



Parent/Student Athletic Handbook

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*"...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."*

Hebrews 12:1-2



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PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program at Cary Christian School serves to augment and support the school's educational goals. These activities can play a vital role in a student's education by teaching them the value of self-discipline, commitment, teamwork, self-control, setting and achieving goals, perseverance, fellowship, loyalty, and cooperation. Consistent with the Cary Christian School Vision Statement, it is the objective of the program to teach these lessons as a part of the entire integrated curriculum for those students that choose to participate.

Cary Christian School seeks to provide a program in order to supplement academics at Cary Christian School. Cary Christian School recognizes that God has gifted students in a variety of ways, including abilities in athletics and academic study, as well as in other areas. We seek to provide an opportunity for these students to develop and use their God-given ability.

We believe that the athletic program enhances the atmosphere of the Cary Christian School student body, providing students and parents with an opportunity to express positive school spirit.

We also recognize that athletic activities provide an opportunity to make the programs established at Cary Christian School known to the broader community.

We believe that participation in athletics provide a good opportunity to encourage Christian students in their relationship with and witness for Jesus Christ. We expect Christ-like character and behavior in all athletes, fans, and coaches. We expect all fans and athletes to limit words and actions at sporting events to those that are uplifting, encouraging, and positive. (Ephesians 4:29-32) We expect this to be our behavior toward our children, our opponents, our opposing fans, and game officials, whether "home" or "away", "ahead" or "behind". We expect every CCS person in attendance to do what Jesus would, regardless of what the scoreboard says or how our opponents may conduct themselves.

Guiding Principles

The athletic program is guided by the following scriptural principles:

- "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17
- "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value in all things holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." I Timothy 4:8
- "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10a
- "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." I Peter 4:10-11

Athletics will not take priority over the academic program at Cary Christian School.

Missed Academic Time for Athletics

The CCS school policy for pre-arranged absence applies to athletic activities. Participants and students attending athletic events as spectators are to discuss early dismissals and absences in advance with teachers and are to complete those assignments on time, as described in the CCS Student Handbook under "Planned Absences".

Objectives and Guidelines for Participation

The following are the objectives and guidelines for activities in the secondary school: Cary Christian School participates in three levels in the sixth through twelfth grades: (1) Middle School, (2) Junior Varsity, and (3) Varsity. Each of these levels have a specific objective and purpose to maintain clear performance of the school's primary goals and objectives. Students in the elementary school, grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, are not eligible to participate in athletic activities.

Middle School

The objectives of the middle school program are improvement through participation and the development of basic skills. Coaches will also teach basic rules and principles of the game. Middle school will allow each student the opportunity to participate and grow in sportsmanship and Christian character. Gold team athletes will be expected to participate some in most games, but not all, throughout the season. Each Blue team participant will be allowed to reasonably participate in every game/match contingent on his or her attitude and participation in practice. Coaches will talk with players and parents to explain reasons for non-participation in a game. Each athlete will not be assured participation in post season tournament play.

In an effort to give as many middle school students as possible a chance to participate, CCS will have one conference team available in some Capital Area Middle School Conference (CAMSC) sports and one developmental team. Multiple team availability is subject to availability of facilities and coaches. The objectives for are the same for both conference teams: to develop sportsmanship, Christian character, and skills through participation by all team members. This does not imply equal playing time for all. Playing time will vary according to the level of competition and readiness for competition and playing at all (in every game) remains contingent on attitude and participation in practice. Gold team members are selected with regard only to talent and/or potential, and may or may not play in every game. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are eligible as gold team candidates.

Junior Varsity (JV)

The objectives of junior varsity athletics are to reinforce basic skills, to start to develop advanced athletic skill and Christian character, at an increased competitive level. Junior varsity athletics are more competitive and exist to prepare younger players for varsity play. At this level, each athlete will play and have the opportunity to experience a more intense, organized level of play. Each athlete will be allowed playing time although not necessarily in every game. The amount will be determined by the players' skill, age, and attitude as viewed by the coach.

Varsity

The objective of the varsity level is to exhibit impeccable sportsmanship and excellence. Varsity athletics is highly competitive and advanced. At this level the athlete will be scrutinized more thoroughly in his character, ability, attitudes and skills. He will play before many witnesses, including the Lord. The most qualified athletes will be allowed on the varsity team. Playing time will be entirely at the discretion of the coach. Coaches will communicate with players about their roles, coaches' expectations, and general playing time expectations.