**8th Grade Athletics Period**

The purpose of the athletic program is to instruct students in the fundamental aspects of a variety of sports, and to provide an opportunity for competition. The program will prepare students for participation in high school athletics, and, as such will be more demanding in terms of time and physical effort than a normal physical education class. The students who participate in athletics are representatives of Fort Settlement Middle School and will be held to a higher standard of behavior while serving in that role.

**Criteria**

* Plans on playing at least one sport their 8th grade year.
* Are currently meeting all academic eligibility requirements
* Demonstrates appropriate behavior on and off campus and are currently in good standing with the athletic department

**Period Breakdown**

* Athletic period be 1st period.
* Two coaches for girls.
* Students not able to be in the athletic period (due to scheduling conflicts) may still try-out and participate in their desired sport(s).
* Athletes in season (on a team) will continue practice during the athletic period. Remainder of practice will continue outside of school hours (before or after school depending upon the athletic period time).
	+ Example: practice would finish at 5:00pm instead of 6:00pm.
* Seasons: Football/Volleyball (Fall), Basketball (Winter), Track/Tennis (Spring).
* Students not in season will follow the same curriculum as the other 8th grade physical education classes.
* Students’ playing time will not be compromised if they are unable to be in the athletic period.
* Failure to comply with athletic policy will result in removal from the athletics program and period.

**Benefits**

* More time for academics outside of school.
* More opportunities for other extra-curricular activities in and outside of school.
* Student/Athletes will be better prepared for higher levels of practice and competition.
* Athletes will increase and maintain fitness levels throughout the entire year.