



TOM DYER
Director of Athletics

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Hamden High School Athletic Captainship Initiative

Speaking with student athletes, coaches and community stakeholders, everyone has the same goals for the athletic program. They wish for every student that is involved to have a great experience, be great role models for the community and to compete at a high level while participating in sports at Hamden High School. We all realize that leadership is the key to this happening. Our coaches have to complete training on a yearly basis to be certified to coach. This does not include the research the coaches do on their own to find ways to give our student athletes the best instruction possible. This is why the Athletic Department strives to have the very best coaches working for us, as we do right now.

A major part of the team's success is the leadership from within the group, team captains. Teams that have the most success usually have the strongest leaders in the program. It would be easy to say that "Leaders are born, not made." This is not the case. Leaders come in all different shapes, sizes and backgrounds. We would like to help promote and train the best leaders possible for our programs. In some cases captainships in the past have been about being the most popular and not being the best leader for a program.

We have decided to put a uniform policy in place for the Hamden Athletic Department. We will look to help train our captains better to help their coaches and teammates with the ups and downs that a sports season brings. We are looking for student athletes that are great role models in the classroom, community and on the field/court/pool or ice. They will be evaluated by their peers based on their academics, athletic ability, attitude, character, leadership, being a role model and an essay.

There will be an application that is available online that any senior (that has played the sport the previous year) can apply with the athletic department. (*Only in very special circumstances a junior may be used if there are a very low number of seniors in a program.*) There will be various signatures that are required for the application and a brief essay on why the student athlete would make a good captain for their sport. The coaches will lead a team meeting that allows all of the approved candidates a chance to share their essays. The team will take a vote and the coach and Athletic Director will tally the votes later that evening. **NOT EVERYONE WILL BE VOTED CAPTAIN.** In fact in most cases we will just have 1 or 2 captains per sport. Student Athletes need to understand that being a captain is the ultimate privilege. Not being a captain does not mean that the team or coaching staff does not value their leadership or them as a student athlete. In fact, there leadership will be counted on heavily during the year whether they are voted captain or they are not.

For student athletes that are selected as captains, there will be expectations that your coach will go over with you. You will need to attend mandatory training with the Athletic Director in the spring as well as attend meetings during your season.

The Hamden Athletics Department looks forward to using this initiative to bring our programs from good to GREAT! If any student athletes have questions about the process they can speak with their coach or stop in to the athletic office to speak with Mr. Dyer.

Go Dragons!!!

Tom Dyer
Director of Athletics
Hamden Public Schools

