

A Word From The Director...

Welcome to Upward Basketball & Cheerleading at Calvary Baptist Church. We are so happy that you have chosen to be a part of this outstanding program. As the Upward director, I am approaching this season with tremendous excitement and anticipation. We are putting together a team of committed leaders that will be working together to make this an awesome season!

For those of you returning, you will notice some changes as we continue to improve. If this is your first season, rest assured, this will be an amazing experience for participants and families.

During your Game-Day experience, we will have concessions available. All the profits are used to support our Upward Sports program. Please plan to enjoy a snack or meal and help support Upward Sports.

Important Dates:

Saturday, November 7: MANDATORY Evaluation 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Week of January 4: First practices

Saturday, January 23: First Game Day!

Saturday, January 30: Picture Day-Pictures taken by Gravemann Photography

Volunteer – There are many people needed to complete an Upward season. While our church members fill many of our needs, Upward would not be successful without others getting involved. We have many areas of need, coaches, referees, scorers, and others. I would love to discuss using your talents in these and other areas.

Please feel free to contact us. For general questions or registration questions, please contact Codi in the church office at (618) 462-8816 or cwiltshire@calbap.org.

If you would like to contact me with other questions, ideas, or Volunteer opportunities, please email: director.upward.cbc@gmail.com.

We thank GOD for giving us the opportunity to serve you and your family through Upward Sports and look forward to the blessings HE will provide this season.

Sincerely,

David (Dave) Zimmermann

Calvary Baptist Church Upward Sports, Director





Dear 2026-2027 Upward Participant,

Thank you for registering your child for our 2026-2027 Upward Season. This packet is to inform you of the important dates and information that you will need to know throughout this basketball and cheerleading season.

Here are some things we want you to know!

- **All communication will be through email and or text this season. There will be no physical letters sent out unless, you specifically specify that you would like it sent to your home address.**
- **We operate during the weekdays on the Alton School District Weather Policy. If classes are canceled or let out early that day, practices are canceled that evening. If we have a late afternoon weather event that doesn't impact the school but may impact practice, we will send out an email/text and a notice will be posted on our website at www.calvarycares4u.org, and on our Facebook Page "Upward Sports Calvary Baptist Church Alton IL". You may also call the church office at 618-462-8816 from 7:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and on Friday from 8:00 a.m.- Noon.)**
- **WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!!! Be sure to Like/Follow us on Facebook "Upward Sports Calvary Baptist Church Alton IL". We will post cancelations, updates, pictures, videos, and any other important information on our page.**
- Evaluation day is listed on the attached schedule. This is an important day, allowing your child to be placed properly in the league. There will only be 1 evaluation day. It will be on **Saturday, November 7.** **Every child that is participating MUST BE evaluated.** Please note that you may bring your child in any time during that day. Each child's evaluation should only last about 30 minutes, and then they are free to leave. **EVERY CHILD MUST HAVE AN ADULT IN THE GYM DURING EVALUATION. CHILDREN WILL NOT BE EVALUATED IF AN ADULT IS NOT PRESENT.**
- The league will be drafted based on the number of registrants. Team leadership will be assigned and practices will start the second week of January.

- ***Game Day***

- Upward Basketball and Cheerleading is a ministry of the church and as such, it is our goal to share the love of Christ with your children and plant principles in their lives that help to build character and their spiritual life.
 - Halftime of the games will introduce a high energy 5–7 minute interactive segment that teaches a life principle from Scripture. Practices will involve doing the same with children during their weekly practice session. Please be considerate to the person that is speaking as they have worked hard to prepare what they will be sharing with you.
- One thing you may not be aware of is once you enroll your child in the Upward Basketball Program, you will have prayer support. We will have many of our people praying for each child and their family throughout the Upward season.

There is a genuine sense of excitement about the year ahead of us. We want to make it a high quality, positive, meaningful, and encouraging experience for each child and their family. In an attempt to better stay in touch with you, here is the schedule of communication over the next months.

Mid December

All registrants will receive an **email** (unless specified that you would rather have a physical letter sent to your home) noting their team information, practice schedule day/time, game schedule.

January 18-January 23

Information and Picture Day Registration Forms about the upcoming January 30 Picture Day will be available at the practices.

Dear Upward Parents,

Game days are always full of fun and excitement. At Calvary, we always strive to make sure that our Upward game days are fun-filled and family friendly.

In order to maintain a good atmosphere and promote great sportsmanship, we will be implementing a few specific rules. If a **player** becomes too aggressive during a game, the referee will give them a verbal warning. If it happens a second time, the player will be benched for the remainder of the period. If it is within the last minute of the period, the player will sit out the following period. If it is within the last minute of the last of the game, the player will sit out the first period of the following game.

If a **player** uses foul language that a referee, coach, or staff hears, that player will automatically be benched for the remainder of the period. If it is within the last minute of the period, the player will sit out the following period. If it is within the last minute of the last of the game, the player will sit out the first period of the following game. If a player uses foul language during practice and the coach hears it, the player will sit out the first period of the following game day.

If a **spectator** uses foul language that a referee, coach, or staff hears, they will automatically be asked to leave the building on the first offense. This is a church and a Christian church ministry and we want to maintain that kind of atmosphere throughout our facility.

Please remember that **ALL** coaches and referees are parent/church member volunteers. They are giving their time to come and be a part of your child's game.

We thank you for registering your children for our 2026-2027 Upward season. We pray that it will be our best season to date!

****IMPORTANT NOTE**** Your Child's safety is important to us. We ask that you come inside to pick them up after practices. We will not allow children to exit without an adult. If there are special circumstances, please contact us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Director Dave Zimmermann at director.upward.cbc@gmail.com. You can also contact Codi Wiltshire in the church office at (618) 462-8816 ext. 103, or you can email her at cwiltshire@calbap.org. Church office hours are Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and on Friday from 8:00 am. – 12:00 p.m.

