

**Athletic Department Message**

A Message from the Athletic Department

Our athletic programs reflect the school’s overall commitment to excellence. We are proud to provide a number of athletic offerings for our young people. We believe that providing these opportunities for competition enhances the overall development of our student athletes and extends the educational mission of our school.

 **Sportsmanship Statement**

Good sportsmanship is a characteristic that we desire to be exhibited by members of our athletic teams. We take a proactive stance and encourage good sportsmanship to grow and remain strong for many years to come. Good sportsmanship demands that our players be good people, take responsibility for their actions, and show consideration for all others. We expect teams to show pride in their abilities, have humility in their accomplishments, and display great confidence without arrogance. Teams are expected to exhibit the same characteristics in victory or defeat. Teams will show respect for opponents, officials, and fans. Cooperation is needed by athletes, coaches, officials, students, parents, and other spectators. Please support our student athletes by being a good sport. BE A FAN – NOT A FANATIC.

If you believe that organized sports can contribute to living a healthy life, that the positive values and virtues developed on the playing field can last a lifetime, and that good character influences enjoyment, satisfaction and performance, then our athletics program is for you.

**GOALS OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

● To develop sport skills by maximizing participation and focusing on instruction.

 ● To develop the positive values of athletics, including sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation, and competition.

 ● To provide as many students as possible the opportunity to participate in activities they enjoy.

● To foster academic and athletic achievement in students by emphasizing the importance of self discipline, sacrifice and dedication to achieving goals.

 ● To develop in students emotional control, dependability, and respect for rules, property and authority.

 ● To provide students the opportunity to work as a member of a team in order to achieve a goal, and in the process, learn the importance of cooperation, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

 ● To provide students with experiences which require problem solving, decision­ making, and critical thinking skills.

 ● To provide students the opportunity to pursue physical fitness as a means of mental well being.

 ● To develop in students a sense of school loyalty, and generate school spirit.

 **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED**

**FALL (September/­October) Volleyball (Girls) Cross Country (Boys & Girls)**

**Flag Football ( Boys & Girls)**

**WINTER (November/­February) Cheerleading, Basketball Boys & Girls**

**SPRING (April­/May) Track and Field (Boys & Girls)**

 **\* These teams have limited roster spots and typically requires a “tryout”**

**EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

 **Hiat holds its athletes to high standards. Student athletes are seen as representatives of both our school and our town. As a representative of Hiat, student athletes are expected to adhere to all school and athletic department rules. All athletes are expected to:**

 **● Remain academically eligible.**

**● Act in a responsible manner, realizing at all times, athletes represent their school and community.**

 **● Attend and arrive on time for all practices and games.**

 **● Refrain from using profanity or obscene language or gestures.**

 **● Show good sportsmanship and respect for officials, coaches and fellow athletes.**

 **● Care for all athletic equipment issued throughout the season.**

 **● Play fair, play hard and put forth their best effort in practice and in competition.**

 **● Remain alcohol and drug free.**

**● Treat other student athletes with respect and dignity.Athletes who fail to comply with these expectations may face disciplinary actions, including but not limited to dismissal from the team.**

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 **EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES**

 **Parents are encouraged to support their children’s athletic endeavors and recognize the importance of athletics in their children’s lives. All parents are expected to:**

 **● Understand that academics are a priority over athletics and emphasize successful classroom performance.**

 **● Support and be enthusiastic about their child’s sport**

**● Be positive, helping their child understand the benefits of athletic participation regardless of contest results or individual performance.**

**● Insist their child abides by expectations of the athletic department and by team rules.**

 **● Encourage fair play**

**. ● Respect the actions of coaches regarding contest strategy, their child’s play status and playing time.**

 **● Avoid “coaching” from the stands or sidelines during both games and practices.**

 **● Ensure their child attends all practices and contests, and are picked up at designated times.**

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**CRITERIA FOR TEAM SELECTION The number of students permitted on some teams may be limited due to allowable roster sizes. For these teams a tryout will be conducted. At the tryout, all athletes will be afforded an opportunity to showcase their talents and earn a spot on the roster. Basis for team selection will be at the sole discretion of the coach. Coaches will have in place clear and consistent criteria for the tryout period. Criteria may include, but is not limited to, the following indicators:**

 **● Demonstration of positive behavior and attitude**

 **● Demonstration of good sportsmanship and teamwork**

 **● Demonstration of physical fitness**

 **● Demonstration of required skills At this time, athletics are available to six,seventh and eighth grade students only.Students must try out for teams each year; team selection will be based on selection criteria rather than grade level. It should also be noted that A and B teams will be determined by ability rather than grade level.**

**At the middle school level, participation in many activities is encouraged. However, if a student has extracurricular activities that overlap with school athletic schedules, that student should select one activity to avoid future conflicts. If a conflict arises between school athletics and a club or community team the athlete and parent must understand that the school team responsibilities take priority. A student may participate in more than one activity as long as it does not interfere with practice or game times.**

**ACADEMIC RESTRICTION Students are placed on academic restriction for each marking period in which they receive a grade below a 60. Restricted students are not allowed to participate in athletics; this includes both games and practices.**

**DETENTIONS/SUSPENSIONS Students suspended from school, (in school or out of school) are not permitted to participate in or attend any athletic event during the period of their suspension. This includes team practices. Students assigned classroom detentions affecting participation in practices and games will be dealt with at the discretion of the coach.**

**PHYSICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS Students participating in athletics at Hiat Middle School are required to have a current physical examination. A physical is valid for one year, but must include the entire season for the sport in which the student will participate. The completed physical form needs to be on file with the school prior to the first tryout. Sports physical forms are available in the athletic director office. All questions regarding physicals should be directed to the athletic director.**

**TRANSPORTATION Athletes traveling to all away athletic contests must be by team bus. Athletes must ride the team bus to & from all contests. Parents can pick up athletes from the Hiat campus after the contest is over. Athletes traveling by bus are expected to follow all school policies noted in the school handbook.**

 **UNIFORMS All uniforms issued to athletes are the property of the school and must be properly cared for by the student. All uniforms must be returned to the coach after each contest, Lost or damaged uniforms will become the financial obligation of the student. Game uniforms may be worn only on the day of a scheduled contest.**

**OUT OF SCHOOL CONDUCT Student Athletes at Hiat are expected to act in a legal and responsible manner, realizing that at all times, they are representing their school and team. Conduct out of school which discredits or embarrasses Hiat, the Athletic Department or any sport may result in athletic department disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from a team. Further disciplinary action may also be taken if deemed appropriate by the school administration. Please see “Expectations for student athletes” and the section of this handbook entitled “Substance Abuse”.**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE The use of smoking materials or any other tobacco product, any type of alcoholic product, or any narcotic or drug is absolutely forbidden. The possession of alcoholic beverages, any narcotics, or any drugs (except as noted in the student handbook as “Medication”) is also forbidden. All school rules and regulations regarding substance abuse are outlined in the student handbook and apply to athletes and at athletic events. In addition, athletes are not to be in the presence of and are expected to remove themselves from any situations of underage alcohol consumption or illegal use of drugs, whether occurring on or off school grounds. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in discipline up to and including removal from the team. Any violation of school rules involving drugs or alcohol will result in dismissal from an athletic team. Any violation of a school rule involving smoking or other tobacco products will result in a two game suspension from athletic competition on the first offense, and dismissal from the team on the second offense.**

 **CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM All parents are required to sign the Concussion Education and Consent Form. This form provides parents and student athletes with information about concussions and treatment procedures.**

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**INFORMED CONSENT:**

 **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS In accordance with the rules of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, a student must have permission of a parent or guardian before he/she can participate in interscholastic athletics. Please complete the statement below to grant such permission.**

 **I understand that coaches will be present to fully supervise all activities. I agree to notify my child’s school if there is any change in his/her health status after this statement is signed. You have my permission to call a doctor and/or ambulance if an emergency should arise. I have received and reviewed a copy of the Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and regulations therein. As an athlete, I agree that I will remain drug and alcohol free while participating in all school activities. Furthermore, I agree to remove myself from any situations where there is underage drinking or illegal use of drugs on or off school property. NOTE: Any violation of the school district’s policies related to being in the presence of underage drinking or illegal drug use, or to the possession or use of drugs and/or alcohol, on or off school property, will result in discipline, including but not limited to REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM. Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_have received and reviewed a copy of the Student Athlete Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and regulations therein.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**