

Saint Mary's Catholic School

Mission Statement and Code of Conduct



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Saint Mary's Catholic School Middle School Athletic Program is to create an environment that maximizes student participation, supports academic progress, and promotes physical, social and spiritual development. It is expected that all student-athletes display competitive spirit, exhibit good sportsmanship, and exemplary character throughout the year.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Athletics at Saint Mary's Catholic School are an integral part of the educational process. We believe that when teamed with classroom education as well as spiritual guidance, athletics is an important portion of the growth and development of young people. Performance in the classroom will take precedence over performance on an athletic field. While we invite all students to participate in our athletic programs, athletics is not required nor is it a right; participating in athletics is a privilege and should be viewed as such. We will strive to be the most competitive athletic program we can be. This means that physical ability to perform athletic tasks will be a major factor in determining the makeup of our teams as well as the amount of playing time a student athlete may receive at any given time. However, physical ability is not the sole determining factor that coaches will use in shaping teams and allowing playing time. Hard work, loyalty, dedication to the program and being coachable are just a few more factors a student athlete should focus on.

At Saint Mary's Catholic School we will not run an athletic program like it is an intramural program. We will be competitive at the highest level possible. We will not sacrifice moral values, Christian principles or safety in order to be more successful, but we will make every effort to build a successful program at every level. We also understand that participation on an athletic team demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also of coaches and parents.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As an athlete and as parents, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of our school is more important than any contest won by fair or unfair play.
2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.

3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success, so do not blame them for your circumstances.
4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
5. Be proud of our school's reputation and work hard to protect it.
6. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent.
7. Don't allow others negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.

STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

All student-athletes will adhere to the Saint Mary's Catholic Middle School Athletic Program Student Athlete Code of Conduct. All student-athletes will sign the athletic participation form acknowledging acceptance of the Student-Athlete Pledge.

Student-Athlete Pledge

As a student-athlete, I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of the Middle School Athletic Program, and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing my school and community as a student-athlete.

Conduct Guidelines

- Follow the sportsmanship guidelines as listed above
- Be respectful by using appropriate language
- Treat everyone fairly
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Avoid all drugs including alcohol
- Arrive on time for all practices, meetings, and contests
- Play by the rules, demonstrating and encouraging good sportsmanship
- Represent your school and self in a manner that reflects self-control
- Comply with all school and team rules and policies
- Report any injury or aggravating condition to the coach

Parent/Guardian of Student-Athlete Pledge

As a parent/guardian, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support staff. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school system. I will follow the sportsmanship guidelines as listed above. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent/guardian of a student athlete.