

Simple Ways to Promote Academic Success by Your Athletes
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It is probably not surprising to those involved in athletics that athletes also tend to be some of the most successful students in the classroom. Our two varsity soccer teams have both been recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for the past four years for the “High School Academic Team Award.” A team G.P.A. of 3.25 or better is needed and many of our athletes have earned academic scholarships to various universities and colleges.

In an effort to promote academics at Magruder High School, we have incorporated several award and support programs to showcase academic excellence and help student-athletes who might be struggling.

At Magruder High School, we promote academic excellence with the following awards:

1. A special pin for the varsity letter when the athlete earns a varsity letter in two different sports and maintains a 3.5 G.P.A for the first three quarters of each academic year.
2. The certificate from the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association “Minds in Motion Program” to junior varsity and varsity athletes who maintain a 3.25 G.P.A. during the season.
3. A competition between the three gender-based athletic programs at Magruder High School for the program who has the highest overall G.P.A. after the first three quarters. Both the junior varsity and varsity teams for that particular program is calculated and a certificate is given to each member of the winning program and the teams name is placed on a plaque in the trophy showcase.

Male Sports- soccer, football, wrestling, baseball, tennis, volleyball, lacrosse, and basketball.

Female Sports- basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, soccer, tennis, poms, and softball.

Co-ed Sports- golf, cheerleading, cross country, swimming, indoor track, outdoor track, and coed volleyball.

In addition to Academic awards at Magruder High School, we created the following academic support system for student athletes:

1. An Athletic Academic Advisor passes out progress sheets every three weeks. The progress sheets require that the parent sign each grade sheet before they are turned into the coach for further review. Each teams progress sheets are then turned over to the Athletic Academic Advisor who places them in a sport specific log book and kept for the entire school year. Coaches can request

that the progress sheets continue after the season is over if academic problems persist.

2. The Athletic Academic Advisor notifies the coach of all failing grades for each athlete and recommends either during or after school help for the athletes in danger. Additional help includes study halls and tutoring during and after school for those athletes who might need the extra help.
3. Phone calls home or arranged additional support by having students enrolled in the ASSIT program that is offered at our school is also coordinated by the Athletic Academic Advisor.
4. Individual help during the school day is offered in her room and she seeks feedback from teachers on how various athletes are doing and if improvement is being witnessed.
5. The advisor attempts to determine if the teacher has seen any improvement by the athletes. Besides the role of the Athletic Academic Advisor, our school offers tutoring from the National Honor Society, homework help from the Homework Club, and additional help in the After School Tutoring Center.

We have greatly reduced the number of student-athletes who become ineligible at the end of each grading period by using the Athletic Academic Advisor at Magruder High School. Our goal is to promote the academic success of our student-athletes and offer additional support to those who might need the extra help.