

# **BLOCK FW Award**

## **Fort Washington Elementary School**

### **2022 – 2023**

#### **Philosophical Statement**

Fort Washington's BLOCK FW Award serves four functions:

- To motivate students to become active participants in the activities of their school;
- To provide a blueprint for parents and teachers in planning, encouraging and setting goals with children regarding school involvement and achievement;
- To reaffirm the importance of being responsible, well-rounded individuals and establish a definition of what that is; and
- To provide a form of recognition for students who have met the criteria for the award.

#### **Overview**

The BLOCK FW Award is available to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and is awarded at the end of the school year. The criteria for earning this award reflect a broad base of participation, achievement, and service. In order to earn the award, a student must complete a minimum number of items in the following categories:

- Mind – Scholarship
- Mind – Co-Curricular
- Body – Athletics/Fitness
- Spirit – Student Leadership/Community Service

It is our hope that all students will actively pursue this award, making it a part of their planning for their total school experience. Whether or not the student actually receives the award, striving for it will enrich and enhance his/her educational foundation.

In the sections that follow, specific guidelines and requirements governing the earning of checks in each category are discussed. We encourage parents to work closely with students in planning and setting goals.

## **MIND**

Activities and requirements in this category have to do with intellectual and artistic development. The two components in this category are SCHOLARSHIP and CO-CURRICULAR.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

##### ***HONOR ROLL***

- Students may earn a check each quarter for earning an honor roll award.
  - Principal's Honor Roll (GPA = 4.00)
  - High Honor Roll (GPA = 3.50 – 3.99)
  - Honor Roll (GPA = 3.00 – 3.49)
  - No Ds, Fs, or Ns on report card

*GRADE IMPROVEMENT*

- Students may earn a check in quarters 2, 3, and/or 4 for grade improvement. This is determined by comparing the latest report card grades with those of the most recent past quarter of the current school year. Students may earn a check if either of these criteria are met:
  - Improvement of at least one whole grade in at least one subject area, **no decrease** in any grades, and no Ns.
  - Progress of at least one level in honor roll status with **no decrease** in grades and no Ns.

*PATRIOT READER*

- Students may earn a check at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters for achieving the Patriot Reader goal for their grade level. The Patriot Reader requirement for a check at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester is to have completed half of the total points required by your grade level. To earn the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester check you need to have your grade level's total AR points for the year

*G.A.T.E. PARTICIPATION*

- Students may earn a check each semester for participation in the Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) program. Your child will be contacted if they qualify.

**CO-CURRICULAR**

*SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT COMPLETED*

- 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students **ONLY** may earn a check in the first semester for completing a Science Fair project in accordance with the guidelines provided by the advisor.

*COUNTY/STATE SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPATION*

- Students may earn an additional check in the second semester for participation in the County or State Science Fair competition.

*HISTORY DAY PROJECT COMPLETED*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester for participating and completing a History Day project in accordance with the guidelines provided by the advisor.

*COUNTY HISTORY DAY PARTICIPATION-*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn an additional check in the second semester for participation in the County History Day competition.

*ORAL INTERPRETATION*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check in the second semester for participating in all practices and the competition and completion of performance.

*RECORDER BLACK BELT*

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade students **ONLY** may earn a check in the second semester for achieving their recorder black belt.

*BAND/ORCHESTRA*

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students **ONLY** may earn a check each semester for earning an “O” (Outstanding) on their instrumental music (band and/or orchestra) report card. Students must follow the guidelines set by the instructor regarding participation in performances/concerts, practices, and classroom behavior. Guidelines for participation have been set by the “Code of Participation” included at the end of this handbook.

*CONCERT CHOIR*

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students **ONLY** may earn a check each semester for earning an “O” (Outstanding) on their choir report card. Students must follow the guidelines set by the instructor regarding participation in performances/concerts, practices, and classroom behavior. Guidelines for participation have been set by the “Code of Participation” included at the end of this handbook.

*DRAMA*

- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students **ONLY** may earn a check in the second semester for participating in the school drama production.

*MATH CLUB*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check in the second semester for participating in all practices and the competition.

*ESSAY CONTEST*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester in Quarters 1,2, and 3 for participation in any (or all) of the several essay contests offered throughout the semester. Participation in this context means submitting a completed essay by the student which follows contest rules into competition.

*POSTER CONTEST*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check semester in Quarters 1,2, and 3 for participation in any (or all) of the several poster contests offered throughout the semester. Participation in this context means submitting a completed poster by the student which is acceptable to the teacher for entry into competition.

*SPECIAL CONSIDERATION*

- Additional checks may be awarded to students who participate in a school academic team not listed. This would be a preapproved check discussed at the beginning of the semester.

## **BODY – ATHLETICS/FITNESS**

Activities and requirements in this category have to do with physical development (i.e. physical fitness and athletics.)

### *SPORTS, PEP, AND CHEER*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check for every sport that they participate in for the entire season. Guidelines for participation have been set by the “Code of Participation” included at the end of this handbook.

### *HEALTHY FITNESS ZONE IN ALL AREAS OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST*

- Students may earn a check each semester for performing in the Healthy Fitness Zone in all five areas of the Physical Fitness Test.

### *SUPERINTENDENT’S AWARD PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST*

- Students may earn an additional check each semester for performing in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile in running and pull-ups, and in the healthy fitness zones in all of the three other areas of the Physical Fitness Test.

### *TEAM MANAGER*

- Students assigned to manage an athletic team may earn a check. Eligibility to become a manager is based on the grade level participation for that sport. See administration, not coaches to apply.

### *DISTRICT QUALIFIER*

- Students may earn an additional check if they qualify to participate in a district level competition.

## **SPIRIT - STUDENT LEADERSHIP/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Activities and requirements in this category have to do with character development. They are designed to provide opportunities for the development of such character attributes as concern for and service to others, active citizenship, civic mindedness, cooperation, responsibility, and dedication.

### *RUN FOR STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICE*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check for RUNNING for a study body office.

### *STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn an additional check for being elected as a Student Body Officer and serving for the full semester in accordance with the “Code of Participation” included at the end of this handbook. Note: Students may serve only one term per year as an officer on the Council. Students will be required to attend evening school events.

#### *FORT FRIENDS*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester for training and serving as a certified peer mediator, “Fort Friend.” The teacher recommends students.

#### *MEDIA MONITOR*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester for serving as a Media Monitor. Media Monitors must apply for the position and be selected by Mrs. Petrissans.

#### *CAFETERIA HELPER*

- Students may earn a check each semester for assisting in the cafeteria at least five (5) times during the course of the semester.

#### *SCHOOL SERVICE*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester for providing a service to the school. There are an unlimited number of services that a student may elect to perform for the school. For example, students may assist in the Library Media Center, participate in campus cleanup activities, assist the custodian, or otherwise provide a service to the school and its student body.
- The service must be agreed upon between the individual student and an adult on campus. The student should ask to meet with the supervising adult to establish individual guidelines for their particular service.
- The service must constitute a minimum of one (1) day a week per semester. There are approximately 18 weeks per semester.

#### *PEER TUTOR*

- Students may earn a check each semester for being a peer tutor. Peer tutoring entails students providing help to other students. Students may be involved in working with another student in his/her classroom or a student in another classroom.
- Cross age tutoring assignments will be specific in nature, controlled, and coordinated by the teacher and/or teachers.
- Peer tutors must work with another student a minimum of ten (10) times during the semester.
- Peer tutoring does not include classroom book buddies.

#### *MAC & KIDS*

- Students in grades 4-6 may earn a check each semester for attending at least two (2) sessions of the MAC & KIDS Club.

#### *COMMUNITY SERVICE/INVOLVEMENT*

- Students may earn a check for performing at least four (4) hours of community service each semester. Verification of community service must be recorded on the “Community Service Verification Form.”
- Examples of community service include Boy/Girl Scouts, Indian Guides/Princesses, Good News Club, church sponsored activities, visits to retirement homes, or other activities serving charitable and/or non-profit organizations.

*EFFORT & CITIZENSHIP*

- Students may earn a check each quarter for earning all “outstanding” effort marks on their quarterly report card.

*PERFECT ATTENDANCE*

- Students may earn a check in each quarter that they have no absences.

## **PROCEDURES FOR BLOCK FW CERTIFICATION**

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Student will complete the Block FW application each semester.
2. Student will check off the activities/items they have earned.
3. Student will complete and return the “Community Service Verification Form” if applicable.
4. Student will obtain initials from advisors/coaches where required.
5. Student will turn his/her completed form(s) to their classroom teacher by a specified date.

### **TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Teacher will review the completed form with the student.
2. Teacher will verify activities/items and initial the form.
3. Teacher will submit completed forms to the Block FW advisor.

## **CODE OF PARTICIPATION**

Co-curricular activities are a vital part of our total school program. In addition to providing a variety of exploratory and enriching learning experiences for students, they are important also in building character and shaping attitudes. When students elect to participate in a co-curricular program (e.g., choir, sports, etc.), they must recognize that they have assumed certain responsibilities and obligations to the coach or advisor, to the other members of the activity, and certainly to themselves. The school allocates considerable resources in terms of time, money, energy, and personnel in an effort to provide quality co-curricular programs for our students. In turn, we encourage students to participate and expect quality participation from those who do take part in the activities.

Our major co-curricular programs have "participation contracts" stating what is expected of the participant. Students agree to the stipulations upon joining an activity. In essence, the terms of these "contracts" reflect the following CODE OF PARTICIPATION.

1. The participant will maintain a satisfactory level of scholarship ("C" average, with no "F"s) and demonstrate satisfactory behavior and citizenship.
2. The participant is expected to abide by the practice, meeting, or rehearsal schedule established for the activity. Certain absences or tardies may, of course, be excused as with classroom attendance. However, the participant has the OBLIGATION to clear these with the coach or teacher in charge of the activity. Failure to do so is grounds for disciplinary measures as in the case of tardiness or truancy from the classroom.
3. The student is expected to participate in the activity in a positive manner. That is, the student is to show proper conduct, strive to learn and grow in his/her abilities or skills, and contribute to the group effort to the best of his/her ability.
4. The participant is expected to respect and properly care for all property and/or equipment issued in conjunction with the activity. This is especially pertinent to members of athletic teams who are issued uniforms. Team uniforms are the property of the school. They are expensive and difficult to replace. Students who NEGLIGENTLY lose or cause UNDUE damage to such school property will be charged for its replacement.
5. The participant will not arbitrarily or unilaterally quit an activity. Normally, there is a one-week "grace" period during which the student may join an activity and decide if he/she wishes to continue. A student may drop the activity during that time with no conditions. After that time, the student may drop the activity only after consultation between the parent and the coach/advisor and a conference between the student, coach/advisor, and the principal. In the case of athletic teams, a student who drops a sport after the grace period may not join another team during the same season. Note, however, that if a student joins, say, the football team and drops DURING the grace period, he/she may join the cross-country team.