

Platteville Middle School Student Activities Handbook

This handbook provides a list of student activities offered at Platteville Middle School.

Statement of Purpose

Student activities are offered in the Platteville Public Schools to provide students with opportunities to grow individually and experience a wide variety of human interactions. This growth is nurtured through the creation of environments and social climates that reflect our society. Many of the student activities that are offered serve as extensions of the regular classrooms. These activities offer an opportunity to expand and "field test" many skills and attitudes that are introduced in the classroom.

Student activities foster growth in self-awareness and confidence. They also enhance the development of talents, expertise, personal interests, and social skills.

Student Activities Goals:

1. to provide individual student growth and enrichment.
2. to provide students the opportunity to learn how to be a part of a good audience, including proper behavior and etiquette.
3. to expose students to artists, guest presenters, professionals, and entertainers.
4. to instruct students on how to be "active participants".
5. to give students practice at working and competing with others.
6. to develop leadership through practice and practical applications.
7. to provide students an opportunity to develop lifetime leisure interests and activities.
8. to provide a "community connection" with our school system.

Our student activities are divided into three categories:

Programs & Assemblies - Student enrichment activities scheduled during the school day for which attendance is required of the target population.

Co-curricular Activities - Student enrichment activities that extend directly from course or grade level membership.

Extra-curricular Activities - Student enrichment activities that are elective and outside of the instructional curriculum.

Programs and Assemblies

The purpose of the variety of programs and assemblies is to provide students with enrichment opportunities and experiences that cannot be provided through regular classroom activities. These experiences allow students to develop and practice large group behavioral skills. These programs involve bringing together small groups, grade levels, or the entire student body at one time to watch a performance or presentation relating to a specific topic. Examples of the variety of programs and assemblies may include:

1. Assembly programs
2. Fine Arts Performances
(i.e. Concerts, Plays, Musicals)
3. Cultural Celebrations
(i.e. Holiday Concert, Veterans' Day Program)
4. Class Movies
5. Awards Assemblies

Co-curricular Activities

Definition: Student enrichment activities that extend directly from course or grade-level membership. Some of these are optional class activities. Others are required parts of a course or grade-level activities.

Activities:

1. Marching Band (7-8)
2. Color Guard/Flag Squad (7-8)
3. Band Concerts & Performances (6-8)
4. Strings Concerts (5-8)
5. Choir Concerts (6-8)
6. Southern 8 Large Group Festival (7-8)
7. Southern 8 Solo & Ensemble Festival (7-8)
8. Swing Singers (6-8)
9. Southern 8 Math Contest (7-8)
10. CESA 3 Spelling Bee (5-8)
11. Grade Level Field Trips (5-8)
12. Outdoor Education (6)
13. Science Olympiad (6-9)
14. Geography Bee (7-8)

Co-curricular Activities

1. **Marching Band**
All students enrolled in the 7th and 8th grade bands participate in this activity which introduces and develops marching band techniques.
2. **Color Guard/Flag Squad**
Interested 7th and 8th grade band students have the opportunity to learn basic flag maneuvers. Students may then audition for a position in the color guard. Those who are chosen for the color guard will learn additional maneuvers and develop more techniques as a flag squad to enhance the marching band's general effect and showmanship.
3. **Band Concerts/Performances**
Students involved in the performing bands at the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade level give several day and evening performances for the school and the general public. These performances are a culmination of classroom activities and rehearsal goals.
4. **Strings Concerts**
The Platteville Middle School strings program consists of instruction on violin, viola, cello, and bass in grades 5th-8th. As part of the program, students are expected to perform for various activities and concerts throughout the school year.
5. **Choir Concerts**
Opportunities for performance are available for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs throughout the school year. These performances allow the students to assess their progress and establish goals in keeping with the course intent in areas such as choral technique, performance etiquette, and musically pleasing performances.
6. **Southern 8 Large Group Festival**
All students enrolled in 7th and 8th grade band, choir, and strings will participate in this activity. The Southern 8 Large Group Festival provides students the opportunity to perform for judges who will critique the strengths and weaknesses of their performances. The Instrumental Festival experience also offers students the opportunity to hear performances by other Southern 8 schools' instrumental and vocal ensembles.
7. **Southern 8 Solo Ensemble Festival**
Any student enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade bands, choirs, or strings has the opportunity to participate in this activity. Students may choose to perform solo or any type of small ensemble literature as listed by the WSMA Festival Handbook. These prepared pieces are then performed and critiqued at the festival by an adjudicator that is a qualified judge and professional musician.
8. **Southern 8 Mathematics Contest**
A team of 7th-8th students from Platteville Middle School competes each spring in the Southern 8 Math Contest. The preparation for and the competition involved in the contest provide students with an opportunity for growth and enrichment in mathematics, as well as a chance to compete with students from other schools who have similar interest and ability in mathematics.

9. **CESA 3 Spelling Bee**

The middle school Spelling Bee involves all interested students in grades 5th-8th. Each grade stages its own grade-level bee and six winners emerge from each grade to represent their grade at the all-school bee. The all-school bee is open to the public. The top two spellers from the school bee represent the middle school at the CESA 3 Sectional Bee. The winner of the Sectional Bee goes on to the Telegraph Herald Bee. The state winner moves on to the National Bee.

10. **Grade Level Field Trips**

Field trips provide opportunities for students to experience settings and activities connected to classroom curriculum. Each grade generally goes on one all-day trip each year. Other trips may be scheduled, also.

11. **Outdoor Education**

The Outdoor Education Program is a 3-day program that takes place in the fall for 6th graders. Every 6th grade student is given the opportunity to attend a camp-like program for three days. Students are prepared for camp in all areas of the curriculum. They are taught trees, plants, songs, writing skills, historical play presentations, and group cooperation skills. At camp, educational experiences are given to all students. Outdoor teaching situations stress hands-on learning, responsibility, and an appreciation for our environment.

12. **Science Olympiad**

This activity is open to students in grades 6th-9th. The program is based on a competitive team format as prescribed by the Wisconsin Science Olympiad program. This program captures the kind of interest, enthusiasm, and commitment for science that is customarily exhibited for sports. The program is designed to increase student interest and improve community perception of science education. This program is an excellent vehicle to meet the needs of all students, particularly gifted and talented.

13. **Geography Bee**

The Geography Bee is open to all 7th and 8th graders. There is a preliminary competition in which up to 10 students qualify for the final competition. National Geography Bee rules apply and questions reflect general knowledge of world geography- physical, place, and culture.

14. Swing Singers

The Platteville Middle School Swing Singers is a non-auditioned show choir open to all PMS choir students (grades 6-7-8). The Swing Singers perform popular style music and learn simple choreography to the songs. Membership in the Swing Singers is based on the student's ability to attend weekly practices (usually before school from 7:15 am-8:00 am.) Any student with more than one unexcused absence OR more than 2 tardies to rehearsal will not be able to participate!

Performances will include, but not be limited to: a December performance, a March performance and a May performance. The group will also perform for the school. Cost will be \$15 which includes a Swing Singers T-shirt and assorted supplies for performance. See Miss Russell for details.

Extra-curricular Activities

Definition: Student enrichment activities that are elected by students beyond the instructional curriculum. Some of these activities may involve school time, but the bulk of the time used for these activities extends beyond the school day.

Activities:

1. Girls Volleyball (7-8)
2. Boys Basketball (7-8)
3. Girls Basketball (7-8)
4. Boys Track (7-8)
5. Girls Track (7-8)
6. 5th Grade Plays
7. 6th Grade Plays
8. 7th & 8th Grade Play
9. 7th & 8th Grade Musical
10. Student Council (5-8)
11. Creative Problem Solving (5-8)

Extra-curricular Activities

1. Girls Volleyball (7-8)

The Platteville Middle School girls volleyball program introduces girls to an interscholastic program which is designed for the development of skills, sportsmanship, leadership, and allows for game competition at a level comparative to players' individual skills and development.

2. **Boys Basketball (7-8)**

The Platteville Middle School boys basketball program is designed to develop basic basketball skills, sportsmanship, and leadership. It allows for game competition against other schools. Emphasis is on basketball skills and team cohesiveness. Game play for participants is determined by the coach based on players' skill development and commitment to the sport and team.

3. **Girls Basketball (7-8)**

The Platteville Middle School girls basketball program is designed to develop basic basketball skills, sportsmanship, and leadership. It allows for game competition against other schools. Emphasis is on basketball skills and team cohesiveness. Game play for participants is determined by the coach based on players' skill development and commitment to the sport and team.

4. **Boys Track (7-8)**

Boys track is an individual and a team effort sport. Members of the team learn skills in track and field. They use these skills in competition with other area schools. Emphasis is placed on self-improvement and team effort rather than individual achievement and winning.

5. **Girls Track (7-8)**

Girls track is an individual and a team effort sport. Members of the team learn skills in track and field. They use these skills in competition with other area schools. Emphasis is placed on self-improvement and team effort rather than individual achievement and winning.

6. **5th Grade Plays**

5th grade play participation is available to all 5th grade students. Performances are given to classmates during the school day and the general public through an evening performance. All interested students receive parts and practices are held immediately after school.

7. **6th Grade Plays**

This activity is available to all 6th grade boys and girls who would like to act in plays. It gives students the opportunity to improve their oral speaking and creative dramatics skills before their peers. Performances are given to classmates during the school day and the general public through an evening performance.

8. **7th & 8th Grade Play**

This alternate year activity is an extension of the school curriculum. It involves public speaking skills, expression, memorization practice, and a basic understanding of theater, performance, and art appreciation. The play provides an opportunity for both individual and group growth and enrichment. There is a strong emphasis on group interactions and working toward a common goal.

9. **7th and 8th Grade Musical**

This alternate year activity provides an opportunity for students to sing, dance, and act within the framework of a selected musical. They will learn techniques in dramatic performance, staging, stage presence, choreography, scenery, lighting, and musicianship, in addition to opportunities for solos, ensembles, and character roles.

10. **Student Council (5-8)**

The student council is comprised of student members from each grade. Members are either elected by the student body or file application forms (depending on grade level) and are representatives of their respective grade levels. The council organizes several social activities and provides various other services during the school year.

11. **Creative Problem Solving (5-8)**

This activity is for students who enjoy solving problems that do not necessarily have one right answer. Students work independently and in teams to find a number of solutions to problems. Creativity, decision making, risk taking, and fun are stressed.