



# CHARLES S. RUSHE MIDDLE SCHOOL

18654 Mentmore Boulevard  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638  
(813) 346-1200 • FAX (813) 346-1291

*Principal: David Salerno*  
*Kristy Blazys, Assistant Principal*  
*Rachel Boehmer, Assistant Principal*  
*David Middleton, Assistant Principal*

Dear Parent/Guardian of a CRSMS 8th Grade Student:

As a part of our school's commitment to prepare our students for the adventures and rigor that high school brings, we find it necessary to implement eligibility requirements for all 8th grade end of the year activities. Although these events are an important part of being an 8th grader at CRSMS, they are a privilege that is earned rather than a right that all students enjoy. Below you will find the eligibility requirements for students to attend the 8th Grade Activities. We are notifying you of the requirements so that you can assist your child in meeting them, as our desire is that every student in 8th grade earn the privilege of participating. The 8th grade students have also been notified of these requirements and understand what they must do to earn the privilege of attending these events.

Beginning Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, students must meet ALL of the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in ANY of the 8th Grade Activities (8th Grade Dance, 8th Grade Field Trip, 8th Grade Field Day):

1. Academic Eligibility Requirements

- a. Students must pass and/or be passing ALL core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for each of the 3 years in Middle School.
- b. Students with failures in 6th and/or 7th and/or 8th grade core classes must first recover those failed classes before they are considered to be eligible for promotion; therefore, these students are NOT ELIGIBLE for ANY 8th Grade Activities *until* the courses are recovered.

\*We encourage students to participate in our course recovery program if they have prior course failures. Once students have passed or recovered all core classes in grades 6-8 they are then eligible to attend 8th grade activities.

2. Behavioral Eligibility Requirements

- a. Out of School Suspension (O.S.S): As O.S.S. is given for the most serious breaches of the Student Code of Conduct (fighting, instigating a fight, cursing at staff members, bringing drugs, alcohol, weapons or other unauthorized items on campus, and continual/habitual history of misconduct) any student who receives an O.S.S after January 21<sup>st</sup> is NOT ELIGIBLE for any 8th grade activity.
- b. In School Suspension (I.S.S.): A student will receive an I.S.S if he/she has a pattern of disruptive/defiant behavior. Any student who receives I.S.S after January 21<sup>st</sup> will forfeit participation in the 8th grade activities as follows:
  1. 1st Referral with I.S.S = Loss of Next 8th Grade Activity
  2. 2nd Referral with I.S.S = Loss of ALL remaining 8th Grade Activities

With our behavioral expectations in place, we anticipate that students, even those that have a history of disciplinary referrals, will try to avoid referable infractions so that they may participate in the 8th grade activities.

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Please Note:

Many of the 8th Grade Activities require the school to pre-pay. As a result, any student who receives a referral that results in the forfeiture of participation in any 8th grade activity will *not* receive a refund.

Students who currently do not meet the academic eligibility requirements can become eligible by:

1. Raising their grade in all 8th grade core classes to a passing level
2. Completing Course Recovery for failed course in 6th and/or 7th grades

As a Final Reminder:

Students who meet the eligibility requirements for the 8th Grade Activities are entitled to participate in any or all of the events. However, while students may initially qualify for all activities in February, it is up to the student to maintain both grades and disciplinary success in order to remain eligible. Students who become ineligible due to academic difficulties or disciplinary issues will forfeit participation in any or all remaining 8th grade activities.

If you have any questions regarding any of the eligibility requirements, please feel free to contact either of the following staff members:

Mrs. Ferguson – 8th Grade Guidance Counselor  
Ms. Blazys – 8th Grade Assistant Principal

Sincerely,

Kristy Blazys, Ed.S.  
Assistant Principal

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