

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

Athletics are an integral part of the educational process of Comstock Park Public Schools. If our athletic program is to be successful, it must encourage individual fitness, develop a knowledge and appreciation of sports, teach athletic skills and cultivate a competitive nature with good sportsmanship. To this end, the athletic program is designed to stress that:

The student-athlete learns the value of teamwork, self-discipline, hard work and personal sacrifice, all of which prepare the student-athlete for success in a democratic society.

The student-athlete learns in a positive manner to cope with the competitive nature of society. The student-athlete learns the value of success, realizing that s/he will not always win, but s/he can succeed when they continually strive to improve.

The student-athlete learns to be a good sport. Through participation in athletics, the student-athlete must develop emotional control, honesty and cooperativeness and learn to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

The student-athlete learns the importance of having a sound physical body. To enjoy life and to be a contributing citizen, one must develop good health habits and must maintain a high degree of physical fitness.

## PARENT CODE

As parents of students at Comstock Park Public Schools, we understand that attending any school activity or athletic event (paid or unpaid) does not give us the right to be unsportsmanlike, abusive physically or verbally to advisors, officials, players, coaches or fans. We understand that attending CPPS co-curricular event is a privilege and that school personnel may revoke the privilege temporarily or permanently for inappropriate conduct.

## PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are able to communicate the benefits of extracurricular activities to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach.

### COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.



### Panther Pride

### COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

The coach of your child's sport expects to receive the following communications from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts as far in advance as possible.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Comstock Park Public Schools, s/he will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his or her life. 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.

### IF THERE IS A PERCEIVED PROBLEM, TRY THIS

Talk with your child. Find out what the problem is. Have your child sleep on it. In the morning ask if there is still a problem. If so, encourage your child to speak with the coach. Our job is educational athletics. We need to teach our children to learn to deal with their own problems. Too often as parents, we like to try and solve the problem for our children. Nothing is learned from this. If this doesn't resolve the problem take the next step.

### CONCERNS TO DISCUSS

1. What the expectations are for your child during practices and games.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

### ISSUES NOT TO DISCUSS

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student-athletes

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from this list, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.



michigan high school  
athletic association

There is a school of thought that playing time issues are not appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach. Since this topic seems to be the source of most parent/coach issues, it is our belief that this issue should be discussed. Keep in mind however, that the conversation should be focused on your child. Comparing him or her to other players is not productive. The main topic to discuss is not “why isn’t my child getting more playing time?” but rather, “what does my child need to do to earn more playing time?”

### PROCEDURE FOR SETTING UP A PARENT/COACH MEETING

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

1. You must talk to the coach first. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. Please do not circumvent this step.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office at 616-254-5230. Someone will assist you in setting up the meeting.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. Use the 24-hour rule—wait to discuss a situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest.



### Comstock Park Public Schools TEAM

#### ATHLETIC STAFF

Student Services	Chris Sposaro
Assistant Principal	Tony Petkus

#### PRINCIPALS

High School	Steve Gough
Middle School	Gus Harju

#### SUPERINTENDENT

Ethan Ebenstein

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Terry Benjamin  
 Michael Brown  
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# COMSTOCK PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**2015-2016**

## GUIDE FOR PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

*“IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE”*