

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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Dear Christian Parents and Students,

The faculty and coaching staff of St. Philip's Lutheran School hope and pray that your athletic experiences will be both a successful and rewarding part of your Christ-centered education.

This booklet has been prepared to help you understand:

- 1) The Christ-centered philosophy of our athletic program
- 2) The responsibilities of parents and children involved in this program

It is our intent that your child will grow physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually through this program. We realize and acknowledge that all of our abilities come from God and in loving response to our Savior we desire to develop and use these abilities to His glory. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

The policies detailed in this booklet are written to coincide with and complement those in the Parent-Student handbook.

In His Service,



St. Philip's **MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Philip's Lutheran School exists to assist families in the Christian training of their children— academically, physically, and spiritually— to prepare them for lives of service in the Lord.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to ensure parents, teachers, and student-athletes understand the goals, objectives, and philosophies of St. Philip's athletic program. It is also meant to assist the Athletic Directors, coaches, and faculty representatives concerning the make-up and participation of athletic teams at St. Philip's Lutheran School.

Once the decision is made to participate in athletics, there are often many questions that students and parents may have regarding St. Philip's athletic program. In order to assist in making the athletic experience a positive one, this handbook has been assembled to answer questions about the guidelines and philosophies of St. Philip's athletic program.

Philosophy

As Christian parents and teachers, it is our responsibility to encourage our children to use all their gifts and talents, and to provide opportunities for them to do so. Participation in athletics is one way for children to use their athletic abilities to glorify God. It is a privilege and blessing to be able to participate in any extra-curricular activity. We emphasize the importance of learning skills that can improve our student-athletes both on and off the field of competition. Some of those skills include teamwork, discipline, dedication, commitment, and decision making. Our top priority is to instruct student-athletes the God-pleasing way to compete. Therefore instilling in them the values a child of Christ should have while competing in athletics and throughout their life.

Our athletic programs are designed to service those in the first grade (depending on the sport)

and continuing through eighth grade. If we are unable to get enough participation for any given sport, or there is no coach available, the sport would be canceled for that season.

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Sportsmanship

We believe that extra-curricular activities are a great way for students to learn how to interact with different types of people. Also it allows students to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

As representatives of God and St. Philip’s, students, parents, and coaches should exhibit Christian behavior at all times. Disrespect towards referees, coaches, other players, teammates, and fans will not be tolerated.

Athletics are essential in helping students grow and use their God-given talents for their enjoyment and satisfaction. Being a part of a team allows students to interact with classmates, teachers, and other students and adults from different schools. Using your talents to display God’s love is an opportunity to witness to others.

Athletics teach that a student-athlete has a responsibility toward his/her coach and teammates. Faithful attendance at practices and games is important for growth both on and off the field of competition. Being a reliable member of a team will help athletes grow.

NORTH/SOUTH CONFERENCE TEAMS 2018 - 2019
Mount Lebanon , Milwaukee
Risen Savior , Milwaukee
St. Lucas , Milwaukee
St. Marcus-2 , Milwaukee
St. Philip’s , Milwaukee
Siloah , Milwaukee
Christ-St. Peter , Milwaukee
Loving Shepherd , Milwaukee
St. John’s/Word of Life , Milwaukee
St. Paul’s , Cudahy
St. Paul’s , Franklin
Zion , South Milwaukee

MIDWEST CONFERENCE TEAMS 2018 - 2019

Christ , Big Bend
Christ the Lord , Brookfield
Good Shepherd/Lamb of God , West Allis
Holy Trinity , Okauchee Lake
Pilgrim , Menomonee Falls
St. John's , Mukwonago
St. Paul's , East Troy
Zion , Hartland

LUTHERAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Lutheran Athletic Association (LAA) is organized as shown above. The LAA is overseen by the WLHS Principals' Conference, while the general functions of the Association are carried out by the Athletic Board.

St. Philip's Lutheran School is a part of the North Conference. The Conference President is Dave Sellnow (Loving Shepherd) and our LAA Conference Representative is Seth Kock (St. Marcus).

Rules for any sport will be the current season rules established by the national federation and/or state-issued rule books wherever they pertain to particular situations. Specific modifications may occur as LAA rules are established and/or amended by majority vote at LAA meetings

St. Philip's Lutheran School's athletic department follows the rules and regulations set up by the LAA.

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SPORTS OFFERED

Cross Country	End of August to Mid-October	1st - 8th grade
Volleyball	End of August to Mid-October	4th-8th grade
Basketball	November to February	4th-8th grade
Wrestling	November to March	1st-8th grade
Co-Ed Track	April to May	5th-8th grade

Students in grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to use their skills in a competitive setting at the A-team level. Depending on the number of participants, the A-team may be divided into two teams. This will be done by the coaches involved as well as the Athletic Directors. The A2-team will provide students with additional opportunity for skill building and participation. The A1-team will be based primarily on ability and competition in order to focus on advancements in skill development.

Students in grades 4 through 6 will have the opportunity to use their skills in a competitive setting at the B-team level. Depending on the number of participants, the B-team may be divided into two teams. If possible, the teams will be divided by class. B1-team will consist of fifth and sixth graders, and B2-team will consist of fourth and fifth graders. If there is a lack of participation at a certain grade level, a system will be set up by the coaches as well as the Athletic Directors. Students at the B-team level will develop the fundamental skills through active participation.

The sports listed above are available to students in various grades.

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ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Representing St. Philip's as a member of an athletic team is a privilege. Students are expected to maintain certain academic standards throughout their specific sports season. We are aware that athletics are an important part of students learning, but academics is the top priority. Therefore the Athletic Directors, along with the teachers, have made the following standards for students' eligibility to participate in St. Philip's Athletics:

- Students must demonstrate that academics are of top priority to remain eligible. This will be checked by the Athletic Directors and/or teacher on a weekly basis.
- Students should not have 1 F on their progress reports. This will be checked by the Athletic Directors and/or teacher on a weekly basis.
- A student declared ineligible may still practice with the team, but will not be allowed to compete in the games until they are declared eligible.
- If the student continues to remain ineligible for games throughout the season they may be declared ineligible to practice or play for the remainder of the season.

*Eligibility will be determined on a case by case situation through discussions with A.D, coaches, teachers, parents, and student-athlete.

*Some examples of what students can do to demonstrate showing concern for their academics includes, but is not limited to: showing positive/caring attitude, regular homework completion, participation in study hall, attendance...

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BEHAVIORAL REQUIREMENTS

As a representative of Christ, St. Philip's, and yourself, students are expected to exhibit Christ-like behavior at school, practice, and games. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Honoring the Lord in your words and actions on and off the court.

- Respecting the rules, officials, coaches, and all who are in authority.
 - Willingly cooperating with teachers, coaches, and teammates to be successful both in the classroom and on the court.
- *Students who are able to demonstrate this will be allowed the privilege to represent their school. Students failing to show cooperation and Christ-like conduct may jeopardize the opportunity to compete on a team.
- *Due to the nature of extra-curricular activities, conduct demonstrated while in class may affect a student- athlete’s ability to participate. The Athletic Directors, along with the teachers, agreed upon this criteria:
- The first two detentions will result in the athlete losing their ability to compete in the game, but will be able to participate at practices.
 - If the student-athlete receives their third detention they will not be able to participate in games or practices.
 - The detentions will reset after each quarter, allowing student-athletes the opportunity to be reinstated on the team, if they have shown an improvement in behavior.
- *Behavioral eligibility will be determined on a case by case situation through discussions with A.D, coaches, teachers, parents and student-athlete.

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ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in practices and games is based on school attendance. In order for a student to participate in school-day practice or game, the student must be in attendance before 10:30 am. Medical/dental appointments and special family situations (i.e. funerals and weddings) are generally considered an excused absence. A student who is ill or has an unexcused absence the day of an event will not be allowed to participate in that day’s events. Please communicate all known absences of school, practices, and games ahead of time with your child’s coach, teacher, and/or Athletic Directors.

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PLAYING TIME

The B-Team level is at a more developmental stage. It is our priority to provide players a certain amount of playing time at each athletic event. Exceptions to this include: medical reasons, number of participants, discipline, and attitude. Tournaments are considered special at this level and treated differently than regular season games. They are competitive in nature and, as such, playing time in tournament games is determined by the coach(es) and generally based on the athlete’s ability and game situations.

At the A-Team level, students will be played in a situation where they can succeed. They will generally play according to their level of ability and as game situations dictate. Although playing time is not guaranteed, it is our sincere desire to provide as much playing time as possible for each player.

Playing time is a delicate issue that can sometimes lead to issues during the season. While it is difficult, as a parent, to watch and understand this, parents and players need to respect the coaches decision and be respectful, both at the game and at home. Parents who speak negatively about a coach to players or other parents will create a divisive environment. If you feel you have issues with your coach, please direct your concerns to the coach **at least 24 hours after the last game ends**. Coaches will be happy to talk with you and may be able to enlighten you to things you were not aware of.

Please understand that practices are an integral part of the athletic process where coaches determine the abilities and capabilities of their athletes as well as building team cohesiveness. An athlete missing the last practice before a contest may not be allowed to start in that contest. Playing time in that contest may also be limited according to the coaches' discretion. Tardiness for practice may lead to diminished playing time.

Athletes that are injured should attend practices and games so that they may continue to gain knowledge of new plays and procedures as well as existing as an active and supporting member of the team.

Any athlete that is behaving in a disruptive manner may be removed from practice by the coach. If disruptive behavior becomes a habit, the athlete may be removed from the team pending consultations with the Athletic Director, principal, and parents. At no time should a student-athlete jeopardize the safety of, interfere with, or disrupt the practice of another team sharing the facilities.

*Missing practices for any reason may jeopardize the amount of playing time they may expect.

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COMMUNICATION

“My dear brothers take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”
(James 1:19)

Parents, teachers, athletes and coaches will all benefit from an open line of communication. If a problem arises, first speak with the individual involved, and do so privately. Advertising other people’s faults is gossip and is contrary to God’s Word. If the problem persists, then please follow this chain of command:

- 1) Coach

- 2) Athletic Director
- 3) Principal
- 4) School Board

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UNIFORMS

All uniforms will be handed out and collected before and after competition by designated coach. If a child loses, misplaces, or damages a uniform beyond normal wear, he/she will be required to pay for the lost or damaged uniform before another uniform is issued. Parents will be notified by letter or email and will be billed for the full replacement cost of the missing uniform(s).

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TRANSPORTATION

Students and parents are responsible for arranging transportation to all events. Please ensure that transportation arrangements are made prior to the event. Parents should communicate with St. Philip's or the coaching staff if a student-athlete is unable to attend practices, games, or tournaments.

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SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Students and fans should treat all facilities, individuals, coaches, and referees at St. Philip's or while visiting another school with respect. During any game yelling at referees, coach(es), or players will not be tolerated. During the basketball season please refrain from making noise during free throws. Failure to honor these requests may lead to removal from the athletic facility. St. Philip's students who wish to be spectators at any event must have a parent/guardian or adult chaperone with them.

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It would be impossible to list everything that would allow for an athletic season to be successful, but we can hold these words that Christ spoke in front of us when considering our behavior. Out of love for our Father in Heaven, we stride to do what is pleasing to Him. It is also out of

Christian Love that we would treat our neighbor as we would ourselves. Remember that ours is a *Christian School* and all our actions in and out of the classroom should reflect this love for our Lord and for one another. *Live Christ-centered lives as opposed to self-centered lives and you will find it to be a very enjoyable school year.*