

# **MERRIMACK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

## **NON-ATHLETIC CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS**

The co-curricular program at Merrimack Valley High School includes the following:

- The performing arts program (non-credit bearing)
- Student government and the Senate
- All clubs

The following set of co-curricular expectations is designed to:

1. Uphold the educational value of programs where each individual contributes to the whole for the success of the group/team.
2. Ensure students perform at peak levels, developing self and group/team discipline.
3. Prepare students for real life (e.g., living within the law and contributing to their community).
4. Reflect our school's high standards.
5. Ensure that students participating in co-curricular programs serve as good representatives of our school district and demonstrate appropriate representation through their character, sportsmanship, teamwork, mutual respect and trust.

Each co-curricular program may have additional expectations that are added to this document as an addendum. These Co-Curricular Expectations and attachments are in force from the first day that the program begins (first date, meeting, rehearsal, tryout, audition) through the conclusion of the program or the awards program (if applicable), which comes last.

Teaching and advising students to meet these expectations is consistent with the school mission statement and learning expectations:

### **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

Students who participate in Merrimack Valley High School co-curricular programs are expected to adhere to high standards.

The following behaviors constitute violations of these expectations:

1. Illegal use or possession of tobacco in any form
2. Illegal use or possession of alcoholic beverages
3. Illegal use or possession of drugs and/or mood-altering substances.
4. Vandalism
5. Stealing
6. Bullying and/or harassing others
7. Gross misconduct including, but not limited to: assault on an advisor/coach, judge/official, participant/opponent or spectator; leaving an activity in anger during the activity or interrupting the flow of the activity with inappropriate behavior and/or obscene language; demonstrating dishonesty in connection with the co-curricular program; directing threats and/or gestures at the advisors/coaches, judges/officials and/or spectators.
8. Hazing and team/activity initiations involving hazing. Merrimack Valley High School interprets hazing as "any act whether physical, mental, emotional or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass or intimidate him/her, or which may, in any fashion, compromise his/her inherent dignity as a person. In addition, any requirement by a member of an organization which compels another member to participate in an activity which is against school policy or state/federal law will be defined as hazing."
9. General Behavior: Any student who is a member of a co-curricular activity who displays disrespect to teachers in school or in the community, or damage school, community or personal property, or has otherwise behaved in any manner to reflect discredit on themselves, their school or their community, will be suspended from the activity for such length of time that is decided by the administration.

Students who need confidential assistance or support concerning any of the behaviors listed above may contact their guidance counselor and/or the Student Assistance Program counselor.

II. **ACADEMIC AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

**A. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Students who wish to participate in Merrimack Valley's co-curricular programs must be scheduled for the minimum class requirements each term. In order to be eligible for a Merrimack Valley High School co-curricular program, a student must pass a minimum of two blocks. If a student is enrolled in four blocks they must pass three blocks. If a student is enrolled in three block they must pass three blocks. Students that fail to meet these requirements will not be eligible to participate in the activity (Advisors will be responsible to check the school academic failure list to ensure that all members of their club/group have met the requirements).

**B. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Members of co-curricular activities must attend school the whole day in order to participate in the co-curricular events held on that day or evening, unless they have a valid excuse for late arrival or early dismissal. Absence from school on the day or any part of the day following the event can only be excused by illness or a similar valid excuse. Penalty for such unexcused absence will mean being barred from taking part in the next scheduled event of the concerned activity.

**C. SCHOOL SUSPENSION/IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

Any student suspended from school or issued an in-school suspension assignment will not be able to participate in or attend any co-curricular program, game, performance, practice, and/or meeting on the day of the suspension or in-school suspension.

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**Student Signature    Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent / Guardian Signature    Date**