



PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Starting in the fall of 2020, St. Vincent-St. Mary students who participate in interscholastic sports, cheerleading and/or marching band will be eligible to waive their physical education requirement for graduation. STVM will follow the guidelines of the State of Ohio. In order to earn the PE waiver, a student must complete two full seasons of a sport or cheerleading and/or two full years of marching band.

Do I have to earn a waiver?

No, you can fulfill the graduation requirement by taking two semesters of PE. Earning the PE waiver is an option, not an expectation.

Does the start date, fall 2020, matter?

Yes, only participation in sports or marching band after the start date counts for earning a waiver. The state does not allow record-keeping or participation to be retroactive.

How does this affect members of the class of 2021?

It doesn't; almost all members of this class have completed their PE requirements. (Those few who have not will not have time to take two years of marching band or two seasons of sports before Jan 2021. Students in the class of 2021 who have not completed their PE requirement should register for a PE class or classes in the 2020-2021 school year.)

Why can't spring sports in senior year count?

St. Vincent-St. Mary wants every student to graduate. We must ensure all students meet graduation requirements. If you haven't earned a PE waiver by the second semester of senior year, you will be registered for a PE class at the start of the semester.

How does this affect members of the class of 2022?

Most members of this class have completed their PE graduation requirement already. Those who have not can take two years of marching band or can participate in two seasons of sports before the start of their final semester (Jan. 2022). Students in the class of 2022 may also take PE as part of their regular curriculum at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

How does this affect members of the class of 2023?

Most members of this class have completed one of their two PE classes. They may complete the graduation requirement by simply taking PE II in their sophomore year. They may also opt out of that class and start working on earning a PE waiver. They still must complete two seasons of sports or two full years of marching band to earn the PE waiver.

How does this affect members of the class of 2024?

Incoming students will take 0.25 credit of PE during their freshman or sophomore year. Many will earn a PE waiver to earn the remaining 0.25 credit. Those electing not to invoke the waiver will take two semesters of PE classes before graduation. Summer gym during the summer of 2021 could also be an option.

Which sports qualify for the waiver?

Sports offered by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School that meet the OHSAA guidelines for interscholastic competition. Currently, these include: FALL - cross country, football, golf, tennis (girls), volleyball (girls), soccer, cheerleading; WINTER - basketball, bowling, swimming, gymnastics, wrestling, cheerleading; SPRING - baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis (boys), track & field, and volleyball (boys).

Why two full years of band?

Actually, it is two full years of band, plus marching band camp. The State of Ohio sets this requirement.

Can I earn the PE waiver by doing marching band and one sports season?

No, it must be two seasons of a sport or two years of marching band; you can't mix them. The State of Ohio sets this requirement.

What if I get injured and don't stay on the team?

Students who are injured while participating in a season may still qualify for credit if a coach or director signs off on their participation. Cases will be decided individually.

I earned a PE waiver, can I still take a PE class?

Yes, PE classes can be used as electives. In fact, starting in 2021 the Health/Phys Ed department will offer some exciting new elective courses.

Can I use my PE waiver for health class?

No, Ohio only allows waivers for PE. Students that earn a PE waiver will still need to complete a semester of health.