

## Purposeful Co-Curriculars

Co-curricular activities (athletics, performing arts, competitive clubs, etc.) serve an important role in the whole-child mission of OCS. In many cases co-curricular activities engage the heart, soul, mind, and body. A co-curricular activity may be the most effective platform to reach some students for Christ. Therefore, the OCS co-curricular program is driven by distinct Christian purposes, rather than man-centered values and priorities. The purpose of co-curricular activities at OCS are listed below:

1. Development of Biblical Character Qualities
2. Healthy Recreation
3. Fostering School Spirit
4. Skill Development
5. Representing Christ to Others

### 1. Development of Biblical Character Qualities

*For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV).*

Few activities provide the opportunity to develop positive character qualities as do the stress and pressures of competition and performance. Competition has a tendency to reveal hidden character qualities and weaknesses. Character defects such as fear can manifest in unwillingness to take risks or accept challenges. On the other hand, competition may provide a timid student the opportunity to develop courage, confidence, and leadership skills.

Taking this into consideration, coaches and sponsors will place a high importance on the display and development of biblical character qualities in co-curricular activities, such as a tenacious work ethic, selflessness, perseverance, and courage. These biblical character qualities will be emphasized through direct coaching/instruction, as well as by example. Participants will be encouraged to draw attention to the Lord and walk in humility, rather than draw attention to their own accomplishments.

Some of the character qualities to be fostered are:

- Self-discipline
- Leadership
- Humility
- Submission to leadership
- Self-confidence
- Selflessness/Teamwork
- Social Development

## **2. Healthy Recreation**

*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest (Mark 6:31 NIV).*

One of the purposes of co-curricular activities is to have fun and to rest by changing gears from the demands of classroom responsibilities. Whether throwing a ball or playing an instrument, practice times, competition, and performances are an opportunity for students to take a break from the stresses of academic work and engage in something completely different. In addition to having fun, co-curricular activities should provide a platform for students to understand and practice the stewardship of their bodies.

## **3. Fostering School Spirit**

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV).*

Co-curricular activities provide a wonderful opportunity for a school to rally together to support their team. For example, anticipation of the “big game” creates excitement on campus, in the hallways, classrooms, and at pep rallies. One of the most cherished aspects of the OCS culture is the Friday night home game, which provides the school community a unique opportunity to socialize, support one another, and simply enjoy the benefits of Christian community. OCS co-curricular events allow Saints of all ages to gather together and enjoy the blessings of family and friends, in a safe and healthy atmosphere.

## **4. Skill Development**

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving (Colossians 3:23-24 NIV).*

Each student is endowed with God-given gifts and talents. Participation in co-curricular activities provides an opportunity to develop those gifts and talents, recognizing that they are a gift from the Lord. For some students, who have an extraordinary talent or aptitude, co-curricular activities at OCS provide a means of furthering those talents with the possibility of competing or performing at the collegiate level. Regardless of a student's raw talent, coaches and sponsors will work to develop fundamental skills in every sport or activity.

## 5. Representing Christ to Others

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ... (Corinthians 5:20 NIV).*

The manner in which we conduct ourselves can be a key witness for or against the gospel message. Fans and participants must remember they represent OCS, but more importantly they represent the Christian faith. One way in which the OCS community can represent Christ to each other and to other schools is by being intentional in participant and fan behavior.

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## Co-Curricular Philosophy

### Approach to Competition

Part of the excitement and fun of competition is knowing there will be one victor. However, winning must take its rightful place in OCS athletics. While OCS will not win at all costs, especially at the cost of character development, coaches are expected to develop programs that are competitive and challenging (1 Corinthians 9:24 NIV).

### Conflict Resolution

From time-to-time a student or parent may have conflict with a coach or co-curricular sponsor. When this occurs, it is essential that a specific process be followed to maintain order and consistency. While playing time or roles in a performance are not an issue to be discussed or negotiated between a parent and coach, all other concerns are welcomed and should be addressed in the following order:

1. Parent contacts coach/sponsor directly by email after a period of 24 hours from the event, stating the concern. By going directly to the coach or sponsor, relationships can be developed and greater understanding can be achieved. By waiting a period of 24 hours from the event, communication can take place with less emotion and a better perspective. It is best if all parties approach communication with an attitude of inquiry rather than attacking. Coaches and sponsors are not to be contacted on their personal cell phones.
2. If resolution is unachieved, the parent should contact the athletic director directly by email, explaining the concern or requesting a meeting. The athletic director will then set up a meeting between the coach/sponsor, parent, and athletic director. The athletic director will serve as a facilitator to ensure that both parties are heard as well as ensure that a respectful tone is maintained throughout the discussion. If a respectful tone is not maintained, the athletic director may choose to reschedule or cancel the meeting.
3. If resolution is still unachieved, the parent may request a meeting with the headmaster and athletic director together.

**The Administration will:**

1. Provide a flourishing, Christ-centered co-curricular experience for students, coaches/sponsors, parents, and fans.
2. Not recruit directly or indirectly or allow parents to recruit athletes to OCS.
3. Provide mandatory instruction for parents in how to conduct themselves at school athletic and co-curricular events.
4. Provide mandatory instruction for parents in how to resolve conflict with coaches and sponsors.
5. Encourage well-roundedness and reduce the likelihood of overuse injuries by allowing and encouraging students to participate in multiple sports.
6. Provide coaches training in injury prevention, leadership, and sports specific coaching.
7. Provide a safe environment for practices and events.

**Coaches and Sponsors will:**

1. Provide Christ-centered leadership for their sport/activity.
2. Provide mentorship of players, both on and off the field/court/stage.
3. Live and lead by example.
4. Foster God-honoring relationships with players and parents.
5. Respect the authority of officials, appealing calls in a respectful manner.
6. Use proper language and refrain from belittling, humiliating, or slandering players, participants, parents, or other schools.
7. Develop competitive programs, without losing touch with biblical values.
8. Communicate in a timely manner.

**Student athletes/participants will:**

1. Respect the authority of their coaches/sponsors.
2. Respect the authority and calls of officials.
3. Exhibit sportsmanlike and Christlike conduct, refraining from actions that glorify self or reflect worldly values.
4. Work hard.
5. Support their teammates on and off the court/field.

**Parents will:**

1. Exhibit sportsmanlike conduct at home and away games and performances, knowing that personal behavior either honors or dishonors God. The entire OCS community must keep in mind that fan behavior is observed and could create a stumbling block for others who are not Christians.
2. Respect the authority and role of coaches and sponsors, not criticizing coaches' or sponsors' decisions to other parents or in any public forum such as social media or other electronic communication.
3. Respectfully (not attacking) follow the established conflict resolution process.
4. Attend the mandatory all athletics parent meeting at one of the two scheduled times at the beginning of the year.

**Fans will:**

1. Applaud and respect the efforts of opposing teams.
2. Refrain from exhibiting angry and hateful emotions.
3. Refrain from insulting officials.
4. Demonstrate the reality of Jesus Christ by maintaining a positive spirit. Remember, much of what happens tonight won't matter in eternity, much less in one week.
5. Support and encourage OCS coaches, teams, and individual players.

**Student fans will:**

1. Exhibit sportsmanlike conduct at home and away games, knowing that our behavior either honors or dishonors God and that our behavior is observed and could create a stumbling block for others who are not Christians.
2. Cheer on our team positively and refrain from negative remarks towards opponents. This includes the use of signs.