

## FBCA LETTER JACKET POLICY

Letter jackets are earned by students for exemplary representation of the school and are subject to the rules and regulations of FBCA.

The school will not provide funding for the purchase of letter jackets. All letter jacket purchases shall be at the expense of the student. Organizations or booster clubs may opt to fund letters, but this decision is reserved for the group involved and may be altered on any given year. No expectation of funding for letters exists.

Eligibility requirements regarding conduct may and will exceed this minimum for many organizations; however, in no case will a letter jacket or letter be issued for a student whose conduct record includes a suspension for the year in which the award would have been earned. Neither will a jacket or letter be issued for a student whose conduct grade for the year in which the award would have been earned is not at least a B average.

Only students who have met all program requirements as listed in the family handbook, athletic or organizational guidelines, or FBCA website are eligible to earn a letter or letter jacket. Teachers, coaches, or sponsors are to generate a list identifying students who have earned letters and/or letter jackets. Lists will be verified prior to the announcement of the award by the Athletic Director, Fine Arts Department Head, or Secondary Principal dependent upon whether the award is athletic, artistic, or academic in nature.

All jackets or letters awarded to students in the fall of 2019 and thereafter will be awarded based on criteria set in this policy. This includes awards earned in the winter or spring of the 2018-19 school year. Sponsors who wish to make an exception for a senior student in the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year may do so, if the student is deserving of the honor under prior criteria.

Approved vendors for FBCA letter jackets will only sell jackets to students who have earned the right to purchase a letter jacket or letter based on documentation from FBCA administration or personnel.

Letter jacket fittings are done no more than twice (2) a year and are coordinated and scheduled only by the Athletic Department regardless of the nature of the award.

Guidelines to be followed by all include:

- Only high school students are eligible for letter jackets or letters.
- All letter jackets regardless of program will be the same as approved by the Athletic Director and Administration.
- The letter will be a six-inch chenille FB.
- The athlete or student must complete the commitment (season, competition, or semester/year dependent upon the nature of the award) to earn the award.
- The athlete or student must begin, remain and end each season, competition, or semester (dependent upon the nature of the award) academically eligible to earn the award.
- Athletes may only qualify in a varsity sport.
- If a student participates in multiple organizations and earns a second letter, he/she may receive an additional letter representative of the organization.

- Students who participate in the same organization for more than one year and earn additional awards will be awarded an additional letter with bars to indicate the number of years involved in the awarding organization.
- Illness or injury will be taken into consideration when calculating participation.
- Various patches or pins representing additional honors such as Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, All-State Choir or National History Day may be added to the jacket as approved by the organization/program sponsor.
- Students may further decorate their jackets as appropriate with their name, date of graduation, or scripture.

The following is a list of criteria that will be considered before a letter jacket / letter is awarded.

## **ACADEMICS**

In addition to the general guidelines provided as the beginning of this document, the following stipulations apply to all FBCA academic programs. Any rules specific or unique to a particular class/program will be addressed with students and parents at the beginning of the school year. As of the 2018-19 school year letters may be awarded for general Academic Excellence, Advanced Academic Topics, Journalism, and TAPPS Literary, Academic, Speech Debate competition.

### **Academic Excellence**

The student must have earned Principal's List (all As in every class for each quarter for two years of high school.) Eligible students will be able to order the jacket at the first jacket fitting of their junior year.

### **Advanced Academic Topics**

The student must successfully participate at a level and in enough competitions to earn a minimum grade of 90 in one full year of Advanced Academic Topics. Students who participate in AAT competition without enrollment in the course may letter at the teacher's discretion, if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to more than one competing team over a two-year period.

### **Journalism (Newspaper/Yearbook)**

1. The student must be enrolled in the related high school course for two full years and successfully complete the responsibilities of a staff member on either the newspaper or yearbook, earning a minimum grade of 90 for each year.
2. At the discretion of the sponsor, a student may letter after one year of enrollment in the course if they successfully complete the responsibilities of an editor or lead photographer for one year earning a minimum grade of 95.
3. At the discretion of the sponsor, a student may letter after one year of enrollment in the course if they log at least 40 hours of work as a staff member outside the regular school day (may include summer hours awarded by the adviser for working on final deadlines after the end of the school year).

### **TAPPS Literary, Academic, Speech, Debate**

To be eligible for a letter, a student must place within the top three contestants at the regional level or top six at the state level in two events (two separate areas of competition or the same area of competition in subsequent years)

## **ATHLETICS**

In addition to the general guidelines provided as the beginning of this document, the following stipulations apply to all FBCA athletic programs and to cheerleading. Any rules specific or unique to a particular team or sport will be addressed with students and parents at the beginning of the season. As of the 2018-19 school year letters may be awarded in varsity football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, track and field, tennis, golf, and swimming, wrestling.

1. The student must participate in 90% of varsity workouts/practices. \*
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity. \*
3. The student must be on the varsity the entire year.
4. Adherence to all team rules is required.

Students may also earn a jacket or letter for serving as the manager of a varsity team.

1. The manager must participate in 90% of team workouts/practices. \*
2. The manager must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity. \*
3. The manager must be able to perform managerial duties well, with little guidance, and be able to follow all instructions especially during varsity games.
4. Managers must show honesty in all endeavors as well as be responsible and trust worthy.
5. Managers must complete 2 seasons, adhering to all guidelines listed above for a varsity or sub-varsity high school team.

\*Illness or injury will be taken into consideration when calculating participation.

### **Exceptions to lettering qualifications:**

A participant may letter at the coach's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. Exceptions may include (but are not limited to) an injury causing the athlete to be unable to complete the season or continued practice and support of the team throughout the season though failing for part of the season. All exceptions will be discussed between the Head Coach and the Athletic Director so that all students are treated fairly.

## **FINE ARTS**

In addition to the general guidelines provided as the beginning of this document, the following stipulations apply to all FBCA fine arts programs. Any rules specific or unique to a particular program will be addressed with students and parents at the beginning of the school year. As of the 2018-19 school year letters may be awarded in art, band, choir, and theatre.

1. The student must be enrolled in the related high school course for two full years.
2. Students who earn individual honors through participation in TAPPS or ACSI competition may letter after one full year at the discretion of the sponsor.

3. Students who perform in a leading production role may letter after one full year in the program at discretion of the sponsor.
4. The student must participate in all scheduled practices/performances/exhibits unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity. \*
5. Adherence to all program rules is required.

\*Illness or injury will be taken into consideration when calculating participation.

**Exceptions to lettering qualifications:**

A participant may letter at the sponsor's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the program. All exceptions will be discussed between the sponsor and the Fine Arts Director and/or Secondary Principal so that all students are treated fairly.