



OAK GROVE
ATHLETICS

Programs and Policies
2023-2024

Athletics Program and Policies

1. General Philosophy

Oak Grove Classical Academy seeks to provide an athletics program which supplements the academic program of the school. We recognize that God has gifted students in a variety of ways, including abilities in athletic pursuits. We seek to provide an opportunity for these student-athletes to develop and use their God-given ability. We believe that participation in athletics provides a good opportunity to encourage Christian students to mature in their faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. It offers the chance to deal with adversity and success in a God-glorifying manner. We believe that the athletics program enhances the atmosphere of the Oak Grove student body and provides both students and parents with an opportunity to express positive school spirit. We also recognize that athletics provide an opportunity to make Oak Grove known to the broader community of Albuquerque and throughout New Mexico. The athletics program conforms to the established Oak Grove philosophy and follows the statutes set forth by the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) and Albuquerque Parochial and Independent Athletic League (APIAL). Athletics should not take priority over the academic program at Oak Grove Classical Academy.

2. Athletics Vision Statement

Oak Grove desires to cultivate biblical behavior throughout the athletic program. We aim for our student-athletes to behave in such a way as to proclaim Christ to a fallen world. We aim for them to put others before themselves and not seek personal gain or glory, balancing godly behavior with the art of intense competition. We desire our student-athletes to act humbly on the court, on the field, in the pool, and on the track. We aim for them to consciously prepare themselves, through athletic rigor, to become people of God in their future vocations. We desire them to model a godly approach to athletics to the younger athletes and to be living temples of Christ at home and away. Finally, we desire our student-athletes to glorify God through their abilities and attitudes, and to further honor Him through their relationships with other teammates, coaches, and spectators.

3. Core Tenets

Oak Grove Classical Academy has four core tenets that guide behavior in and out of the classroom and competition. The primary purpose of these tenets is to be Christlike and a good witness to the world.

Humility – Prioritization of others. Humility is not thinking less of oneself, but rather thinking of oneself less. It sacrifices one's own pleasure and/or advancement for the betterment of another or the group. It cares not for acclaim, and indeed deflects praise to others. Humility is willing to take the burden of criticism while encouraging others. Each decision is approached with the mindset of how it affects others before a consideration of how it affects oneself. It does not demean or ridicule but supports and uplifts since it is not challenged by others' success.

Courage – Strength in the face of fear. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather a trust in the Lord that enables one to do what must be done no matter how frightening, difficult, or uncomfortable it may be. It will not shrink from duty or actions that glorify God, but boldly goes forth in the strength that God provides. Courage is a baseline which allows one's true godly character to shine through to the world.

Diligence – Concentrated effort. Diligence involves focused application of oneself to an end, as well as a refusal to allow controllable elements to prevent achieving it. It is not distracted, nor will it quit while there is progress to be made. It manifests itself in all areas of life, everything it undertakes it does to the best of its ability. Diligence recognizes that the end is not the outcome but is rather about maximizing ability and potential.

Integrity – Firmness of character. Integrity maintains the same attitude of God-glorifying moral uprightness regardless of the situation and the pressures involved. It remains stable throughout all circumstances, keeping an even keel during periods of happiness or frustration. It does not preclude celebration or expressions of disappointment, but it does so moderately and not for extended periods to avoid attitudes that are not in line with God-honoring character, such as overconfidence, anger, depression, and other damaging states of mind.

4. Activities and Membership

Provided there is sufficient student interest, Oak Grove will offer the following programs as part of the athletics program: At the Rhetoric level, under the NMAA, we offer Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Swimming, Track and Field, Golf, and Baseball. Although not sanctioned by the NMAA, we offer Archery as well. At the Logic level, under the Albuquerque Parochial and Independent Athletic League (APIAL) we offer Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Track and Field, and Golf. At the Grammar level, also under APIAL, we offer Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field. Depending on the interest level in a given sport, Oak Grove may co-op with other schools to field a team.

5. Objectives and Guidelines for Participation

At the Grammar level, student-athletes are expected to learn fundamental skills in each respective sport, along with decorum and sportsmanship in competition. At the Logic level, student-athletes will further develop their skills in a sport, while beginning to learn the basics of strategy as well as offensive and defensive systems they will encounter at the Rhetoric level. The Rhetoric level consists of Junior Varsity and Varsity, although not every sport has a Junior Varsity. The goal of JV competition is similar to that of the Logic level, that is, to learn the system and further their skills. At the Rhetoric Varsity stage, student-athletes are expected to put together all that they have learned and compete at a high level. At all points throughout a student's athletic career, we define success as maximizing the potential which the Lord has given to a particular student-athlete, and we prioritize that success over wins and losses. For some teams, a successful season may involve many wins, a district or state championship, and individual accolades.

For other teams, it may involve few wins and bad losses. Regardless, we strive to reach a point where we are satisfied that our student-athletes have glorified God with their performance.

6. Tryouts

If a Rhetoric sport has interest beyond its maximum number of participants, it may become necessary to cut student-athletes from participation. Each coach who must cut students from a sport must first have a tryout. All students will have an opportunity to try out for the team. All cuts will be made by the varsity coach. Prior to announcing the final rosters and cuts, the coach must inform and gain final approval from the Athletic Director. If it becomes necessary to limit participants in a Grammar or Logic sport, participation will be based on the order of registration.

7. Dual Participation

In an effort to broaden the experience for those students who desire it and are able to juggle the heavier load it requires; Oak Grove will allow athletes at the Rhetoric level to participate in two sports simultaneously. The student-athlete and his/her parents should carefully consider the time and effort commitments he/she is making to both activities when considering this option. The student-athlete will be a full member of both teams and will be expected to attend all required meetings, practices, and meets/games when there are no conflicts. He/she will also be expected to give full effort to both teams. The student-athlete shall designate a primary sport, which will be used for deciding which event to attend in the instance of a conflict. The student-athlete must apply through the athletics office to be approved for dual participation. The Athletic Director will give the final approval after consultation with the head coaches of both sports.

8. Scheduling

Oak Grove will not schedule any athletic activities on Sundays to avoid intruding into worship. At the Rhetoric level, since students are on campus 5 days per week for school, a sport is allowed a maximum of 5 days of activity per week. If there is an activity on Saturday, the sport will take a day off during the week. At the Logic level, since students are on campus 3 days per week for school, a sport is allowed a maximum of 3 days of activity per week. At the Grammar level, since students are on campus 2 days per week for school, they are allowed a maximum of 2 activities per week, although most Grammar sports have just 1 practice per week.

9. Practices and Events

All team members are expected to attend all practices, (even if they aren't participating due to an injury). Consequences for athletes who miss practice or are late will be set by the head coach at the beginning of the season. As extra-curricular activities are an extension of the school day, a student who arrives at school after 10:00am or misses an entire day may not participate in extra-curricular activities that day, unless express permission is given by the designate Head of School. Additionally, a student who signs out early, except for an approved appointment, may not participate in extracurricular activities that day.

10. Conduct at Events

Coaches, players, and parents are representing the name of Christ during all public events. Therefore, compliance with the following guidelines will be expected from all participants:

- Comments by coaches, participants, and fans should be uplifting, positive, and encouraging statements.
- Verbal abuse of athletes or referees is forbidden.
- Actions of coaches and athletes should set a positive, encouraging example for spectators.
- Conduct judged to be improper by the coach or Athletic Director may result in immediate removal from the activity, as well as further disciplinary action.
- Parents are asked to participate in positive cheers that encourage our team members. We want to discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus, including those that disparage opponents, their fans and officials. We should cheer **for** our team and not against our opponents!
- In all things, we should reflect the character of Christ to those at the event. This is paramount to winning!

11. Athletics Attire at School

Outerwear and other clothing worn on Tuesday, Thursday, or Fridays are limited to items with the Oak Grove name and/or logo. This includes sports that co-op with other schools. Shirts, outerwear, or other clothing that only include names and/or logos of the other school in the co-op will not be permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

12. Warm-up Music Playlists

Warm up music is generally played leading up to a home contest and is for the purpose of fan and athlete enjoyment. Warm up music playlists must be approved by the Athletic Director and may not contain inappropriate words or themes.

13. Required Documents Prior to Participation

Per the NMAA, in order to participate in Rhetoric athletics at Oak Grove, an athlete must have the following documents completed:

- The NMAA physical packet, which includes the medical assessment completed on or after the April 1st before the current school year, concussion acknowledgment signature form, and consent to treat form.
- The concussion course certificate received at the end of the NFHS online concussion course.
- Oak Grove online registration form

Concussion Policy: Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems), shall be immediately removed from the practice

or contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.

14. Travel Guidelines

When teams travel together to away games, players are allowed to ride home with a parent after away games so long as that parent alerts the head coach or Athletic Director. On team trips, stopping for meals is at the discretion of the head coach. Student-athletes are expected to act with proper decorum corresponding to school values in the vehicle, and during any stops on the trip.

15. Discipline

All policies for student behavior apply to extra-curricular events. When discipline is necessary at a level requiring suspension from an activity or, at its most extreme, suspension from the team, the head coach will discuss the situation with the Athletic Director prior to making any decisions. The Oak Grove Athletic Department will do everything possible to work with parents and student-athletes to ensure that discipline issues do not escalate to this level.

16. Academic Eligibility

At the end of the semester - Scholastically, at the Rhetoric level, student-athletes are required to have a cumulative 2.5 GPA and no classes with a grade below a 70% in the prior semester. Students with a grade of 70% or below in any class in the prior semester are academically ineligible for athletic competition for a minimum of 9 weeks, although they are eligible to practice. At the Logic level, students with a grade below 70% will be held out of competition until that student raises his or her grade above 70%. At the Grammar level, there are no scholastic eligibility requirements for participation, however, as with all students, Oak Grove expects them to place a high value on academics.

At the end of the 9-week quarter – At the Rhetoric and Logic levels, if a previously ineligible student has raised his or her grade above the 70% threshold, he or she is immediately eligible for competition. Students with a grade below a 70% in any class at the 9-week mark will be held out of competition until their grade reaches the 70% threshold or they demonstrate substantive improvement in their class performance.

If necessary, at any point throughout the season, the Heads of school reserve the right to place students on academic probation or suspension, which may involve suspension from athletic activities.

17. Travel and Academics

At the Logic and Rhetoric level, student-athletes are expected to work within the guidelines of course requirements and should not expect teachers to make accommodations for homework requirements, extension of deadlines, or additional assistance beyond normal instruction so they can gain academic eligibility. This will require athletes to plan ahead for game travel and other team-related activities, and complete assignments beforehand if necessary. When the deadline for a take-home assignment falls on a day where the student-athlete has an

athletic excused absence, it will not be eligible for an extended deadline. The assignment should be turned in either in-person during an earlier class period, or electronically at the submission deadline.

18. Transfer Rule and 8th Grade Participation

A student who changes from one school to another school is subject to regulation under the NMAA transfer rule. A student-athlete is ineligible for varsity competition for one year in any sport they played the prior season at the high school level while at a previous school. The NMAA allows 8th graders to play at the high school level. Oak Grove would prefer that such participation be the exception and not the norm when the sport is played at the Logic level. In such circumstances where 8th graders do participate at the high school level, they will be subject the NMAA transfer rule.

19. Fundraising

Oak Grove encourages fundraising at the individual sport level. Such efforts should be initiated by a player, parent, or coach within the sport and brought to the Athletic Director for approval. Money raised from a sport's fundraising goes solely to that sport and will be used for program enhancements, such as apparel, gear, or out of town tournaments. Team fundraising proceeds will not go towards operational spending such as officiating costs or normal travel costs. A program should raise the funds prior to spending them. As fundraising is designed to augment the sport program beyond normal operation, a sport coach should not mandate a certain amount of contribution from each student-athlete. Coaches are encouraged to work with the team to identify reasonable fundraising goals.

20. Varsity Letters

In the first season a Rhetoric student-athlete is eligible for a varsity letter in any sport, they will receive a cloth letter and the sport's respective metal pin. In any subsequent seasons of letter eligibility in that sport, the student-athlete will receive a metal bar to place underneath the sport-specific pin. Eligibility for varsity letters is not solely dependent on a student athlete's presence on the roster. Each sport has different participation requirements which must be met in order to receive a letter. Exceptions to the requirements due to extenuating circumstances may be approved by the Athletic Director. Presentation of any further awards or participation certificates is at the discretion of the sport's head coach.

- **Volleyball** – Participation in 75% of total varsity sets **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Soccer** – Participation in 75% of total varsity games **or** 750 minutes of total playing time in varsity games **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Cross Country** – Participation in 75% of varsity races **or** score at the district and/or state meets **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Boys and Girls Basketball** – Participation in 75% of varsity games **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.

- **Archery** – Participation in 75% of practices **and** participation in the New Mexico State Tournament **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Swimming** – Participation in 75% of meets **or** a 1st place finish in any event **or** score at the district and/or state meets **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Golf** – Participation in 75% of tournaments **or** finish in the top 5 at a tournament **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Track and Field** – Participation in 75% of varsity meets **and** score 7 total points **or** score at the district and/or state meets **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.
- **Baseball** – Participation in 75% of games **or** play twice as many innings as scheduled games **or** be a senior with at least two prior seasons of participation.