



PUTNAM VALLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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“WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP YOUR CHILD”

Dear Athlete Parent/Guardian:

Your role as a parent/guardian in the education of your son or daughter is vital, which includes your active involvement in our athletic program at Putnam Valley. It is important for all of us involved in inter-scholastic athletics to realize that athletics is part of education, and that the benefits go far beyond the final score of a game or the season's record.

There is a value system, established at home and nurtured in the school that helps young people develop the abilities they will need throughout life. Character, commitment, leadership, attitude, citizenship, fairness, respect, trust and dedication are lifetime values taught through athletics. These are the core principles of our athletic program. With them the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

Starting practice and the beginning of the season brings together a group of individuals with a mutual commitment when people are a part of a team sharing and achieving goals. In my greeting of each team, I focus on the only rule that accentuates the opportunity for leadership and individual growth. “Be the best that you can be - by not doing anything detrimental that reflects on your health, well-being, family, team and school.” Of course this includes no drinking, no drugs, cheating on academics and cheating your self – but giving yourself the opportunity to reach for the next level. There is no substitute for hard work, and the development of your child's leadership qualities is an ongoing, adjustable, flexible and dynamic process that allows a certain amount of discretion and sometimes-difficult decision. I encourage each athlete to “stand-up and be counted,” “do what is right – but may not be popular,” and be accountable for one's actions.

The success of an athlete and team relies on a support system that begins at home. We learned to depend on one another, which in turn made us better. Through that experience, and many others like it, we learned that failure is part of success. If we fall down, we get up. If success eludes us, we try again. The development of young athletes is a daunting task and we need your help. Listed below are some guidelines to help our young athletes develop their full potential.

- ❖ We believe that a student must bring these four “A” attributes to school everyday – Attendance, Attitude, Academics, Ability.
- ❖ Encouraging our athletes to perform their best and to take pride in that performance.
 - ❖ Helping our student athletes realize how important it is to be at their best both physically and mentally and to make a commitment to be drug free.
 - ❖ Developing a sense of character, dignity and civility that speaks highly of our school and community.
 - ❖ Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers of sport and character, and support them as they strive to educate our youth.
 - ❖ Respecting the rules of the game and those who administer them and their decisions.
 - ❖ Respecting our opponents and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.



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- ❖ Being an active and vigilant parent stakeholder in Putnam Valley athletics.
As the letter indicates, I have asked you to become a stakeholder and active participant in the athletic program. Communication is vital and my door is always open to discuss program goals, objectives and direction. The coach better handles aspects of the sport and should be addressed in an appropriate manner. Playing time is not a viable subject, but understanding your child's work ethic and perceived team roles are good examples of coach/parent discussions. Please remember, as we watch our teams participate, we never lose a game from the bleachers or influence an official's decision.

You can have perhaps the biggest influence of all on your child's attitude and behavior as a student and an athlete. The leadership role you take will help influence your child and our community for years to come.

We look forward to a special experience in the season to come and truly appreciate your support.