

EATON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL 2016

PHILOSOPHY

The baseball program at Eaton High School is one of the most respected baseball programs in the state. It has become such through a decades-long process directed by a dedicated staff of coaches, but carried out by various groups comprised of community members, school staff and administrators, parents, and most of all, by players like you. **THIS IS YOUR PROGRAM.** It is your responsibility to maintain it through your hard work, dedication, attention to detail (both academically and athletically), and behavior in a manner that is respectful of all those people who made it possible for you to be where you are today.

We can only accomplish this by working together in a concerted effort to reach a common goal by making our personal desires secondary to what is best for all of us. As coaches we will instruct you, help you, and guide you in improving as a player. You can contribute to this by helping, supporting and encouraging each other, regardless of age or experience, with the same goal in mind. You will be amazed by what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.

I make this pledge to you -- that I will treat each one of you with the respect that you deserve, whether you are a senior all-state player, a freshman playing baseball for the first time, or anything in between. You are each more important to me as a human being than you ever could be as a player. Any respect I receive from you is something that I must earn every day. Believe this: I will do anything I can to make your life better, be it related to baseball or anything else you deem important.

Go Reds!

Coach Erv

EXPECTATIONS

Your success in baseball at Eaton High School is predicated on many factors beyond talent. Champions are held to a higher standard than others in order to maintain their level of success. To this end you will be held to that higher standard. Following is a list of some of the factors for which you will be held responsible

Academics

Make sure you take the time necessary to maintain your grades. Do not allow yourself to get into a position that one bad grade can land you on the eligibility list. If we, as coaches, can't be sure from week to week that you will be eligible and available to play, then we will be forced to use others who demonstrate that they can be trusted to be eligible every week. Work with your teachers, and they will work with you. This is solely your responsibility. Do not expect the coaches to bail you out.

Behavior

You all signed your name stating that you would follow a standard set of rules of behavior (training rules). Putting your name to that document should mean something to you. That, alone, should be enough. But keep in mind that you are a member of a wonderful community, proud of its schools and the students who attend, for many reasons. Because you are an athlete, you are thrust into the spotlight more than others, and that visibility carries with it responsibility. We will expect you to maintain a positive image during the school day, on the baseball field, and in public in general. Don't disappoint us. More importantly, don't disappoint your family.

Practice

You will notice that practice will be somewhat different this year. We will be more time conscious. We will get started sooner, get our work in, and go home. School is out at 3:10. You will be on the field (or in the gym on cold days) throwing by 3:30. Do not be late. Seeing a teacher to get help with a class after school, will be excused (but not excessively). In that case, please send word with another player so that we know where you are and get to practice as soon as you can. Unexcused absences from practice will not be tolerated. One unexcused

absence will result in a one game suspension. A second will result in being subject to dismissal from the team. During practice make sure you bring enough warm clothing; this is especially true for pitchers.

Games

Be at the field by the stated time for home games, and at the bus for road games. The bus will not wait. Make sure you have all your equipment with you. Check and double check before you leave home. Dirty hats are out; clean hats are in. We will no longer be wearing dirty uniforms that have been wadded up in your bag for weeks. Wash them after each game. Do not put this off on your mother; she has enough to do. Learn to do it yourself. It will make your life easier down the road. Also, if your uniform gets torn in the course of a game, it will need to be repaired before the next game. If no one can do it at home, give it to me, and I will find someone to do it for you. If it is too badly damaged, we will get it replaced. We are the defending state champions, and we will look like the state champions, not the Elm Street Eagles.

Personal appearance and deportment

You will be clean shaven. I know; I have a mustache, and have for many years. So to be fair to you, any of you who have had a mustache since before 1972 will be exempt from this rule. During all baseball activities, you will use a vocabulary that is acceptable in all civilized situations. Don't offend and embarrass those around us by using offensive language. We will all, coaches and players alike, be held to this standard. You will not, under any circumstances, throw bats, helmets, or other equipment in showing a display of temper. It not only makes you look bad; it puts us all in a bad light. You will do nothing that draws attention to you as an individual and away from the rest of the team. During games, I will expect the "dugout" to be "in the game" by cheering for, supporting, and encouraging your teammates, but there will be no direct or indirect comments made toward any opposing player or players, or to the umpires. Make the things you say (at any volume) positive and encouraging and not just noise for the sake of making noise. It only makes umpires angry (can you spell "bullpen"?), irritates opponents and their fans, and doesn't add anything to our efforts to succeed.

Hazing

Let's face it; "hazing" is just another term for "bullying." Either way, it WILL NOT be tolerated. Columbine should have taught us many lessons. Hazing can rear its ugly head in many ways: whether it is an off-hand comment, an implication or statement of someone's inferiority to someone else, practical jokes, or any number of other things, all the way up to a physical threat. All of these things are hurtful to the one who is being hazed, and has no place in this or any other program. If it manifests itself here, the perpetrator(s) will be dealt with in a very stern manner. Don't test the waters.

Lettering

A baseball letter from Eaton High School should mean more than a letter from Humptyville High. I realize that there are many of you, who might not letter here, who would letter at Humptyville; however, you do not play at Humptyville; you play at Eaton. Also, in general, it is more difficult to letter in baseball than in other sports (except wrestling) because of the limited substitution rule we have to work under. All that said, in order to letter in baseball, you will need to appear in one more than half of the regular season games (exclusive of being a courtesy runner) or an appearance in at least two post season games (exclusive of being a courtesy runner), or at the discretion of the coaching staff.