



2020-2021 THUNDERBIRD ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

Thunderbird Parents/Student-Athletes:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! While we have dealt with some uncertainty over the course of the last 5 months, the MSHSL has asked its member schools to plan for a fall sports season. GFW is doing just that! While the specifics of each season remain a bit uncertain, our coaches/advisors are planning on delivering to our student-athletes. Traditionally we have held a sports registration event to get the necessary information to you and to get our student-athletes registered. To meet the guidelines put forth by MDH/CDC and to better accommodate people's schedules, this document will serve to inform you on your participation in GFW Athletics/Activities.

Participate!

We highly recommend that our students participate in GFW activities. Participation in activities at GFW has many benefits. Students who participate in activities learn about time management, setting goals and teamwork. Participants will build self-esteem while exploring diverse interests and making a contribution to our school. We encourage your participation on our athletic teams and our many activities.

Athletic/Activity Offerings:

Our fall sports season is right around the corner. Below you will find our offerings along with the necessary contact information. Once you register via our online registration site (this is new and will become active on July 29th) you will receive the necessary sport-specific information.

Cross-Country	Head Coach - Tara Rettmann	tara.rettmann@gfwschools.org	Start Date: Aug. 17th
Football	Head Coach - Pat Hentges	patrick.hentges@gfwschools.org	Start Date: Aug. 10th
Football - JH	Coach - Jeff Seehafer	jeff.seehafer@gfwschools.org	Start Date: Aug. 18th
	Coach - Kevin Johnson	kevin.johnson@gfwschools.org	
Volleyball	Head Coach - Imia Mages	imia.mages@gfwschools.org	Start Date: Aug. 17th
	Head Coach - Chris Wortz	cmwortz@gmail.com	
Volleyball - JH	Coach - Sydney Fromm	frommsydney28@gmail.com	Start Date Aug. 18th
	Coach - TBD		
Clay Target	Coach - Brian Magnusson	brian.magnusson@gfwschools.org	TBD
Bowling	Coach - Scott Schwarzrock	smrock3@centurylink.net	TBD

Feel free to contact the coaches with any questions you may have with regards to their programs. You may also contact myself... Rich Busse richard.busse@gfwschools.org

- Winter Sports - Danceline, Basketball, Wrestling
- Spring Sports - Baseball, Clay Target, Golf, Softball, Track & Field
- Activities - Band/Choir, FFA, Jazz Band, Knowledge Bowl, Pop Choir, Student Council, SADD, Theater

Registration (online at <https://gfw-ar.schooltoday.com/> •Registration opens on July 29th•)

GFW is moving to an online registration program. In this program you will be able to sign up for athletics/activities, submit all necessary contact information, sign and submit MSHSL forms and track your qualifying sports physical status along with much much more as the site develops.

Registration: Beginning July 29th, you will have access to the registration site. Click on the Athletic Team Registration icon. Create a new account and follow the registration prompts.



[Athletic Team Registration - Click Here](#)

Qualifying Sports Physical: The sports registration site will allow you to see your physical date after you have completed the registration process. Your date will be uploaded by GFW HS staff once we receive your registration. Physicals are good for 3 years from the date of the physical. *Due to Covid-19, the MSHSL has extended clearance for an additional year on all physicals that expire between March 12, 2020 and the end of the 2020-2021 school year.* Anyone participating for the first time (ex: 7th graders) are required to get a sports qualifying physical. You can turn a copy of the physical into your coach/office personnel or upload a copy and email it to Jo Gatton jo.gatton@gfwschools.org or Rich Busse richard.busse@gfwschools.org.

Eligibility: Students must maintain eligibility to participate. Student-athletes must follow GFW's academic eligibility requirements as well as the MSHSL eligibility requirements.

- GFW eligibility requirements can be found in the [Activities Handbook](#)
- MSHSL Eligibility Statement/Health Questionnaire will be found in the registration process under your final tab "MSHSL Eligibility Forms" You will digitally sign and submit this form online.

Fees: Participation fees need to be paid to the HS office by the end of the first week of practice. Payment plans and work voucher programs are available. Contact Jo Gatton jo.gatton@gfwschools.org or Rich Busse richard.busse@gfwschools.org for more information on these programs. HS sports fee = \$90 • JH Sports Fee = \$55 • JH Knowledge Bowl = \$20 • HS Knowledge Bowl = \$50 • Pop Choir/Jazz Band = \$50 • Bowling & Clay Target fee TBD • Family Max.. Athletics = \$450... Fine Arts = \$300.

Impact Testing/Concussion Mgt.: GFW contracts with Allina Health Care Systems in New Ulm. They provide GFW athletic training services to care for the health and well-being of GFW athletes. Concussion management and return-to-play protocol fall under the direction of the assigned Certified Athletic Trainer. Refer to [NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes](#) for detailed information related to concussed athletes. GFW uses "Impact Testing" as a way to monitor athletes who suffer concussions. Testing will be scheduled with each athlete at the beginning of each season.

Schedules: Schedules are set for the 20-21 school year. Schedules will be impacted by weather, Covid-19, and other unforeseen circumstances. Your best source for up-to-date schedules and related changes is the calendar on the school website. Click here for access to the [activities calendar](#). A direct link is also available on the activities registration page. To receive instant updates and changes you can register with "Notify Me"... This is an option found under the activities calendar on the right hand side of the page.

Communication: Communication is important to the success of our teams/clubs/organizations. Once you have registered for your sport/activity, you should expect communication, in the form of an email, from your coach/advisor related to program specific information.

School Attendance Requirements: An unexcused absence prohibits you from participating in extracurricular activities for that particular day. Refer to the [Activities Handbook](#) for more information.

Travel: Participants are required to use provided school district transportation. Refer to the [Activities Handbook](#) for additional information on transportation exceptions.

THUNDERBIRD STRONG!