

Students

SUBJECT: OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

- a) To provide an opportunity for personal happiness and worthy use of leisure time.
- b) To provide an opportunity to learn new games and improve playing skills.
- c) To enhance the development of physical vigor and desirable habits in health, sanitation and safety.
- d) To provide an opportunity to make lasting friendships with squad members.
- e) To provide an opportunity to represent the school in athletic competition.
- f) To provide an opportunity to become acquainted with members of opposing teams and to visit and play in other communities.
- g) To promote good sportsmanship.

Statement of Beliefs

- a) We believe that good coaching is as concerned with the development of good attitudes as it is with the development of the desire to win. Good coaches guide the player's reactions into desirable outcomes.
- b) We believe that the success of a team should be measured in educational values taught, not in a won/lost record.
- c) We believe in the following affirmations set forth by the Educational Policies Commission in their report on school athletics:
 - 1. We believe in athletics as an important part of the school physical education program. We believe that the experience of playing athletic games should be a part of the education of all children and youth who attend school in the U.S.A.
 - 2. Participation in sound athletic programs, we believe, contributes to health and happiness, physical skill and emotional maturity, social competence and moral values.
 - 3. We believe that cooperation and competition are both important components of American life. Athletic competition can help teach the values of cooperation as well as the spirit of competition.

(Continued)

Students

SUBJECT: OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Cont'd.)

4. Playing hard and playing to win can help build character. So also do learning to "take it" in the rough and tumble of vigorous play, experiencing defeat without whimpering and victory without gloating, and disciplining oneself to comply with the rules of the games and of good sportsmanship.
 5. Athletes may also exemplify the value of the democratic process and of fair play. Through team play the student often learns how to work with others for the achievement of group goals. Athletic competition can be a wholesome equalizer. Individuals on the playing field are judged for what they are and for what they can do, not on the basis of the social, ethnic, or economic group to which their families belong.
- d) We believe that wholesome Middle School competition should be based upon a program of athletic activities that is broad enough to provide exploratory opportunities for all students as advocated by the Educational Policies Commission. These activities should be limited in scope and should de-emphasize interscholastic competition.
 - e) The Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School encourages coaches of all teams to use good judgment in determining which athletes participate during an interscholastic contest. Whenever possible, all team members should have an opportunity to participate, particularly at the Middle School level.