



WILLIAMSBURG  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

*Teaching Them to Fly*

*Deut. 32:11*

**Athletic Policy**  
**Student Athletic Handbook**  
**2011-2012**

October 2011

Athletic competition at Williamsburg Christian Academy (WCA) flows out of and is integral to our mission of developing students mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We believe that participation in interscholastic athletics should foster and cultivate traits of Christian character including diligence, responsibility, courage, loyalty, cooperation, self-discipline, good sportsmanship and team play, all striving towards excellence.

### **Philosophy of Williamsburg Christian Academy Athletic Program**

The focus of the athletic program shall demonstrate that students first and foremost, attend WCA to receive an education and to grow in their relationship with Christ. While athletics is a major part of American culture, participation in athletics is only a secondary aspect of the entire experience. Competitive sports can be a valuable tool, which may be used to enrich the lives of students. However, membership on an athletic team is a privilege, not a right.

We want our student-athletes to possess Christ-like characteristics and to be able to express them openly through the medium of athletics. Our goal is to build eternal values in our students, while at the same time be a testimony of our relationship with Jesus Christ to all of those that we come in contact with during athletic events. Winning is important, but is secondary to the Godly principles that we are striving to instill into the student-athlete.

- **Objectives of the Athletic Program**
  - To glorify God through the vehicle of athletics.
  - To develop and maintain a positive testimony for Jesus Christ, WCA, the individual athletes, coaches and spectators, to those with whom we come in contact.
  - To give students an early understanding that participation in athletics is leadership training and is a privilege that also carries responsibilities. Some of the leadership training would include, but not be limited to the following:
    - To strive for excellence with enthusiasm and desire as unto the Lord.
    - To provide an opportunity for goal setting and the achievement of highest potential in both academics and athletics.
    - To provide an opportunity for students to place the group above self; to learn and to practice self-discipline for the overall benefit of the team.
    - To provide opportunities to learn the benefits of following the rules.
    - To learn crucial Christ-like character traits such as teamwork, sportsmanship, loyalty, obedience, submission to authority, love, desire and hard work.
  - To teach new skills and offer opportunities to improve those already possessed.
  - To provide an opportunity for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth and development, while having fun.
  - To provide opportunities to develop lasting friendships with teammates, coaches and opponents.
  
- **Facts of the Williamsburg Christian Academy Athletic Program**
  - Mascot – Eagle
  - Colors – Royal Blue and White with Gold Accents

- Affiliations:
  - Middle School Student-Athletes participate in the Metro Athletic Conference and/or Peninsula Independent Athletic League (PIAL)
  - High School Student-Athletes participate in the Metro Athletic Conference
  
- Sports Offered:
  - Fall:
    - JV & Varsity Boys Soccer; JJV Coed Soccer
    - JJV, JV & Varsity Volleyball Girls Volleyball
    - JJV & Varsity Girls Field Hockey
  - Winter:
    - JJV, JV & Varsity Boys Basketball
    - JJV, JV & Varsity Girls Basketball
    - Varsity Cheerleading
  - Spring:
    - JV & Varsity Girls Soccer
    - JJV, JV & Varsity Boys Baseball
    - JJV and Varsity Girls Softball
    - Golf (co-ed)
    - Tennis (co-ed)

(Note: If the number of students interested in participating in a particular sport falls below what is needed to field a team, then scheduled games will be cancelled for one year or until the interest of athletes warrants having a team.)

- **Philosophy for Middle School Teams (JJV) – grades 6-8**

The JJV level is designed to familiarize the student-athlete with interscholastic athletics at the high school level. The main emphasis is skills/fundamental development and gaining experience in that particular sport. Middle school athletes should begin to understand what it takes to earn a sport on a roster of a Junior Varsity and/or Varsity team. While winning is a goal, it is not as important as the development of skills for the promotion to the higher-level squads. The athlete will learn teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship. (Note: Grade ranges may be dictated differently by the school athletic department.)

- **Philosophy for Junior Varsity Teams – grades 6-10**

The Junior Varsity level is the last “preparatory” level for the Varsity team in a respective sport. The goal is to continue to sharpen skills and fundamentals, while increasing the emphasis on playing time, as well as winning. Athletic skill, commitment, team chemistry, attitude and effort are some of the determining factors of playing time for an athlete. (Note: Grade ranges may be dictated differently by the school athletic department.)

The number of games, practices and therefore overall time commitment, will increase over that of the JJV level. Because of that, it is expected that athletes are learning more responsibility and discipline to cope with this and other academic pressures.

- **Philosophy for Varsity Teams – grades 8-12**

The Varsity level is the highest level of competition at WCA. It represents the best skilled athletes of the school in a particular sport. The criterion for selection to a varsity level team is based primarily (but not entirely) on skill. This means that there may be times when a younger athlete will be selected over an older athlete. Playing time will be determined by the head coach and/or coaching staff and will be based on several factors. Some of the factors considered are: skill, team chemistry, player effort and attitude along with how the coaches feel each player will impact the game. (Note: Grade ranges may be dictated differently by the school athletic department.)

While the goal of winning is at its highest peak at the Varsity level, the ultimate goals of the athletic program will come first over winning games. It is expected that athletes be an example regarding general conduct, court/field attitude and behavior, hustle, discipline in athletics and academics and spiritual maturity. Playing at the Varsity level does not guarantee a roster spot on that team for any future years as team try-outs will be held each year.

### **Cheerleading**

The cheerleading program at WCA is considered a Varsity level sport and seeks to:

- Boost overall school spirit
- Promote good sportsmanship
- Providing encouraging and enthusiastic team support
- Encourage positive crowd involvement
- Create a cooperative and loyal spirit within the student body as well as with the alumni, fans and faculty

These goals are accomplished through performing cheers, choreographed movements, gymnastics and partner stunts to keep the crowd focused and the athletes energized. In addition, they will create banners, conduct pep rallies, etc. to promote school spirit. WCA cheerleaders should be leaders and examples in their Christian testimony to the student body in all situations, not just athletic events.

### **Multiple Activities**

Students, who desire to participate in multiple activities (e.g. sports, fine arts, missions, etc.) during a single season/semester/year, are asked to consider and discuss with their parents the following:

- Mature, thoughtful and intelligent choices should be made based on a student's gifts, time constraints, support from the group, family commitments and lifetime interests which multiple activities are being considered.
- Certain activities simply do not complement each other in such a way as to be practical for simultaneous participation.

The following GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS are to be considered when making activity choices:

1. The student must declare his/her major and minor activities at the beginning of each athletic season (winter primarily).
2. The parent of the student must give approval for participation in multiple activities.

3. The student must notify each coach/sponsor (both major and minor) of their intention to participate in multiple activities at the beginning of the season/semester/year. The student should provide each coach/sponsor with information concerning requirements, schedules and conflicts, so that these conflicts can be handled between the coaches/sponsors.
4. Only one major activity will be allowed per season/semester/year.
5. The coach/sponsor has the right to disallow participation in his sport/activity should he/she feel the student's commitments are too great and that the student would be unable to fulfill what is required.

**Major Activity:** The activity on which the student places the greatest priority. The student will be required to be available for all major events and practices as determined by the coach/sponsor of that activity, unless previous arrangements have been made and agreed upon by the coach/sponsor.

**Minor Activity:** The activity/activities in which the student will participate, as agreed upon by the major coach/sponsor and parent, when it does not conflict with the major activity.

### **Athletic Participation as a Course Credit in Physical Education (P.E.)**

High School students may receive half-credit in P.E. for every two sports participated in during one school year. No carry-over to the next school year will be permitted. The only exception is cheerleading, from which a participant will receive half-credit for participation on the squad for the entire season. If a student elects to use a sport as their credit, then the student will be required to take a full load of academic classes.

#### **Athletic Fees**

Every student-athlete will be expected to pay an athletic fee of \$100 per sport played. These fees are necessary to help defray the rising cost of game officials, upkeep of equipment and uniforms as well as transportation costs to/from away games. Additional fees may be incurred should the individual teams elect to order warm-ups, sport specific t-shirts, etc.

#### **Athletic Practices**

Once a student commits to a team, they are required to attend all practices and/or games that are scheduled, unless excused by a coach.

#### **Participation Eligibility**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that is extended to all students who have good attendance and are in good academic standing. Therefore, in order to participate in a particular sport, student-athletes must meet academic grade standards as defined in the WCA Student Handbook as well as the Metro Athletic Conference By-Laws. All participants and their parents are required to sign a form indicating they have read and will abide by the Metro Association By-Laws.

- **Enrollment**

A student-athlete shall be currently enrolled at WCA as a full-time student (defined by the Metro Athletic Conference By-Laws as taking **five** core courses).

- **Physical Examination – Medical Updates**

Student-athletes shall have a physical examination completed using the Virginia High School League (VHSL) physical examination form which must be completely filled out and turned into the athletic office. All physical examination forms on file will be good for a period of twelve months from the date of the physician's signature on the form. Once the form is completed and turned in to the athletic office, the student-athlete is responsible for notifying the coach and/or Athletic Director if there is an injury and/or change in medical status.

- **Conduct**

Student-athletes shall abide by the rules and regulations of the coaching staff in the sport of participation.

- If any student-athlete is withdrawn from an athletic team for disciplinary reasons, the student-athlete will not be considered in good standing and will therefore forfeit all athletic awards. Exceptions require the approval of the athletic director and head of school.
- If a student-athlete is suspended from participation on a team for conduct violations, he/she is expected to still fulfill their commitment to that team by attending practices and games (this may be waived on a case-by-case basis determined by the coach, athletic director and head of school).
- If a student-athlete is suspended from an athletic team for conduct violations and the season ends before the suspension is finished, the student-athlete may have to finish their suspension in their next season and/or sport.
- Two or more one-day suspensions either In School (ISS) and/or Out of School (OOS) or one multi-day suspension of an athlete for any reason will result in dismissal from the team. To further clarify: the first recorded suspension will result in dismissal from the team unless an exception is approved by the athletic director and head of school.
- **The Athletic Department will adhere to and uphold WCA's Student Handbook Policy with regard to the use or suspicion of use of drugs and/or alcohol. Suffice it to say that illegal drugs and/or alcohol use by a player will not be tolerated and will be met with serious consequences up to removal from the team roster.**

### **Cancellation of Games and/or Practices**

It is the desire of the athletic department to have all games played as scheduled; however, cancellations do occur due to inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Once the decision is made to cancel a game or practice, the front office is alerted and an announcement is made over the PA system so that students can then alert their parents. Every attempt is made to have decisions regarding any cancellations made by lunchtime; however, rain at the end of a school day creates additional issues. Keep in mind that it may be raining at WCA but not at the site of the away game and therefore, we are required to wait on word from the other team's Athletic Director on whether the game is to be cancelled. Student-athletes should always come to school prepared to play or practice as scheduled. Do not assume a cancellation based on the weather in the morning as it can change quickly.

The Athletic Director will make all attempts to reschedule any cancelled games and advise the student-athletes and parents of the new game date/time when determined.

### **Uniforms and Equipment**

Uniforms will be issued to the head coach at the beginning of each season. Keep in mind that the uniforms are the property of WCA and care should be taken by the student-athlete to wash them according to the directions on the tag. When the season ends, clean uniforms are to be returned to the Athletic Director in a bag marked with the student-athlete's name. If a uniform is not returned, is reported lost or is returned damaged, the student-athlete will be responsible for reimbursing the cost of the uniform or repairs.

All student-athletes will care for WCA equipment as if it is their own. There should be no throwing of helmets, bats, etc. The cost to replace or repair any lost or damaged equipment will be the responsibility of the student-athlete.

### **Transportation**

It is the policy of WCA that student-athletes will be transported to and from athletic contests on the Athletic Department's buses. On rare occasions, it may be necessary for parent volunteers to drive players when other teams or school groups are using the buses or when a team has more participants than can be accommodated by the available buses. An approved volunteer driver form must be completed annually and on file in the office along with a copy of the driver's current DMV driving record, current driver's license and vehicle insurance information. In order to drive to any school sponsored athletic event, the drivers of the WCA buses or those transporting student-athletes in their personal vehicles, must be pre-approved and at least 25 years of age. (Note: Please refer to the Volunteer Handbook which is available in the office for additional information on guidelines for volunteering.) In addition, anyone driving the WCA bus must schedule with the Athletic Director to receive a brief instruction session on the general operation of the bus including how to access the keys, how to operate the air conditioner and unlock the gas cap.

A coach must accompany his/her team on the athletic bus. Only in emergencies will a team be allowed to travel on a bus without a coach being present.

The following rules of conduct apply while traveling to all athletic contests:

1. Student-athletes will conduct themselves in a manner above reproach.
2. All team members (unless an exception is approved by the coach or Athletic Director in advance) are expected to travel to and from the games with the team. Written permission to ride with anyone other than the team must be received from a parent in advance and final approval must be granted by the coach.
3. Heads, arms and hands shall remain inside the bus.
4. Student-athletes shall remain seated, refrain from throwing objects and keep their hands to themselves.
5. Emergency doors shall not be used as an exit, except in an emergency.

6. All equipment (ball bags, water coolers, etc.) is to be placed so that all emergency exits are kept clear.
7. All team members shall return to the school; no drop-offs will be allowed en-route.
8. Student-athletes are not permitted to drive themselves or other students to away contests; however, under pre-approved circumstances parents may be permitted to drive their children to and from the contests with the permission of the Coach and/or Athletic Director.

### **Sportsmanship**

As Christians, we have accepted the responsibility of being witnesses for Christ and therefore student-athletes, coaches and spectators are expected to display courtesy and good sportsmanship at both home events and at those played away.

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontation and unmanaged anger, often associated with youth sports, WCA wishes to state a philosophical stance of keeping our athletes, coaches and fans safe. To do this, we must insist on proper behavior and promote our positive reputation and Christian testimony in regards to sportsmanship. It is important for all involved parties to recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual student-athletes.

In as much as our coaches have certain standards of expected behavior, our student-athletes are governed by the guidelines laid out in this handbook as well as WCA's Student Handbook and the Metro Association By-Laws. All WCA students are subject to school rules at athletic events and it become incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult spectators as well. We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not force us to address these issues.

WCA supports the emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations; student-athletes are not an exception. High school sports exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion and as entertainment. Poor behavior on the part of adults will only hinder the goals and objectives of WCA and its athletic department.

WCA will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward WCA staff or players, the opposing school and its representative, or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the school to suffer severe sanctions from ACSI or the Metro Athletic Conference, cause the school embarrassment and damage the testimony of Jesus Christ. Actions such as swearing, making derogatory comments about officials, players and/or spectators from either team, or any other verbal abuse will not be tolerated.

Therefore, below are the expectations of the WCA athletic department:

#### **Student-Athletes:**

- Understand that participation in athletics is a privilege that is extended to all students who have good attendance and are in good academic standing. Therefore, they must meet the academic grade standards as defined in the WCA Student Handbook as well as the Metro Athletic Conference By-Laws to be able to participate and compete on a team.

- Are expected to conduct themselves in a mature fashion, demonstrate self-control and respect of other teammates, opponents, officials, coaches and spectators at all times. This includes avoiding the use of profanity, abusive language or gestures.
- Will be an encouragement to their teammates.
- Attend all practices and games unless given prior permission to miss by the coach (at least 24 hours in advance unless there is an emergency).
- Must be present in school for the entire school day of the sporting event or **may not** participate in a practice or game that day.
- Will make up excused missed practices or games in a way determined by each coach.
- Will be on time for team practices, games and meetings.
- Will attend all end-of-the-year team activities including any Sports Awards Night(s) that will be held at the end of the season.
- Understand that missing a practice or game without permission may result in removal from the team.
- Strive to be a positive factor in the classroom – behaviorally and academically (i.e. be on time, be courteous and respectful of teachers and classmates, strive for excellence, etc.)
- Experience and exhibit sportsmanship through fellowship, competition, teamwork and fair play.
- Will accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity.
- Understand that you are assuming a role of leadership and the younger athletes and students emulate their behavior.

#### **Coaches:**

- Will be examples of behavior and attitude that is representative of WCA and the mission of developing students mentally, emotionally and spiritually while projecting a positive testimony for Jesus Christ.
- Maintain self-control at all times and demonstrate to players how to work with officials to improve performance without humiliating them or being disrespectful.
- Coaches will be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

#### **Parents/Spectators:**

- Pray for the athletic department and student-athletes of WCA.
- Support their child's team and the rest of the athletic program in whatever way possible to include:
  - Attending as many games as possible.
  - Volunteering to help at contests.
  - Being willing to meet any other needs that come to their attention.
- Conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- Respect coaches, officials and all players and extend them courtesies you would like displayed to your players.
- Are positive and encouraging to all athletes treating the visiting teams and officials as guests. (Booing or yelling at players, opponents, coaches and officials will not be tolerated.)
- Allow coaches to do their jobs (parents are not permitted in the locker rooms or on or near the bench area for any reason.)
- Remember that the coaches are ministering to your student-athlete and refrain from derogatory comments about a coach or player before, during or after a game. If you feel you need to speak with a coach, please schedule an appointment. (See Parent/Coach Communication Guidelines below)

- Are expected to pick up student-athletes at the designated times as the coaches are unable to leave until all players have left the field/building. Student-athletes who are picked up habitually late from practices and/or games may be removed from the team.
- Encourage their child to be involved in individual and/or off-season workouts/conditioning.

### **Parent/Coach Communication Guidelines**

The WCA athletic department recognizes its partnership with parents in helping to shape and mold student-athletes to be more like Christ. Both parenting and coaching are extremely rewarding, but sometimes difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's positions, it is often easier to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student-athletes. This understanding can only be reached through open lines of communication. The following are guidelines for reaching and maintaining understanding between parents and the athletic department:

#### **Communication that should be expected from coaches:**

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations of the coach for the student-athlete (their role on the team)
- Times and locations of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (i.e. fees/costs, special equipment, off-season conditioning, skill level, etc.)
- Procedures in case of student injury during participation

#### **Communication that should be expected from parents:**

- Appropriate Parental Concerns –  
Any concerns that a parent has about the team, his/her child, etc. should be expressed directly to the coach. These concerns should not be something that leads to talking about a coach "behind his/her back" to students (even your own), other coaches and/or faculty members or other parents. Appropriate concerns to discuss **privately** with coaches include:
  1. The treatment of your student-athlete (mentally and physically)
  2. Concerns about your student's behavior and/or attitude
  3. Your student's academic standing
- Inappropriate Parental Concerns –
  1. Playing time
  2. Team strategy
  3. Play calling
  4. Other student-athletes
- Schedule Conflicts –  
Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance should be given to the student-athlete to be presented to the coach. At times, there may be excused reasons for a student-athlete to miss a game or practice. These must always be communicated to the coach with as much advance notice as possible.

**Note:** At times, it may be difficult to understand and accept that your child is not getting as much playing time as you would like. If there is something that you do not understand concerning a playing time situation, you may inquire about what the coach thinks may help your child to get more playing

time. Keep in mind, playing time is up to the coach's discretion and should not be an issue to be regularly discussed.

### **Procedures for Resolving Conflict/Concerns:**

As students become involved in the WCA athletic program, they will experience some of the most memorable and rewarding moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the student-athlete or the parent wishes or envisions. When concerns or potential problems arise, work with the athletic department to employ the Biblical model of resolving conflict (Matthew 18:15-17). Resolution should be handled as follows:

1. The student-athlete meets with the coach. The first step in avoiding potential conflicts is for the student-athlete to meet with the coach to discuss any concern(s) and resolve the issue(s). Many times concerns, which can lead to conflict, are the result of miscommunication or misperceptions and these can often be handled through open discussion.
2. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) meet with the coach. If the student-athlete coach meeting has not resolved the issue or the matter needs adult/parent attention, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact the coach (either through e-mail or through the office) to set up a time for the two parties to meet. In order to allow all involved parties to be the most open-minded and assure that adequate time is given to resolve the conflict, it is asked that this procedure for scheduling meetings be followed with coaches. Parents should call the office, e-mail or call the coach directly to request an appointment.
3. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) meet with the athletic director and/or head of school. If the previous meetings do not adequately resolve the issue, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a meeting to mediate the conflict.

Note: Do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a practice or game to discuss any issues. These can be emotional times for both parents/guardians and coaches, and many times will not lead to proper resolution.

### **Booster Club**

The Williamsburg Christian Academy Athletic Booster Club serves to support all interscholastic athletics of the Academy and be an advocate for the promotion of Christian character within the WCA community. The Booster Club provides financial support to WCA athletics and funds are raised through operation of concessions at sporting events, various annual fundraisers and through club memberships. Membership is open to all persons who have a sincere desire in supporting the athletic program of WCA, are at least 18 years of age and have paid current yearly membership dues. All parents of WCA athletes are strongly encouraged to participate by joining this support organization. With membership you will receive FREE admission to all JJV, JV & Varsity home indoor sporting events. There are three levels of membership as follows:

#### *BLUE Level: \$50.00*

- Individual Membership
- Individual pass for free admission to indoor JJV, JV & Varsity competitions for the current school year
- WCA Athletics window and bumper sticker

*GOLD Level: \$100.00*

- Family Membership
- Family pass for free admission to indoor JJV, JV & Varsity competitions for the current school year
- WCA Athletics window and bumper sticker
- WCA Athletics baseball hat

*EAGLE Level: \$250.00*

- Family Membership
- Family pass for free admission to indoor JJV, JV & Varsity competitions for the current school year
- WCA Athletics window and bumper sticker
- WCA Athletics baseball hat
- WCA Athletics apparel

Corporate sponsorship is also available as follows:

WCA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, so the majority of your donation will be tax deductible.

**BLUE Level: \$500**

1. WCA Athletics window sticker and hat
2. Two passes for free admission to indoor competitions for the current school year
3. Recognition in basketball game program (1/4-page ad)
4. Name on sign in WCA gym as BLUE level sponsor

**GOLD Level: \$1,000**

- WCA Athletics window sticker and hat
- Two passes for free admission to indoor competitions for the current school year
- Recognition in basketball game program (1/2-page ad)
- Name on sign in WCA gym as GOLD level sponsor

**EAGLE Level: \$2,500 or greater**

- WCA Athletics window sticker and hat
- Four passes for free admission to indoor competitions for the current school year
- Recognition in basketball game program (Full-page ad)
- Name on sign in WCA gym as EAGLE level sponsor

**Athletic Schedules and School Directions**

The seasonal athletic schedules and directions to the various games sites are posted on the school website at: [www.williamsburgchristian.org/athletics](http://www.williamsburgchristian.org/athletics).

## Athletic Awards

The presentation of individual athletic awards is the coach's responsibility and will be used to recognize the contributions and achievements of student-athletes who meet the coach's established criteria.

In order for a student-athlete to be eligible to receive a Varsity letter, he/she must complete the season in good standing, both academically and athletically. The following are sport specific guidelines:

- Baseball: A position player shall play in 50% of the total games. A pitcher shall play in 15% of the total games. If he is a designated hitter, he shall be credited for 7 innings each game.
- Basketball: A player shall have participated in 33% of the total games.
- Cross Country: An athlete shall run in 75% of the meets and shall place in 75% of the meets in which he/she participates.
- Field Hockey: An athlete shall participate in 50% of the games.
- Golf: An athlete shall participate in 50% of all matches.
- Soccer: An athlete shall participate in 50% of the games played.
- Softball: A position player shall play in 33% of the total games. A pitcher shall play in 25% of the total games.
- Tennis: An athlete shall participate in 25% of all the matches.
- Volleyball: An athlete shall participate in 50% of the games.

### Varsity Level Awards:

1. First Award – An athlete meeting the criteria for a varsity participation award for the first time shall receive a varsity letter and a pin representing the sport participated in that season. The varsity letter will be placed on the left chest of his/her letter jacket if the athlete chooses to purchase one.
2. Subsequent Awards – An athlete continuing to meet the criteria for a varsity participation award after the first time shall receive a pin representing each new sport played and a varsity chevron for each subsequent season played of the same sport. The pins(s) and chevron (s) should be placed on the left sleeve of a letter jacket.
3. Edgar W. Randall Scholar Athlete Award – This award is given to one high school female and one high school male at the spring awards night for each school year. The individuals should meet the following guidelines:
  - a. The athlete must play on a minimum of one varsity sport and have earned a varsity letter in the current school year.
  - b. The athlete must maintain a grade point average of 3.6 or above for that school year.
  - c. The athlete is role model to others; he/she is able to give 100% to both academics and athletics. He/she is hardworking and dedicated in both practices and games and understands that the commitment to athletics requires sacrifices in other areas of their life.
  - d. The student shows Christ-like qualities in both their athletic and academic journeys.

### JJV and JV Level Awards:

An athlete completing participation on a JJV (middle school) or JV team shall receive a certificate of participation.

WCA does not recognize letters/awards earned at a previously attended high school for purposes of earning awards at WCA and these letters/awards shall not be placed on a WCA letter jacket.

Note: Injuries suffered during participation in a school sport shall not necessarily exclude him/her from receiving an award. The coach and the Athletic Director shall decide on cases involving injury or other circumstances as to whether a letter is awarded.

### **Quitting Athletic Teams / Changing Sports**

Our student-athletes take a sense of responsibility when they agree to participate on our athletic teams. Therefore, we hold them accountable for their commitment to their teammates, coaches and fellow students. Once a student attends try-outs, participates in regular season practices and receives a uniform, they are considered a member of that participate team. If a student-athlete then decides to quit the team for whatever reason, they will not be eligible to try-out for any other teams during that same season and the subsequent season.

Note: Some circumstances may arise that are beyond the students' control and will be taking into account. The decision of the Athletic Director will be considered final.

### **Re-admittance to Athletic Activity Following an Injury or Illness**

The following items are to be reviewed with regard to injuries and/or illnesses pertaining to student-athletes:

1. In the event a student-athlete sustains an injury (e.g. sprain, concussion, laceration, bruise, etc.) which is serious enough to require a physician's examination and treatment, the athlete must obtain written permission from the attending physician and parent/guardian before being allowed to resume practice/competition. All such injuries must be reported to the Athletic Director by the athlete or coach as soon after the injury as possible.
2. All doctors' notes regarding an athlete's fitness to resume athletic competition must be submitted to the Athletic Director to be noted on the student's health record. In the event a question arises regarding an injury/illness, the Athletic Director should be contacted immediately.
3. In cases where an athlete is absent from school for more than five consecutive days due to illness, the fitness of the athlete to resume athletic activity must be established. Written permission from the attending physician or approval of the school nurse and written permission from the parent/guardian must be obtained before the athlete is allowed to return to athletic competition.
4. In the event an athlete sustains a broken bone or an injury which requires the application of a cast or splint, the athlete will be automatically excluded from participation in athletic competition as well as in the physical education program. Once the injury has healed and the cast/splint has been removed, the athlete may be readmitted to athletic competition only when the attending physician and parent/guardian provide written permission to do so.
5. In all cases when a question regarding the health, fitness or ability of an athlete to return to athletic participation is raised, the decision of the Athletic Director will be final.

# Student Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form

## Academic School Year 2011-2012

The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) who have signed below, acknowledge that they have read the WCA Student Athletic Handbook in its entirety and have agreed to abide by the guidelines set up for participation in all athletic sports competitions.

Student Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Name: (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_