

PURPOSE: To allow emissaries to receive wellness hours for tours

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

The purpose of this bill is to allow our emissaries to receive wellness points for giving campus tours, as these tours involve significant walking, which aligns with the core purpose of wellness points—promoting physical activity and well-being. Walking is an established form of exercise, and since wellness points are awarded for activities like walking or working out, it is logical and fair to extend this to campus tours, which require extensive movement across campus.

One concern raised was that students might take advantage of this policy by missing class to give tours and accumulate wellness points. However, this issue has been directly addressed: emissaries are not eligible to receive wellness points for tours given during their scheduled class times. This ensures that academic priorities remain intact and that wellness points are earned appropriately.

Another concern was that this policy might be unfair because emissaries have more opportunities to earn wellness points compared to other students. However, this assumption overlooks the fact that giving tours takes up time that emissaries could otherwise use to earn wellness points through traditional means, such as attending wellness events or going to the gym. Additionally, emissaries have various responsibilities beyond giving tours, including training, meetings, and other commitments, which can actually make it harder for them to find time for wellness activities. Therefore, rather than providing an unfair advantage, this policy simply ensures that emissaries are fairly recognized for the physical activity they are already doing as part of their role.

In summary, this bill upholds the intent of wellness points while maintaining fairness and academic integrity. By recognizing the physical effort required for campus tours and ensuring safeguards against misuse, it provides a reasonable and justified way for emissaries to earn wellness points. A bullet point implementing this change would also have to be added to the sheet given out at the beginning of the year highlighting wellness activity options.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 113 of the Student Handbook (PDF page 119), under the section “WELLNESS”, the following would be changed to:

WELLNESS

The links among nutrition, physical activity, and learning are well-documented. MSMS is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness practices. To ensure that all MSMS students have the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices and enjoyable

physical activity a valuable part of daily life, they are required to participate in a wellness component as a requirement for graduation. The wellness program requirements include a combination of wellness seminars and physical activity. ~~Emissaries may one (1) wellness point per campus tour they give;~~ Emissaries may also receive wellness hours for the length of the tours that they give unless that tour is given during one of their classes. Wellness grades will have an impact on eligibility for privilege plans, and failure to maintain a satisfactory “S” grade in wellness will be a consideration when extending invitations to return. Please see the details below regarding the criteria and what is allowed or not allowed for Wellness.

The criteria for wellness will be as follows:

For an Outstanding (O):

- 12 points + 1 seminar
- 11 points + 2 seminars
- 10 points + 3 seminars

For a Satisfactory (S):

- 11-10 points + 1 seminar
- 9 points + 2 seminars
- 8 points + 3 seminars

Any combination of physical hours (points) and seminars below these guidelines will cause the student to receive an Unsatisfactory (U) grade for the quarter.

Students may earn points from a myriad of activities. Please see handout at the beginning of the year for the full list of things students may or may not do to earn points. Additionally, students that obtain injuries during the year that may prevent them from completing wellness requirements must speak with their Wellness Coordinator prior to grades being submitted for the current quarter.