their students.
2. Extra-curricular coaches/directors are recruited and hired by the appropriate Parent Teams, staff and Head of School (with approval from the SMT if they are not a parent) who strive to appropriately train and equip coaches/directors for their duties.
3. The priority for consideration of candidates to hire as extra-curricular program coaches/directors will be qualified ECCS parents or staff members. Anyone considered to be a coach/director who is not an ECCS parent or staff member, must be approved by the SMT and undergo a criminal background check.
4. Anyone hired to coach/direct an ECCS extra-curricular program team will be paid a small stipend as compensation for their service to the school.
5. The ultimate desire of our coaches/directors is for their students to grow in biblical disciplines, the fruit of the Spirit, and in applying their gifts and skills for the purpose of doing their best in and, hopefully, winning contests/performing well. Lessons that apply in all of life can be learned in extra-curricular activities.
6. Assistant coaches/directors may be recruited as needed by the head coaches/directors with approval from the Parent Team, staff member, and Head of School. Assistant coaches/directors will be other ECCS parents or staff members unless otherwise approved. They will serve under the direction of the head coach/director and are normally asked to serve as volunteers without monetary compensation.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT

Because parents, coaches/directors and participants are representatives of Christ and of ECCS, the following code of conduct is expected:

1. Treat spectators, teammates, coaches/directors, officials and opponents with respect.
2. Avoid profanity and unkind words.
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting and abiding by the decisions of coaches/directors, administration or referees as authorities ordained by God.
4. Respect the officials' judgment and interpretations of the rules. Make every effort to never argue, berate or make gestures indicating a dislike for a decision.
5. Accept both victory and defeat with dignity and humility, never being boastful or bitter.
6. Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
7. Seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing God and ECCS through your extra-curricular program participation.

8. Exemplify good sportsmanship/attitude in your words and deeds before, during, and after a competition, an event, and any practices.
9. Always seek to improve, play/do your best, and fill the role asked of you – always considering the team above personal interests.
10. In the case of a conflict, follow the Matthew 18 guidelines established in the school handbook.

Students who participate in extra-curricular programs are expected to conduct themselves in a manner, which reflects the high standards and ideals of their team, ECCS, and their faith in God. High personal standards of conduct are expected at all times so that teams and individuals can attain maximum achievement and set positive role models for other students and members of the community. Violations of this code of conduct (or any other behaviors which are unbecoming of an ECCS student, coach/director or parent) may lead to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or removal from participation in the extra-curricular program the team coach/director in consultation with the Head of School. Each team coach/director will be responsible for determining and communicating the general training and behavioral standards of his or her team, based upon the disciplinary guidelines of ECCS.