

## **Athletics Mission**

*(As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent us. John 9:4)*

### **Statement of Purpose**

A.M. means “ante meridiem” which means “before noon”. Loosely used, it means daytime.

For us Christians, it is still the A.M. And since it is still daytime, we are to be doing the things God has for us to do while we are still on the earth...

St. John’s Lutheran School exists to provide the opportunity for children to develop, through the power of the Holy Spirit, a childlike faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, a greater love for God, and compassion for others.

St. John’s Athletics Mission promotes this philosophy through the interscholastic sports program. Through participation, the student will further develop spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially. Student-athletes are encouraged to be the best they can be, by doing the best they can do, to the glory of God.

### **Interscholastic Sports Offered**

#### **Fall**

Volleyball      Girls 5-6 / Girls 7-8

#### **Winter**

Basketball      Girls 5-6 / Boys 5-6 / Girls 7-8 / Boys 7-8

Cheerleading   Girls 5-8

## **Program Focus**

The focus of the lower grade programs is to provide students with an introduction to the sports offered at St. John’s, the opportunity to participate in them, and the chance to begin developing the skills needed to play those sports.

The focus of the upper grade programs is to provide the opportunity to participate in the sports offered at St. John’s, to further develop the skills needed to play those sports, and to learn to compete at a higher level.

### **Goals**

1. To glorify Jesus Christ in all that is done on and off the playing field and/or court, and to understand how the use of one’s physical skills can serve as a witness to others.
2. To help student-athletes realize the importance of other people in their lives and the value of working co-operatively with them.
3. To help student-athletes improve their ability to make critical decisions quickly, even under pressure.
4. To help student-athletes express emotions appropriately, and not allow those emotions to control them or make them ineffective people.
5. To help the student-athlete improve their overall physical condition and specific athletic skills.
6. To help the student-athlete to understand the sport in which they are engaged and the rules that govern it.

7. To provide a positive athletic experience for each student-athlete to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of sports and recreational activities.
8. To promote school spirit.

### **Participation**

1. Student-athletes, in grades 6-8, must submit a Physical Examination form (provided by the school) signed by a licensed physician, to the effect that the physician has examined the student-athlete and that the student-athlete may safely engage in athletic competition. This form must be returned to the athletic director before the student will be allowed to participate in practice sessions or interscholastic competitions. Physical examinations are valid for twelve months.
2. St. John's Lutheran School does not provide individual insurance coverage for those students involved in interscholastic sports.
3. It is the position of St. John's Lutheran School that the sports practices, not including open gyms, offered at St. John's take precedence over a non- interscholastic activity. If a St. John's student-athlete participates in a non-interscholastic activity while simultaneously playing on a St. John's team, participation on the St. John's team must come first. This means if there is a schedule conflict, the St. John's game or practice must be attended.
4. Seventh and eighth grade student-athletes may participate on varsity teams only. A junior varsity student-athlete may play up on the varsity team if determined by the coach.
5. A student-athlete must take an active part in a given day's physical education class if he/she wishes to participate in that

day's scheduled athletic practices or contests. A student who is exempted from gym classes by a doctor will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic activities.

6. If a student-athlete is not in school due to illness, that individual may not participate in practices or games that day.
7. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, all mandatory practices and home games that would have occurred that day will either be postponed or cancelled.

### **Academic Requirements for Participation**

Academic achievement is a priority at St. John's; therefore, academic standards must be maintained by student-athletes to participate in a given sport. Those who fail to do so may be placed on probation or suspension.

## **Athletic Ineligibility**

Student-athletes who have an F or two D's in their school subjects on either their midterm or quarterly report card, will be suspended from participating in practices and dressing out for games for a period of one week.

Should a student-athlete fail to meet the academic requirements for participating in extra-curricular activities a second time during a sports season, the suspension will be for two weeks.

A student-athlete who fails to meet the academic requirements for participating in extra-curricular activities for a third time during a sports season will be dismissed from the team.

Students who become ineligible will not be allowed to practice or play in games both at St. John's and for middle school sports at Brownstown or Seymour.

Tuition costs must be current in order for students to remain eligible to play sports at SJS.

## **Practice**

1. Coaches will provide parents with a practice schedule prior to the onset of the season. Coaches will also provide updates to parents and student-athletes to inform them of schedule changes.
2. Practice sessions must be completed by 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays during Advent and Lent.
3. Parents must realize that with limited gym space and availability, coaches may call evening, Saturday and/or Sunday practices.

## **Transportation**

Parents are responsible for securing transportation for their child to all interscholastic events in which they participate.

## **Administration**

The Athletic Director has the overall responsibility for the coordination and implementation of all sports programs within St. John's Lutheran School. The Athletic Director in conjunction with the Administrator has full authority to develop and implement detailed guidelines for all aspects of the Athletics Program.

The Athletic Director works with and reports to the School Principal and the Board of Education. Team coaches report to the Athletic Director.

## **General Responsibilities of the Athletic Director**

1. Serve as a Christian example of fair play and good sportsmanship.
2. Execute Athletic Ministry policies as established by Board of Christian School and outlined in Athletics Handbook.
3. Secure coaches for the various sports programs and hold a preseason meeting with all coaches to go over expectations.
4. Schedule and approve all athletic activities.
5. Secure facilities for interscholastic activities.
6. Hire game officials for all interscholastic activities.
7. Line up scorekeepers, timers, and other personnel for interscholastic contests.
8. Order new equipment and maintain existing equipment.
9. Be available for pre-season parent meetings.

## **General Responsibilities of Team Coaches**

1. Serve as Christian example of fair play and good sportsmanship both on and off the playing field and court. Emphasize the glory of God over school and self.
2. Conduct a pre-season meeting with parents of student-athletes who are participating in the given sport, and distribute a copy of team guidelines, coach's expectations, and practice and game schedules.
3. Organize and execute practice sessions in conjunction with practice times coordinated with the athletic director.
4. Provide supervision for student-athletes after practices and games until they are picked up by a parent or guardian.
5. Attend all games and be responsible for the conduct of the team.
6. Make new equipment needs known to the athletic director and care for existing equipment used in the sport coached.
7. Coaches are responsible for having signed medical release and transportations forms at all practices and games.
8. Coaches must participate in a post season meeting with the Athletic Director.

## General Responsibilities of Parents

Parents and guardians are a strong influential factor in their child's decision to become an athlete. Use your child's experience as a chance to be involved in his or her life.

At St. John's, we expect our students to put academics ahead of athletics. Parents play a vital role in helping their child maintain a balance between the two. Parents can help their child become a well balanced student-athlete by carrying out the following principles.

1. Be a positive role model by exemplifying a Christian attitude towards all. Our school will support and reinforce positive Christian values that are taught in the home.
2. Assist their child in establishing proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, study habits, and participation in extracurricular activities.
3. Encourage and participate in the development of their student-athlete's abilities.
4. Support their student-athlete's commitment to their team.
5. Encourage their student-athlete to accept responsibility for their actions and the actions of their team.
6. Encourage good health habits towards food, sleep, and exercise. Discourage the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
7. Show their support of their student-athlete, their team, and the Athletics Ministry by attending sporting events, volunteering for concessions, cleaning the gym area, and other areas of service.
8. Acknowledge outstanding effort, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Praise your child for trying hard and competing fairly.

9. Support and encourage the coach. Show respect for his/her coaching decisions and refrain from criticism while in the stands or at home with the student-athlete. Refrain from coaching the student-athletes during games and practices.
10. Show respect for officials and opposing players, coaches, and spectators.
11. Get your student-athlete to practices and games on time and pick them up on time.

Parent concerns should be addressed at the appropriate time and place. **Coaches should never be addressed before, during, or immediately after a contest.** If a parent has concerns they would like to address, they should first wait 24 hours before speaking with the team coach privately. If an issue between a parent and coach is not satisfactorily resolved, the Athletic Director and/or Principal will then become involved.

Parents need to remember that all coaches are volunteers and are giving their time to help make St. John's Athletics a positive experience for each student-athlete.

## A Christian Sports Parent's Creed

I understand God has made my child unique; therefore, my child has his/her own gifts and develops at his/her own pace. I will support the development of my child's unique gifts and abilities.

I understand my child has his/her own goals in sports and in other aspects of life. I will support those goals and keep them separate from my own.

I understand I reflect my child's feeling about himself/herself. I will value my child, and show respect and compassion, so he/she will know I love him/her for who they are and not for what they do.

I understand my actions and words have an impact on my child's behavior. My behavior in the stands or on the sidelines is as important as my child's behavior on the court or field.

I understand attaching blame to outside factors such as luck, fate, officials, teammates, or the coach teaches a lack of responsibility for one's actions. I will be an example to my child by taking responsibility for my own actions.

I understand sports should enhance and not dominate my child's life. I will help my child maintain balance in his/her life and will not place undue pressure on him/her to perform and excel.

I understand the other children on the playing field or court are as equally as important and as special as my child. I will show them love, support, encouragement, respect, and blessing.

I understand my child's coach needs my support and encouragement. Our common interest is the well-being of my child. I will support and encourage the coach, permit him/her to do the coaching, refrain from criticizing, and share any concerns I have with the coach privately, never during play time or game days.

As a Christian sports parent, I pledge to value my child as a whole person. My goal is to accept and understand my child spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially.

Since life in JESUS CHRIST is not lived apart from the physical, emotional, mental, and social stresses of life, there is indeed a necessity for Christian ethics to be included in athletic programs.

Athletic programs, like all other programs, cannot be carried out perfectly. As in anything else, there will be moments of failure. However, when failure is experienced, we have the assurance that God's grace in JESUS CHRIST covers all our sins and mistakes. In that knowledge and in the assurance that the Lord is ever ready to grant forgiveness and strength to serve, we can with confidence be involved in St. John's Athletics.

**As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent us.  
John 9:4**

St. John's Lutheran School: 2017-2018  
Athletic Handbook Acceptance Contract

This contract will be collected and used should a question arise regarding enforcement of rules contained in this Handbook. Please read carefully before you sign this contract.

**TO THE STUDENT ATHLETE:**

I have read the Athletic Handbook and do understand what is expected of me as an athlete at St. John's Lutheran School. The Handbook clearly describes the guidelines along with the consequences should I choose to violate any of them. I agree to all of the terms described in this Handbook. I am ready to serve my Lord and St. John's Lutheran School to the best of my ability with the talents God has given me.

I pledge to conduct myself with class and good sportsmanship at all times and will show respect to my opponent, their fans, their facilities, and the officials governing the games. I will at all times set an example by my words and actions that will make others proud to support the teams of St. John's Lutheran School. My signature denotes my acceptance of this contract with St. John's Lutheran School.

Athlete's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name:

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**TO THE PARENTS:**

We have read through the Athletic Handbook as well as reviewed the Handbook with our son/daughter. We understand the rules and guidelines contained in the Athletic Handbook and agree to commit our son/daughter to all of the terms and consequences should a violation occur. We agree to support St. John's Lutheran School in their efforts to teach our sons/daughters about athletic competition and sportsmanship.

We pledge to conduct ourselves with class and good sportsmanship at all times and will show respect to the opposing players, their fans, their facilities, and the officials governing the games.

May we set examples in our own lives by our words and actions that will make us proud to be known as supporters of St. John's Lutheran School. Our signature denotes our acceptance of this contract.

Father's Signature:

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Parent's Signature:

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**IN CHRIST'S NAME WE PLAY!**