

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & ATHLETICS POLICY

Bethune offers students an opportunity to be involved in a multitude of activities. We recognize that clubs, leadership groups, and athletics provide enriching learning opportunities that are essential to a well-rounded education. Bethune students are encouraged to get involved. Certain expenses associated with clubs, leadership groups and athletics are subsidized through the student activity fee (referee & tournament fees, supplies, special events) and other expenses are paid by students (t-shirts, uniforms, excursions, special tournaments, etc.).

Participation in clubs and intramurals is open to all students; participation in leadership groups and teams is usually subject to a selection process. If there is a selection process, this process must be vetted and supervised by the staff advisor to ensure that an equitable process has been followed and fair criteria have been used.

Students who participate in athletics/leadership groups are making a firm commitment to that team/group and to their academics. To that end, students involved in athletics and leadership groups are expected to be a full time student, attend all classes regularly, work diligently to achieve a passing grade in all subjects, and follow Bethune's Code of Conduct. In cases where these expectations have not been met, the privilege of participating in athletics and/or leadership groups may be withdrawn after consultation with the administration and staff involved. Teachers will accommodate students who are absent from class due to extra-curricular activities provided the students inform their teachers ahead of time (where possible) and are responsible for catching up on any missed work.

In cases where a student has joined too many groups and is not able to fulfill all of his/her commitments to the team/group because of scheduling conflicts and/or academic demands, the privilege of participating in athletics and/or leadership groups may be withdrawn after consultation with the administration and staff involved.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Clubs and teams are open to all students. Students who wish to start a new club may submit a proposal to the principal. Every club/team must have a staff advisor and the staff advisor must oversee and approve all the activities of the club, and supervise all practices, meetings and events. Our activities fall into distinct categories - School-Wide Leadership Groups, General Interest Clubs, Competition Based Clubs, Sports Teams, Intramurals, and Music. Information on each activity and how to join can be found at <http://bit.ly/BCIClubs>.



School-Wide Student Leadership Policy: Students who hold a position on this list are not eligible to hold any additional positions on this list. Students may still be general members of those groups, OR hold positions not listed. In other words, if you hold one of the leadership positions in groups listed below, you are **not eligible** to take on additional executive positions listed below.

For example, you cannot be SAC President and President of Blaze, however you could be SAC President and a general member of Blaze.

SAC will hold their elections in accordance with their constitution (to be held in early May) **prior** to all other councils on this list selecting their executive members.

	Position
Student Activity Council (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President• Vice President• Secretary• Social Media and Advertising Rep

Athletic Bears Councils (ABC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • 3-4 Executive positions
ESL Mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President
Bethune Creative Arts Council (BCAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Design Lead • Public Relations • Fundraising • Planning
BLAZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President
Bethune Music Council (BMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Secretary • Fundraising Director • Public Relations • Liaison
Yearbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editor(s)
Black Student Association (BSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President
Robotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Co-captain(s)

FAQ's regarding School-Wide Leadership Policy:

If I am an executive of one of the leadership groups listed above, can I also be an executive member of a group that isn't listed (such as DECA or HOSA)?

- *Yes. This policy applies only to School Wide Leadership groups.*
- *Students, however, should be cautious about the number of additional clubs, activities and sports that they join, as over-involvement will present scheduling conflicts.*

Why doesn't this policy apply to other leadership groups?

- *The groups listed above provide services to the entire school community throughout the entire school year.*
- *Other groups do not require the same level of commitment and service.*

What if I have been elected to be the President or Vice-President of 2 groups? For example, what if I am chosen to be President of ABC and BMC?

- *You will have to choose one. But you could be a general member of any club.*

What is the rationale for this policy?

- *Anyone who takes on the role of President, Vice-President or Executive member of a school-wide leadership group is making a serious commitment to this group, to the school community, and to the year-long responsibilities that come with it.*

- *Leadership that requires this time commitment and responsibility needs to be distributed to ensure that:*
 - *Students have the time and ability to fulfill these responsibilities;*
 - *Students in leadership positions reflect a variety of perspectives and interests.*

What factors will be taken into consideration if I want to be an executive member of more than two School-Wide Leadership groups?

- *The following factors will be considered for an exemption to this policy:*
 - *attendance record;*
 - *previous leadership role(s);*
 - *involvement in other extra-curricular activities;*
 - *input from all staff advisors; and*
 - *factors that may be relevant to the request for an exemption.*

Athletics Policy:

Students may participate in a maximum of 2 sports during the fall and winter seasons, and may participate in 1 sport for the spring season. If a sport from a previous season goes into the next season, the present team must take priority. A student who quits a team after the team has been selected will not be eligible to participate in another team for that season (i.e. cannot quit for the purpose of joining another team).

Students who choose an additional credit course outside the timetable (music) are reminded that this creates scheduling conflicts with respect to practices, games and performances. Coaches and subject teachers will be accommodating, provided the student has communicated the conflict in advance.

A parental consent form must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the school prior to the first team tryout. Forms will be emailed out through our Excursion Management Application (EMA). Students are expected to attend all practices. Unexplained absences from practices may result in being removed from the team and being ineligible for another school team.

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school sponsored activities or sporting events. It is highly recommended that each student-athlete purchase student accident insurance in September. Parents/guardians can apply directly on-line at <http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com>.

It is expected that students travel to and from games as a team. In some cases the school will arrange a bus or taxi. At other times, students will walk or take public transportation. Under no circumstances can student drivers transport other members of the team. Volunteer drivers (teachers, parents) must complete a driver authorization form in advance in order to transport students.

Full-time student policy:

All students enrolled at Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. are expected to maintain a full-time course load by taking three or more courses at Bethune in each semester. Students should refer to the Guidance Department section of the agenda for grade specific expectation for course load. If a student has circumstances that require a reduced course load, students should discuss this with their Vice-Principal to explore possible accommodations. If a student's course load is reduced below three courses in any given semester, the student will no longer be a Full-time student at Bethune. They will no longer be able to participate in co-curricular activities (ie. clubs, councils, sports, intramurals) and will not be considered eligible for commencement awards and scholarships (ie. Bethune Scholar, Subject Awards).