

Ainsworth Community Schools
Board of Education
Work Session & Advisory Retreat
District Office
May 21, 2024 - 7:00 PM

AGENDA

The Mission Slogan of Ainsworth Community Schools is "ACS CARES: We are Committed to Achieving Results for Everyone's Success"

In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act 84-1407-14 the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the District Office Board Meeting Room.

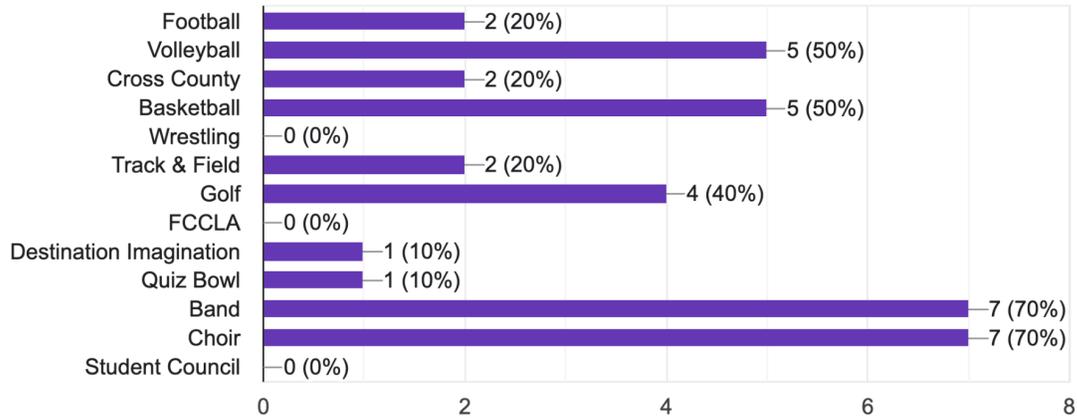
1. Opening Procedure, Work Session of the Board
2. Announce Open Meetings Act Posting and Location
3. Work Session and Related Documents or Materials
 - 3.1. Exchange Student Report - Nelly Hoche and Paul Welke
 - 3.2. Activities Participation Survey Results
 - 3.3. JH/MS Activities Practice and Scheduling
 - 3.4. JH/MS Exempt/Home School Students and Activities Participation
 - 3.5. Drug and Alcohol Policy - Handbook and ARs
 - 3.6. Annual Car Program
 - 3.7. NCDC
 - 3.8. Other
4. Adjourn

The Board reserves the right to move into closed session to protect the public interest or needless injury to the reputation of an individual for any action item listed on the agenda. The Board may, at its discretion, change the order of the agenda to accommodate unforeseen issues related to an agenda item.

5th Grade

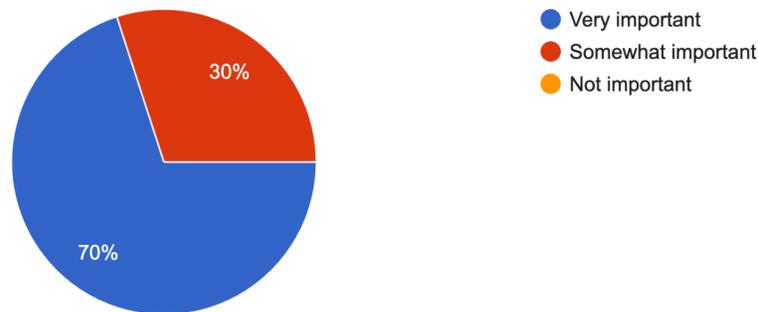
Please check all the activities you anticipate your student participating in for the 2024-2025 school year.

10 responses



How important is it for middle school students to participate in activities?

10 responses



What adjustments or changes could ACS make to increase your child's participation in MS Activities?

I think at the 7th and 8th grade level there should be mandatory participation in sports as their PE class. They wouldn't have to be required to participate in competitions but the sport practice is their PE.

Include all children regardless of how "good" they are at that sport

Organize elective classes so students do not have to choose between art, theater, choir, and band

Motivation of staff and homework load

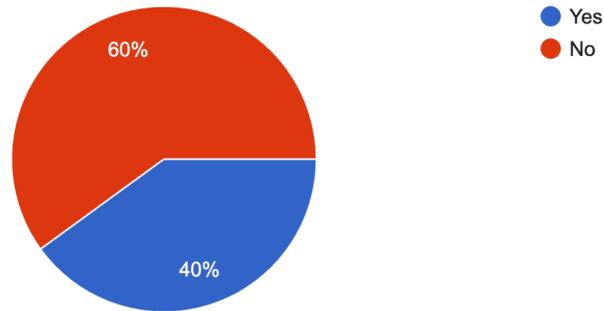
None

More help with band act

This child of mine is just not interested in much for group activities.

Does your child participate in Band or Choir program?

10 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Band or Choir program?

Cheaper way to get instruments

Teach more of the fun aspects of music vs watching movies during many class periods

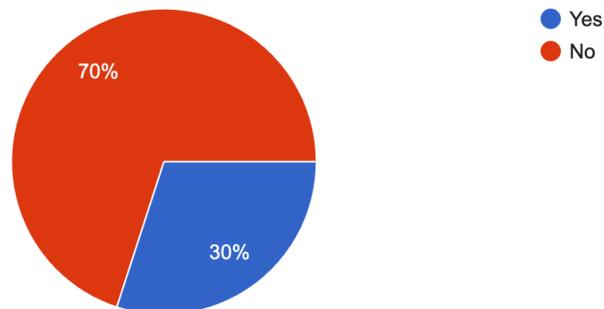
None

Both

I am already talking to my child about their choice for a band instrument even though he is not interested.

Does your child participate in the Art or Theater program?

10 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Art or Theater program?

Eliminate the overlap of class periods, so students do not have to choose between 2 classes

None

The current configuration requires a great deal of staffing and has times throughout the school year that do not allow us to effectively use teachers. On...ly to participate in middle school sports programs?
10 responses



Additional clarification:

My child will likely participate regardless of the practice time due to interest in the activity, however I feel that practicing after school will allow more time for skill development and expand the knowledge and passion for the sport, this increasing overall participation.

I would prefer all school sports activities to be scheduled right after school. Especially when I have to leave work to pick up my child from school, take them home and return to work. If practices were right after school I could stay at work longer, then pick them up and go home. My employer would also appreciate this.

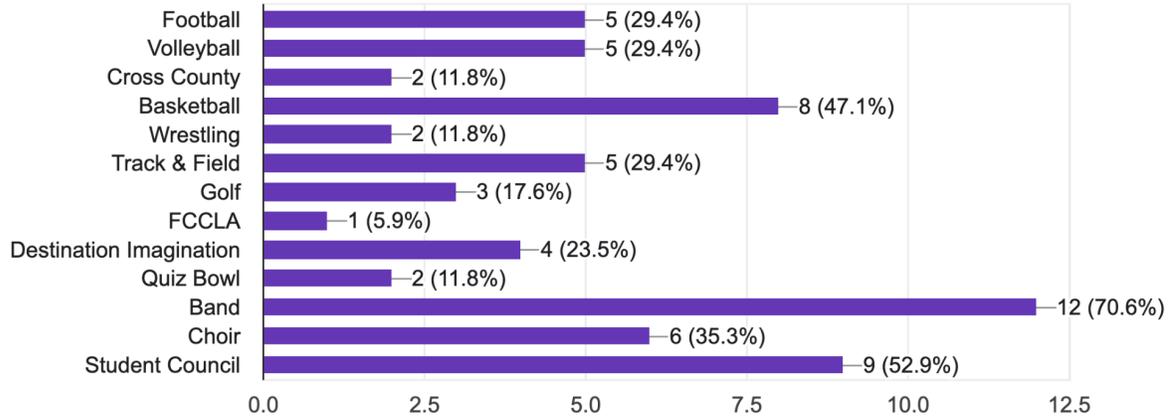
Additional Comments (optional):

It would be nice to have consistency between the city youth activities and how the programs are ran for the JH athletes.

6th Grade

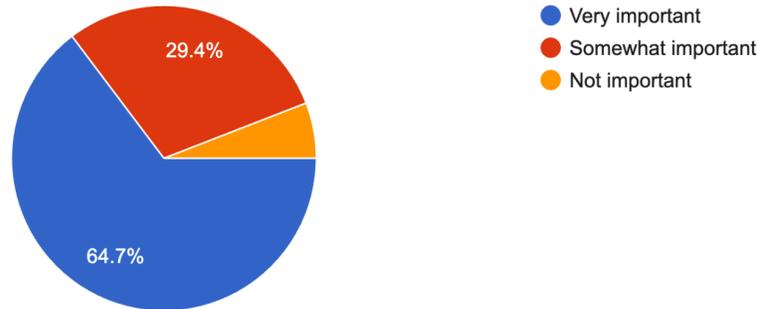
Please check all the activities you anticipate your student participating in for the 2024-2025 school year.

17 responses



How important is it for middle school students to participate in activities?

17 responses



What adjustments or changes could ACS make to increase your child's participation in MS Activities?

Send out reminders/emails of what and when sports are available

Not sure

Improve value of learning with time involved. Have realistic levels of instruction with skill appropriate expectation from capable coaches/teachers.

The activities that I listed above are not available for 5th/6th grade students at ACS. If they were available, he would participate.

Better communication; teacher involvement/guidance

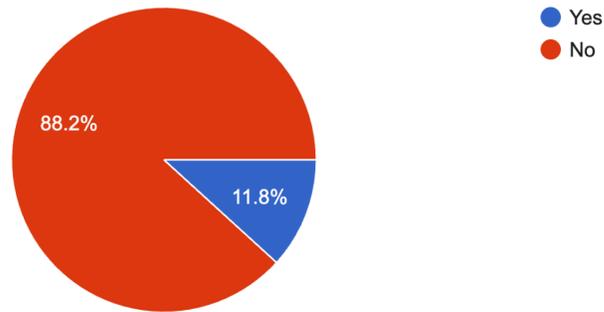
Build enthusiasm around activities. Celebrate participation!!!

Choir department needs improvement

N/A

Does your child participate in the Art or Theater program?

17 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Art or Theater program?

Art is okay.

It could be an actual option. As a 5th grader, these classes were not an option.

Schedules conflict with their sports schedule. Activities working together so students can participate in more than one activity would be helpful.

Unknown

na

Hacer clases muestra

My child is not allowed yet as he is only in 6th grade.

NA

The current configuration requires a great deal of staffing and has times throughout the school year that do not allow us to effectively use teachers. On...ly to participate in middle school sports programs?

17 responses



Additional clarification:

School life balance is already bad. Adding more time requirements on students during their free fun time most will choose not to participate in school activities.

Run into other extra curricular after school scheduling conflicts

Confused by the above statement as we are aware of any sports schedule for the 5th grade year that wasn't after school.....volleyball, basketball, DI, wrestling all are after

Practicing after school would create a later evening to get home for homework and relaxing purposes.

Tener más tiempo de práctica

If we move the MS practices to afterschool, we will need to make sure that there is a MS homework policy put into place and adopted by the entire MS staff. Every year at the beginning of the year in the 7-12 staff meeting we are told that we are not to give "extra and/or unnecessary" homework. There are a few teachers that are still giving TONS of homework (not sure what type of homework, if its necessary, ect..I just know it is a lot) in the MS and it is overwhelming students to the point that they are not willing to go out for sports because they feel that they cannot get things done. Parents also will make that decision for their kids as well, I have had that happen in band class. (This happens in HS as well.) This would facilitate a homework protocol, so that if they find themselves in a jam where they cannot get things done, that they will be able to make things up in a timely manner. I do not think that a kid should be penalized for getting carsick and are unable to do homework on a bus. Making kids do home work at 10PM (or later) when they get home is asinine. Especially if it just for menial homework. Another thought to get kids out for more activities, would be a late bus for kids that do not have rides home from practice. IF you have a bussing schedule for sports kids, they might have more of an opportunity to get back and forth to practices and events. Lastly, can you give PE credit to kids that go our for sports? They do in other schools in HS. Just a thought.

I disagree with this to an extent.....students may be participating in practices until 8:30 at night, if they wish to do 2 fall sports.

Additional Comments (optional):

I feel there are plenty of activities but I also feel like sometimes the only way I know about them is through other people and not necessarily the school

If kids don't want to participate for a staff member, it's the person. Not the kids. It's difficult to force kids to participate in activities that consistently bring unprofessional drama and stress instead of instruction and improvement.

Our children are just starting middle school so I have no comparison or have not been through the process yet

"Middle school" at Ainsworth is technically 5-8; however, in terms of activities, it generally only applies to 7th-8th grades at ACS. So...this survey was a little confusing, as it does not currently apply to 5th/6th graders.

Coaching education for those coaching would be helpful. How to work with kids-all kids, developing allKids who have an interest. We have few kids interested and if you've watched some practices, if effort is only being put into a few, we will continue to see less students participate and less growth in those students

I'd like to see continued support of coaches and holding students accountable. We need to ensure that we are teaching our children/students to be accountable and also persist through hard things. Celebrate teachers and coaches. Celebrate students who participate in worthwhile activities. Inform parents about the detrimental impact of NOT participating in activities.

5th/6th grades are just lost in the shuffle of "Middle School" the only thing they get to be involved in and are required to are Choir and Band why not let them go to a class of Art, Theater. So when they get to 7th grade they know what they want to sign up for. FCCLA do they know what it is? Just an idea on how to get the students more aware of what these programs are.

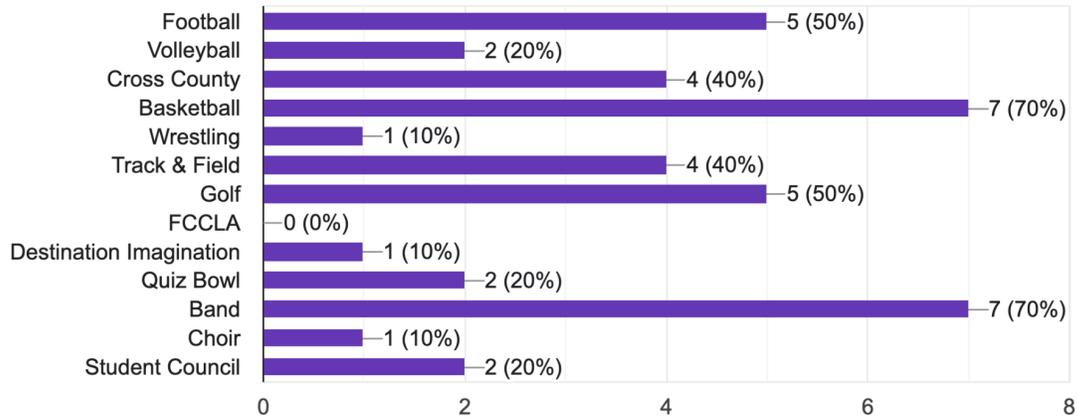
This is going to be hard for some parents to understand. 5-6 does not have the same class offering as 7-8, and this survey is confusing in that aspect.

Are you calling band, student council, quiz bowl sports?

7th Grade

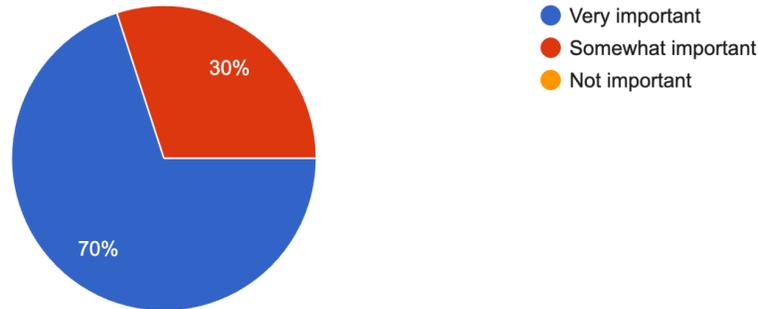
Please check all the activities you anticipate your student participating in for the 2024-2025 school year.

10 responses



How important is it for middle school students to participate in activities?

10 responses



What adjustments or changes could ACS make to increase your child's participation in MS Activities?

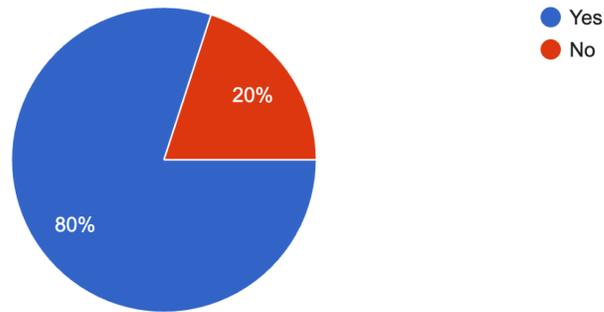
Communication

Coaching adjustments

More convenient to have practices right after school.

Does your child participate in Band or Choir program?

10 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Band or Choir program?

More communication, less afterschool and weekend activities

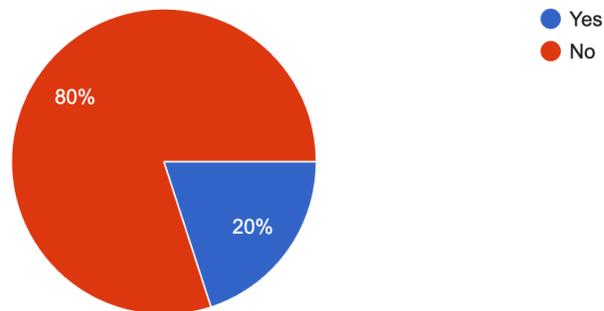
NA

Stop having concerts that so many classes participate in and actually sing not play yoga balls and the like.

Music can do so much good, promote involvement and work with coaches to allow students to do both

Does your child participate in the Art or Theater program?

10 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Art or Theater program?

NA

Idk hasn't done it yet

They have discussed Art & Theater but I would prefer they stick with band.

The current configuration requires a great deal of staffing and has times throughout the school year that do not allow us to effectively use teachers. On...ly to participate in middle school sports programs?

10 responses



Additional clarification:

Having them during 8th period is really great for us because then it isnt so late when we finally get home.

I think the middle school activities should be done during school hours, to allow children to explore options without running into transportation or other outside school barriers. Some students may never realize their potential if they're never given the opportunity to experience the activities during a normal school day/setting

This schedule would work better for my work schedule. I could stay at work longer instead of having to leave early to pick up my child. I would have to make less trips to and from town.

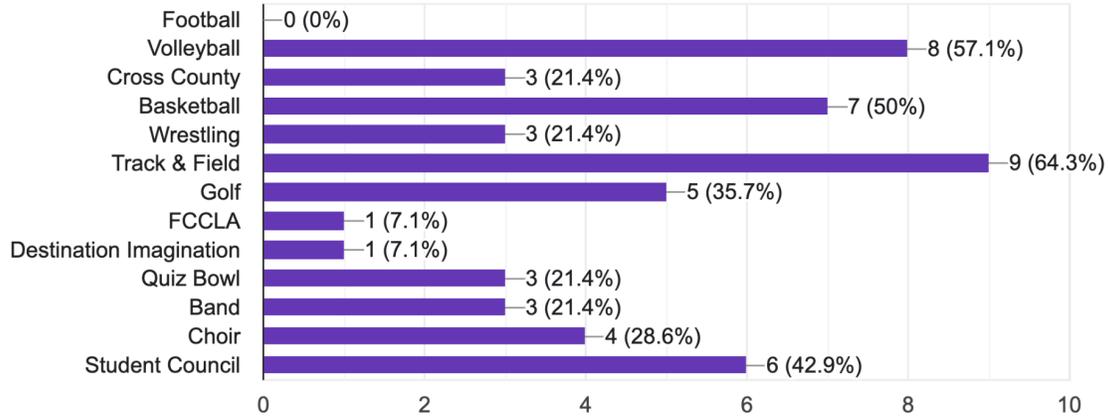
Additional Comments (optional):

Middle school is such a crucial time developmentally in children's lives, removing the opportunities is not a good solution, however finding the right teachers and coaches who have a passion doing them is very crucial

8th Grade

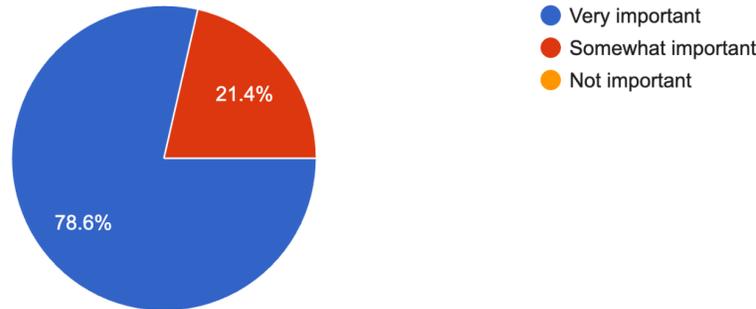
Please check all the activities you anticipate your student participating in for the 2024-2025 school year.

14 responses



How important is it for middle school students to participate in activities?

14 responses



What adjustments or changes could ACS make to increase your child's participation in MS Activities?

I feel at the 7th and 8th grade level there should be mandatory participation in sports as their PE class. Competitions would not be mandatory

Offer more activities for their interest

More variety of activities. Speech, Theater, etc

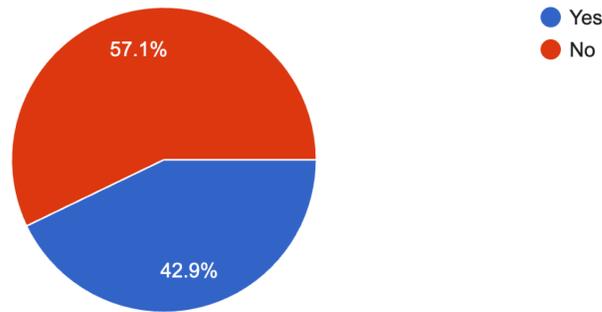
None

More info for parents,

The fine arts classes compete for attendance since their offered during the same time. Making students choose between similar classes does not allow participation.

Does your child participate in Band or Choir program?

14 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Band or Choir program?

We've done Band in the past and it's a teacher issue as to why they have decided against it. As far as choir it is offered opposite of Art and they prefer Art better

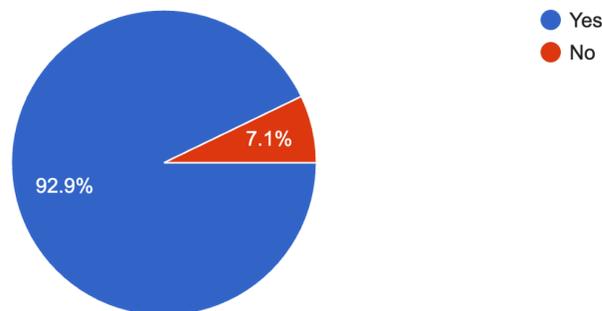
My child already participates

De-conflicting choir and Band class times

There are conflicting classes that student is interested in also offered during this time, creating a difficult choice to be made. Also, students speak that class content is not directly related to the class topic.

Does your child participate in the Art or Theater program?

14 responses



What adjustment could ACS encourage your child to participate in the Art or Theater program?

If a child does band and choir they can't do theater or art. This year my child couldn't do theater because they are in band.

None

Again, time the classes are offered conflicts with other classes student is interested in taking

The current configuration requires a great deal of staffing and has times throughout the school year that do not allow us to effectively use teachers. On...ly to participate in middle school sports programs?

14 responses



Additional clarification:

The amount of homework to balance

Having during 8th period allows them to still participate in out of school activities and allows time for homework etc. Our kids participate in a variety of group/activities outside of the school ie: church, club sports, trap etc that are also after school.

I think this is a good idea.

My child wants to participate in sports, so moving the time after school will not impact child's participation...but can only anticipate that moving practices after school will allow further development of athletes in those sports, this making those activities stronger and encouraging more participation.

Additional Comments (optional):

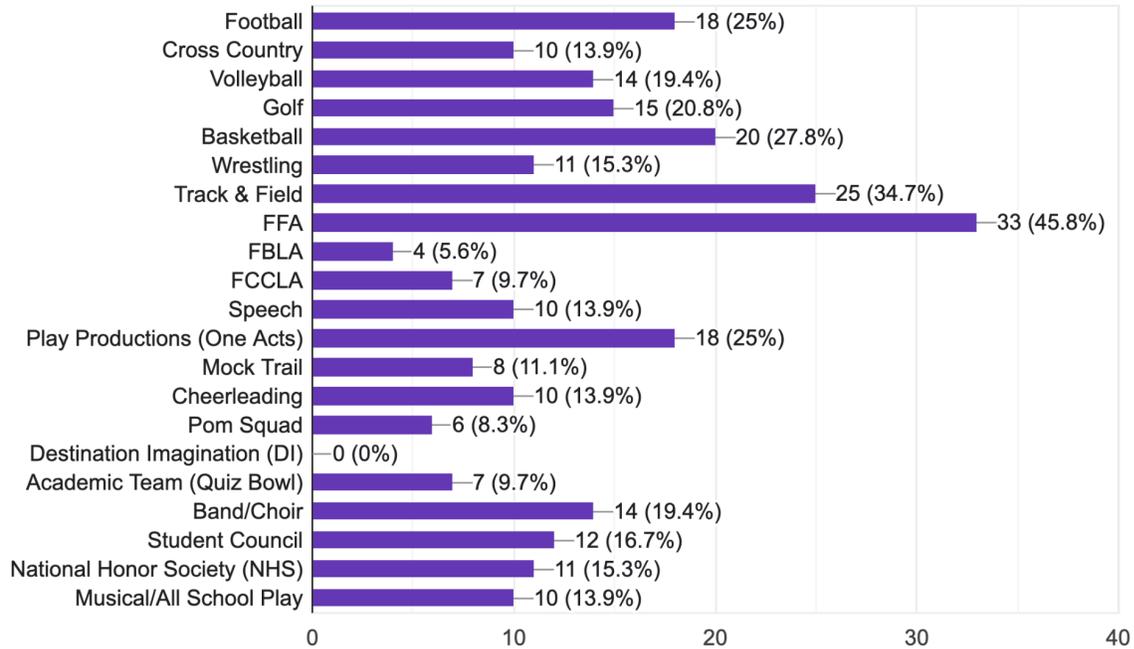
Thank you!

Definitely on us but we are often not relayed information about extracurricular activities until after they've begun.

Middle school should give students the opportunity to try a variety of activities to further their interest. Is it possible to offer extra curricular classes on a rotating quarterly bases (ie rotating sections for art, theater, shop, consumer science, etc)?

Check all the extracurricular activities you participate in.

72 responses



Why do you choose to participate in your activities?

Activities can be a lot of fun and they are a great way to make memories and friends.

Because it will give me opportunities

I like to play sports and stay active.

I like the wrestle

I always have done them.

I love sports and want to be involved

They help me be the best version of myself

I enjoy being in them and the people that are with me.

I chose to Participate in these activities because they were not only fun but also thoroughly enjoyable.

I like them and succeed in them.

i felt like it

It is something that I can express myself in.

To be in shape and have the ability to meet different individuals

Because they are fun
I've done them most of my life
Basketball is the only sport I like
Everyone in my family has participated so I wanted to follow in their footsteps.
Engages my mental toughness
They are things I enjoy doing
Because i like to do sports.
I enjoy them
These are the activities that I've been doing and I like them the most.
I choose to participate in the activities because they are fun and look good on applications.
I think it is good experiences
To be more socially aware and open to activities.
To be a fun part of my school and to participate in activities that I can enjoy and to make new friends.
Fun, improvement
Yes
football was a way out of making bad choices
I like to run.
I did not choose to do an activity, my parents put me in
I enjoy learning about ag and becoming a leader
Because I like to be part of the school.
They were fun and I enjoyed doing them.
because i like it and its fun
Because you only have a few years of your life to play football and wrestling if you don't make it D1 so I want to experience it while I can.
I enjoy staying active and hanging out with a team.
So I can do something with my friends besides school
they're fun and im interested in them
I like it
I like them
They seemed fun
I find them fun and wish to succeed in them.
because they are what i like
I enjoyed them the years before or they were similar to no other activities.
They are fun and I have always had an interest in them.

I enjoy doing sports and making friends.
It helps with leadership skills and is a lot of fun
I enjoy them
represent Ainsworth
to fill up time and keep me fit
Because I am good at them.
cause that is the life I am in.
To see what its like in FFA
they are fun
They are fun
I get a break from home and am allowed freedom with my friends.
I enjoy participating in them
Cause they are physical sports and you can hit people
I like the lifestyle.
Family and friends
The coach is amazing and I have fun.
wrestling is fun and i like the coaches
because its my senior year why not
I choose to participate in the activities because I think they are fun.
I've loved watching them and figured I'd love participating in them too.
The fun and learning experiences
Gotta do something
there fun
becaues i enjoy it
its fun

What would help you participate in more activities?
More time after school or not doing all 3 sports
More time in the day
More time during my day, sometimes there is a lot on my plate and I struggle to fit everything in my schedule.
Some of the coaches
more time
Stricter coaches who can balance a good time with being serious and getting better

nothing really, I love playing sports no matter what.
Coaches that help everybody and not just people they see potential in
Some things that would help me participate in more activities is; having more time to do so, as well as not having as much homework.
Not having to work.
i don't like all activities
More time in the day.
Being aware of what the activity does.
Not sure
More participants
If there wasn't coach favorites and different schedules.
More promotion of activities
If they did not take as much time out of my day.
I participate in a lot already
More promoting of the reasons why I should participate in those activities.
I do not know.
i don't know
More free time and less homework
Knowing more about the programs.
encouragement
Better organizers.
not a lot of things would help, but i'm not at all interested in any of these
i dont know
I don't like to do sports
Less homework.
My own decision if I wanted to or not.
nothing
If they were in my interest.
I want to have time to spend with family and follow some of my own interests.
If practice wouldn't be before school
take up less time and money
I dont know
Mens' volleyball
I'm planning on doing more next year but didn't interest me this year
The understanding and skill to proceed without failing terribly.

extra time at home
More time for home work, make the activities more enjoyable.
If we had try outs and not everyone makes the team.
Having more time to do these activities
If I had more time
more free time
more kinds of activities
less homework and less late nights
Having more time for them.
more things that i am intrested in like rodeo
maybe track
Nothing
If the programs didn't take as much time out of my day.
Nothing
Nothing I like these two and I'm not doin any others
Having coaches that actually care about ALL of their players instead of picking favorites.
more convincing
If I knew the coach better and if someone I know goes out.
If not everyone who tried out made the team
better coaches
more incentive because im not doing something if its going to cut my free time down after school
nun
More time
Less other activities to do.
I dont know
more schedule time
better suport

similar social networking sites friends from all over the world, but avoid meeting people in person whom you do not fully know. If you must meet someone, do it in a public place and bring a friend or trusted adult.

- Harassment, hate speech and inappropriate content should be reported. If you feel someone's behavior is inappropriate, react. Talk with a trusted adult, or report it to Facebook and similar social networking sites or the authorities.
- Don't post anything that would embarrass you later. Think twice before posting a photo or info you wouldn't want your parents or boss to see!
- Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger. If you lie about your age, Facebook and similar social networking sites will delete your profile.

We urge all students to follow these common sense guidelines.

Article 9 – Extra-Curricular Activities - Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

Section 1 Extracurricular Activity Philosophy

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provide experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or

muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Section 2 Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants' performance and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures and rules.

Scope of the Code of Conduct.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to: all sports, cheerleading, dance team, vocal music, instrumental music, speech, play production, A-Club, FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Destination Imagination, Student Council, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Mock Trial, Thespians, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins on the first day of NSAA determined fall practice for incoming freshmen or newly enrolled students and continues until the end of the last day of athletic competition for that student's high school career, even if that date extends past the last day of school. All freshmen and new students will begin with a clean record. This Code of Conduct applies to student conduct at all times and places, including conduct away from school grounds and away from school activities.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or

expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property, repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon, or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in a manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. (Note: Refer to "Drug and Alcohol Violations" for further information).

8. Public indecency.
9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
10. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events;
11. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
12. Repeated violation of any of the school rules.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), gender, national origin, or religion.
15. Using social media sites to engage in conduct or speech that constitutes bullying, harassment, threats, advocates or depicts illegal activity (e.g., illegal drug use, alcohol use, or nudity), or causes a substantial disruption to school activities (or reasonably forecasts a substantial disruption).
16. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school or of an extracurricular activity; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Aisnwoth Public School buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
18. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of the season. Reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
19. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an extracurricular activity or event.
20. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach or sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
21. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.

22. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

Drug and Alcohol Violations.

Meaning of Terms.

Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance (alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, an inhalant, or other substance deemed to be illegal for the student's age) and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult is present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

- (1) The substance is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the substance is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the substance; and
- (2) The substance is present at a party/gathering attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the substance is at the party/gathering and fails to immediately leave the party/gathering, even though the student has not touched or consumed the substance.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the substance is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the substance. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that the substance would be present, and the student leaves the location where the substance is present as soon as the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who is under the influence just to get away from the substance immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the substance).

Consequences.

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

The following procedures regarding substance abuse and activity suspension are supported by board policies 504.03, 504.15, and 506.01.

This prohibition begins on the first day of NSAA determined fall practice for incoming freshmen or newly enrolled students and continues until the end of the last day of athletic competition for that student's high school career, even if that date extends past the last day of school. All freshmen and new students will begin with a clean record. This prohibition applies to student conduct at all times and places, including conduct away from school grounds and away from school activities.

Substance Abuse Violations (violations will be cumulative throughout a student's high school career):

First Offense: Suspension of 30 school days from the date the violation is reported or discovered.

Second Offense: Suspension of 60 school days from the date violation is reported or discovered.

Third Offense: Offender is suspended from all activities for the remainder of his/her high school career. a. After one calendar year of suspension the student may appeal for reinstatement. i. An appeals committee will evaluate the student for reinstatement. This committee will be composed at the discretion of the Superintendent and may include coaches, teachers, activities director, and principal.

Subsequent Violations: Any violation beyond three will terminate the student's eligibility for all activities at Ainsworth Community Schools, with no appeals process.

Summertime Violations:

Summertime violations before the freshman year do not count toward the total violations. Summertime violations following a student's freshman, sophomore, and junior year will be counted toward the total violations.

Self-Reporting:

During the school year: A student has until noon of the first school day following the violation to report the violation to the Activities Director or his/her designee.

During the summer: A student has until noon of the first day of NSAA determined fall practice to report any summertime violation to the Activities Director or his/her designee

Failure to Self-Report:

In circumstances where a student chooses not to self-report a violation of this policy, the consequence shall be as follows:

First Offense: Suspension of 60 school days from the date the violation is discovered.

Second Offense: The offender is suspended from all activities for one calendar year from the date the violation is discovered.

Activities/Athletic Program is defined in AR-5300. Students on suspension may do the following:

1. Attend games, meetings, etc., but may not be an active participant (i.e. may attend FBLA meetings but not be actively involved in an assigned or elected position). Sports team members can attend games and may sit behind the team's bench.
2. Attend dances, including homecoming and Prom.
3. Attend awards banquet and programs.
4. Attend a classroom field trip.
5. Perform in a regularly scheduled band and/or chorus concert.
6. Take part in activities related to the yearbook and journalism class (i.e. taking pictures as a basketball game for the yearbook).

Students on suspension may not do the following:

1. Be a royalty candidate for homecoming, prom, or other similar school functions.
2. Perform the duties of an organizational officer at any meeting of a student organization or function.
3. Participate in the homecoming parade.
4. Receive any non-academic award or recognition for any award at an awards banquet or program.
5. Be recognized at a Parent's Night introduction.
6. Participate in the grand march at Prom.

More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious drug, alcohol or steroid/illegal performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. A failure to self-report will lead to a longer suspension or other discipline. The self-report must be made to: the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report. The self-report must be made the earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, what conduct the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a conviction, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by a juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting can not reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within three (3) school days (three (3) business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Activities Director or the Activities Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The

statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.

4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Activities Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.
 - a. The parent or guardian may request a hearing by contacting the Principal's office in order to make the request. At that time, the Principal will advise the parent or guardian regarding the process to request a hearing in writing.
 - b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five (5) days of receipt of the notice letter.
 - c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five (5) school days (ten (10) calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures.
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Section 3 Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly.
 2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
 3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Activities Director or Principal.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest for a contest will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

Section 4 Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 10 credit hours at Ainsworth Community Schools in the semester of participation. (Current minimum NSAA guideline)
To be eligible during the 1st semester, students shall have had passing grades in a minimum of 20 credits the preceding semester. To be eligible during the 2nd semester, students shall have had passing grades in a minimum of 20 credits for the 1st semester.
2. MS and HS students who have failing grades for two consecutive weeks in two or more subjects will be ineligible for all interschool competitive activities the next week.
The ineligibility list will be compiled every Monday and go in effect the next day (Tuesday) through the next Monday night. Students that are on the Ineligibility list will be notified by the respective coach or sponsor. This list will be first compiled after two full weeks of school and will take place on the third Monday of the new semester/quarter.
3. The MS/HS student must be in school for all scheduled periods, the day of an activity/event in order to participate. The only exception is by parent request approved by the Principal /Activities Director.
4. Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - (A) Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
 - (B) Activities or events which are considered in determining the student's grade.
 - (C) A student who is academically ineligible is not allowed to leave school early or miss class time to attend a contest.

Section 5 "Team Selection" and "Playing Time"

"Team selection" and "playing time" decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the

coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.
3. No Cut Policy. There will not be a pre-season cut policy for any program. Any student who chooses to participate in an activity program sponsored by the district will be allowed to do so as long as they are in good standing according to this handbook and the guidelines established by the coach/sponsor of the program.

Section 6 Pre-Practice Regulations

All students must meet the following requirements and have on file in the activities director's office before they start practice.

1. Physician Clearance (Physical)
2. Parent/Guardian Consent Release
3. NSAA Student/Parent Consent
4. Substance Abuse Policy Abuse Check-out
5. Baseline Concussion Testing*

*It is recommended that all athletes receive baseline concussion assessments prior to the beginning of practice. Testing dates will be scheduled by the Activities Director's office and will be updated for each athlete every two years or has been recommended by health professionals.

Section 7 Practice Regulations

The coaches will designate all starting times of practice with no practice beginning before school is dismissed. There shall be no organized or unorganized practices without a coach or sponsor present. This includes the weight room. Any student using school facilities must be supervised.

Students may not drive to the football field/track for football, cross-country, or track practices.

School activities for the purpose of meetings, performances, practices, rehearsals, etc., are not to be scheduled on Sundays. All practices are to be organized so that athletes are in the locker room by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Special events may be scheduled when necessary and essential by prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Section 8 Equipment

All equipment will be checked out to individuals at the beginning of the season by the head coach in charge. The student will be responsible for this equipment and should be prepared to pay for the cost of replacement if it is not checked in at the end of the season in reasonable condition.

It is the responsibility of the student to check in the equipment at the end of the season or immediately, should he or she quit a sport/activity. If a student fails to check in his or her equipment, he or she will pay for the cost of replacement.

At no time should a student wear equipment checked out to him or her except for practice or contests. Any student found to be wearing school equipment can expect to be treated as possessing property not belonging to him or her.

Section 9 Team Travel

Ainsworth athletic teams, activities groups, and staff members travel to and from athletic events and activities by the school bus or school vehicles. All members of a team or group will return from a contest or activity by the same school transportation provided for taking them to the contest or activity. EXCEPTION: A student may continue on a trip with his or her parents or return home with them by using an Activities Travel Release Form. This form must be completed and personally handed to the Coach/Sponsor after the event is completed and upon departure with the student. Failure to do so will result in the student riding school-provided transportation from the activity. This does not in any way permit a friend of the student to ride home with parents.

Coaches/Sponsors will file this release with the Activities Director upon return to Ainsworth. These forms will be provided to students/parents at each competition and also in the main secondary office. The respective coaches and sponsors will determine traveling squads.

Section 10 School Dances

A school sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code, and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances. In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. Who Can Attend: Only students of Ainsworth Community Schools and their approved dates may attend. The purpose of these activities is to allow students to attend with a date and ACS students in a formal setting, not to invite friends or family relatives from other schools.
 - a. Students currently attending Ainsworth High School or another Nebraska high school who have not been restricted from attending extracurricular activities at Ainsworth High School or their own school are generally considered appropriate dates or invited guests.

- b. Persons who are older than 20 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances.
 - c. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels at Ainsworth Community Schools. For any dances at the middle school level, only students attending Ainsworth Community Schools in the grade(s) for which the dance is being held may attend.
 - d. Students who are currently suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.
 - e. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.
 - f. Rules for dances may restrict students and their guests from leaving the dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided.
 - g. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.
 - h. Guest Permission Forms for non-Ainsworth Community Schools students may be required for dances.
2. Prohibited Substances: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco are prohibited. Anyone using prohibited substances or showing the affects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance and law enforcement will be contacted.

Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. Appropriate Attire: Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether or not a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing. It is advisable to check in advance of the dance with the Principal or staff sponsor for the event if you are uncertain about your attire.

Eligibility for Selection as Royalty. Nomination and selection as royalty for school sponsored dances is an honor awarded by students to those of their peers that exemplify the highest standards of integrity and achievement. Students nominated for dance royalty must have demonstrated through their conduct, academic achievement and activities that they have represented, and will represent, themselves, their classmates, and their school in a manner which reflects outstanding effort, commitment to their school and fellow students, and integrity and good citizenship in the school and in the community. The students selected to be the "royalty" for the Homecoming and Prom or any other school sponsored dance or activity shall meet that

general standard as determined by the administration and, in addition, meet the following specific academic, activity and conduct standards:

1. Achievement, Citizenship and Conduct Qualifications:
 - a. The student may not, starting with their first day of school their junior year, including summer/vacation time for Homecoming and Prom Royalty Candidates, first day of school their sophomore year for prom servers, have violated the Substance Abuse/Activity Suspension Policy 5555.
 - b. Students who have received more than one out of school suspension during the school year in which they are eligible to be a Homecoming and Prom Candidate or Prom Server will not be eligible to be a Homecoming or Prom Candidate or Prom Server.
 - c. Students who move into the district will be held to the requirements beginning their first day of school at Ainsworth Community Schools in which the Qualifications would apply to them.
 - d. The student must be enrolled as a full time student at Ainsworth Community Schools.

2. Pre-Qualification of and Acceptance by Student: All students nominated for dance royalty shall meet with the Principal. At the meeting the Principal will review the eligibility requirements for the honor of dance royalty. The student will be required to confirm that the student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be required to confirm his or her acceptance of the nomination for dance royalty and the responsibilities of such an all school honor. The Principal or designee may contact local, county and/or state law enforcement and judicial authorities to confirm a student's eligibility for the honor of being nominated for or awarded dance royalty.

3. Specific Dance Eligibility and Selection Requirements:
 - a. Homecoming Royalty (Queen, King, Princess, Prince):
 - Only a senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen/Princess and only a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King/Prince.
 - To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the entire Homecoming Dance and represent the school properly.
 - The royalty will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the student body during Homecoming week. Crowning will be held at the fall sports event deemed to have the largest attendance.

 - b. Prom Royalty (Queen, King, Princess, Prince):
 - Only a Senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen/Princess and a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King/Prince. The candidates may not have been previously selected as royalty at another school sponsored dance.
 - To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the entire Prom Dance and represent the school properly.
 - The royalty will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the student body.

- Only sophomore students will be chosen to be Prom Servers.

Section 11 Relationships Between Parents and Coaches/Sponsors

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone.

Parents have the right to know the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and sponsors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

Communicating with your children

- Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two (2) different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Communicating with the Coach

- Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:
 - Philosophy of the coach
 - Expectations the coach has for your child
 - Locations and times of all practices and contests
 - Team requirements
 - Procedure should your child be injured

- o Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- Communication coaches expect from parents
 - o Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - o Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - o Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - o The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
 - o Ways to help your child improve
 - o Concerns about your child's behavior
 - o Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach immediately!! Tell the coach about any health concerns that may make it necessary to limit your child's participation or require assistance of trainers. Students are sometimes unwilling to tell coaches when they are injured, so please make sure the coach is told.
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
 - o Playing time
 - o Team strategy
 - o Play calling
 - o Other student-athletes (except for reporting activity code violations)
- Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches:
 - o Call to set up an appointment with the coach
 - o Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
- What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
 - o Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
 - o At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Section 12 Good Sportsmanship—Behavior Expectations of Spectators

Good sportsmanship is expected to be exhibited by all coaches, sponsors, students, parents and other spectators. The school can be punished by NSAA for a lack of good sportsmanship at NSAA sanctioned events. More importantly, activities are more enjoyable for the students when good sportsmanship is displayed.

Responsibilities of Spectators Attending Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

1. Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.

2. Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
3. Understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others, or to be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
4. Do not "boo," stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
5. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Know that noise makers of any kind are not proper for indoor events.
7. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
8. Stay off the playing area at all times.
9. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
10. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and student-athletes.
11. Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
12. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
13. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
14. Refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs on the site of the contest.

Section 13 Student Fees Policy

The Board of Education of Ainsworth Community Schools has adopted this student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "1," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the current school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for non-specialized attire required for specified courses and activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general

District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or consumable items & miscellaneous

(a) Extracurricular Activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) Courses

(i) General Course Materials. Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, trappers, protractors and math calculators. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

(ii) Damaged or Lost Items. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(iii) Materials Required for Course Projects. Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the

District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.

(iv) Music Course Materials. Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy. The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(v) Parking. Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject to payment of fines or damages for damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.

(3) Extracurricular Activities—Specialized equipment or attire. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extra curricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities—Fees for participation. Any fees for participation in extra-curricular activities for the current school year are further specified in Appendix "1." Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(5) Postsecondary education costs. Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

(6) Transportation costs. Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

(7) Copies of student files or records. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or student who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one (1) copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

(8) Participation in before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

(9) Participation in summer school or night school. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

(10) Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(11) Waiver Policy. The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.

(12) Distribution of Policy. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or within the School Board Policies. The Handbook and policy shall be provided to the public via the school district website. Parents may request a hard copy of the handbook by contacting their student's respective office.

(13) Student Fee Fund. The School Board hereby establishes a fund where student fees are accounted for under guidance and direction of district audit professionals. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

***Parents or Guardians who have questions regarding the student fee policy, fees and eligibility, and assistance with the waiver process are encouraged to contact the District Office by calling 402-387-2333.**

Article 10 – State and Federal Programs

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Ainsworth Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having concerns or needing information about the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies should contact the District’s designated Coordinator for the applicable anti-discrimination law.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Elementary Principal
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Coordinator may be contacted at: [Address], [Name], Nebraska [Zip Code], telephone number ([Area Code]) [Telephone Number].