

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests
3. Team requirements such as practices and out-of-season conditioning
4. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your child becomes involved in the programs of the Governor Mifflin School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child may not play as much as you had hoped. *Coaches are professionals.* They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern:

1. Please encourage your child to speak directly with the coach. Many times the matter can be taken care of at that time.
2. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director. He will assist you in arranging a meeting.
4. Please *do not* attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
5. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

Research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope this information makes both your child's and your experience with the Governor Mifflin School District athletic program more enjoyable. The following is what we expect from you as the parents/guardians:

Expectations of Parent/Guardian

1. Support your student athlete's efforts toward success.
2. Work to promote a positive environment that is conducive to the development of the student athlete.
3. Read and discuss the rules and regulations outlined in the Behavior Code with your student athlete.
4. Communicate any concerns in a timely manner.
5. Treat all coaching personnel with courtesy and respect, and insist your student athlete do the same.

Patrick J. Tulley, CAA
Director of Athletics

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