

# FREEPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The Freeport Middle School belongs to the Triple "C" Conference. The conference organizes and supports separate eighth grade and seventh grade teams. Seventh graders may play on eighth grade teams only if there are not enough eighth graders to field a complete team.

Sixth graders may play on the seventh grade teams only if there are not enough seventh graders to field a complete team. Sixth graders **do not** try out with the 7th and 8th graders, but may be asked to try out after the total number of participants has been determined.

Seventh and eighth grade students cut from the seventh and eighth grade teams will be automatically placed on the "no cut" "A" Team.

Sixth graders may play on "A" Teams only if there are not enough seventh and eighth graders to field a complete team. Sixth graders may be asked to try out after the total number of participants has been determined.

## **Answering questions regarding 6th grade athletic participation at Freeport Middle School**

Parents often wonder why Freeport Middle School does not field separate athletic teams for 6th graders. Following is an explanation.

Freeport is one of 19 schools belonging to the Cumberland County Conference (CCC). The conference recognizes and provides schedules for separate 8th and 7th grade teams. No other schools in the CCC offer 6th grade teams/sports. Many of the schools in the CCC don't allow 6th grade participation in any form. Freeport, and a few others, use 6th graders to help fill out 7th grade teams when necessary. Even if Freeport were to offer separate 6th grade teams, there would be few, if any, school recognized 6th grade teams to compete against.

The field and gym facilities in Freeport are currently over scheduled with many practices currently over lapping each other and running into the evening hours. The addition of more teams to accommodate 6th grade sports would create more pressure on the facilities. For example, in the spring season FMS has 8 teams trying to share the current field space. In the Fall there are 7 teams. In the winter there are 6 basketball teams scheduled in the gym after school. This does not include the teams from community education and other community programs.

Additional teams will further strain the already limited budget resources in the athletic program. The additional cost of coaches, equipment, uniforms, officials, transportation, and facility maintenance is a limiting factor. Often, even with enough money for coaches, it is difficult to fill the current coaching positions with qualified personnel.

Most all athletic opportunities for 6th graders are available through programs sponsored and administered by RSU No. 5 Community Programs (865-6171) or travel teams/clubs.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Sickels, Athletic Administrator