# W. A. Perry Middle School



### 2023-2024

# **Athletic Department Handbook**

### "Excellence is the Only Expectation!"

Dr. ROBIN L. COLETRAIN **PRINCIPAL** 

MS. TARA N. KELLY ADMINISTRATOR FOR ATHLETICS

## Meet the Coaches



Volleyball------Head Coach Marietta Wider Assistant Coach Jaylin Page

Cheerleading------Head Coach Jessica Harvey

Football-----Head Coach Paul Britton Assistant Coach Robert Counts Assistant Coach Lamont Hayes Assistant Coach Markus Guinyard

Basketball----- (Girls) Head Coach Teresa Geter

> (Boys) Head Coach Jamarcus Little

Track------Head Coach Dominic DeBarr Assistant Coach Robert Counts Assistant Coach Thorne Francis

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#### Mission

(Adopted from Richland County School District One Athletics Department) The mission of the RCSD1 Athletics Program is to provide safe, comprehensive, equitable and high-quality sports opportunities and experiences for all students through student-centered coaches, competitive sports programs, and diverse community partnerships, while functioning as an integral part of the total curriculum.

#### Vision

(Adopted from Richland County School District One Athletics Department) Students in RCSD1 will be given the opportunity to meet the requirements for athletic participation which will promote good citizenship, teamwork, sportsmanship, character development, maximum individual achievement, and practices for healthy living.

#### **Team Mission**

The Athletics Department at W.A. Perry Middle School will promote positive experiences for all players that will impact them in a holistic way. Players will be taught life skills such as discipline, respect, hard work and teamwork that is expected to be displayed through their attitude, behavior and athleticism.

#### Perry Motto

"Excellence is the Only Expectation"

#### Team Goals

- Win the District Championship.
- Finish the season with a winning record
- Prepare all players for the next level (Junior Varsity/Varsity Program).

Players are encouraged to create individual goals to guide them through the season that are aligned with the team goals. Coaches are willing to work individually with students to create plans and monitor them for success.

#### **Expectations**

The following are general expectations for all members participating in athletics at W.A. Perry Middle School. Failure to follow these guidelines may lead to discipline, suspension, or dismissal from athletic program. Each violation will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Players are NOT allowed to participate (games or practices) with outside club sports teams. This includes club volleyball, club soccer, softball, MAYB, AAU teams, etc., during the season. Players are allowed to participate in activities such as Dance, Ballet, Theatre, etc. if these activities do not interfere with our team practices or games. Players are asked to dedicate themselves to our program and focus on our team during our season of sport.

#### Conduct

It is understood that we are representatives of our district, school, families, but most importantly, ourselves. With this proclamation, we as players and coaches understand that we live by a different standard. The way we play and conduct ourselves on and off the court will be always on display. Understanding what it means to be a competitor, have good sportsmanship and be a student leader is a torch that can be difficult to carry.

- We intend to promote an environment in which champions can develop and flourish. We recognize the importance of working together.
- We take responsibility for all our actions, their consequences, and our own physical and mental preparation. Excuses are seen by all as a failure to take responsibility.
- Despite our aspirations, none of us are perfect. Therefore, it is necessary for us to forgive each other and ourselves, repeatedly.
- We keep lines of communication open and attempt to be straight with each other by speaking clearly and directly. One way we do this is by listening carefully to everyone.
- Anything worth doing is worth having fun doing it. It is our intention to get as much enjoyment as we can from the team, practices, games, and other team activities.

Good sportsmanship and teamwork is key to success. Players must always have a positive attitude. Because we are a team, we will encourage and support each other. Team rapport is important. Treat all team members with respect. Appreciate everyone on our team and what they can bring to the program.

Players and Coaches are also expected to show the utmost respect toward referees, coaches, opponents, teammates and self. Profanity and bad attitudes will not be tolerated. Work and act like an athlete. Good behavior is not only required at practices and games, but in the classroom. Students will be given a weekly progress report to be signed by their teachers daily, indicating their behavior and academics. This information is to ensure that our students have established an athlete and student balance.

#### **Equipment and Facilities**

Players are expected to respect all equipment. Each player will be assigned a uniform. These garments are the property of the school and must be returned at the end of the season. Players are responsible for their assigned equipment. If anything is returned damaged or not returned at all, the player will be issued a debt slip.

Players may also be expected to purchase the team, shirts, team tennis shoe and bags. The prices for those items will be given by the individual coach. Players should keep the locker rooms, gym and busses spotless. The entire team will suffer consequences for this. This includes (but not limited to) clothes left out, towels left out, dirty floors, trash thrown, etc. Players must pick up after themselves. Remember, it takes a lot to earn respect and only one mistake to lose it.

#### Practices

Every day we practice must be seen as an opportunity to learn, grow and challenge one another. Players are expected to always give 100% during practices. As a player, you must be mentally focused, energetic, and ready to be challenged from the coaching staff. Each practice is thought out and prepared to make the team better. All players should be practicing skills outside of scheduled school practices on their own time- not only during holidays and breaks, but daily.

- We expect every player to be on time and ready to go when it's time for practice.
- If a player knows in advance that he/she will miss practice, the coach should be notified prior to the practice.
- Practice is mandatory unless you have a doctor's note, absent from school due to illness, family emergency or pre-approved by the coach.
- You must wear proper practice attire.

- No jewelry is to be worn during practice.
- All practices are closed- this includes but not limited to: parents, other students, siblings.

#### Holidays & Breaks

On holiday breaks, players are expected to practice periodically on their own initiative. In addition to player-scheduled practices, the coaching staff will schedule practices, **if needed**, periodically during breaks and all players are expected to be present. Players needing to be gone for the holiday or family vacations should let their coach know as soon as possible.

#### Game Day

Players are expected to always give 100% during the games. In order to be eligible to play in a game, all athletes must attend school that day.

Game day attire will be the following:

#### • Home Game/Away—Game—Team T-shirt and jeans

Dressing in the appropriate attire is very important. This shows great team chemistry and unity. Failure to dress in the appropriate game day attire will result in sitting out of that game. No jewelry or other accessories are allowed. (This includes earrings.)

There will be a sign out sheet for all away games. A parent must sign the player out. <u>All students must change out of the uniform at the game location and return</u> <u>the uniform to the team manager.</u> Students are NOT allowed to take the uniform home.

Parents are asked to please be prompt in picking up your child when the bus returns to school from games and practices. <u>It is the player's responsibility to let</u> <u>their parents know what time we will be done or back from an away game.</u> If a student does not have a cell phone, they will be allowed to use the coach's phone.

#### <u>Bus Behavior</u>

- Players should be respectful, responsible, and cooperative while riding the bus.
- Noise should be kept to a minimum, as you should be focusing or reflecting on the game.
- Players should remain seated in the same seat for the duration of the ride.

• All garbage must be picked up before leaving the bus.

#### Penalties

It is important to understand that practices and games are very important opportunities to the overall development of the individual and the team. Furthermore, missing these opportunities can hurt the overall success of a player and the team. This includes family vacations. However, each player can miss one practice excused or unexcused. The player must notify the coaching staff they will be gone in advance. Failure to do so will count the absence as unexcused.

The following penalties will be enforced in regard to playing time. The coaching staff will determine what is unexcused and what is excused. Each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis and penalties will be enforced at the coach's discretion. Students involved in the CRP program, private tutoring and religious obligations will be excused.

Unexcused Missed Practices:

- 1 = will not start and playing time will be at the coach' discretion
- 2 = miss a complete game
- 3 = conference

Excused Missed Practices:

- 1 = will not start and playing time will be at the coach's discretion
- 2 = same as above
- 3 = conference

Missed Games:

- 1 = miss one complete game (in essence 2 games)
- 2 = miss two complete games (in essence 4 games)

3 = conference

If a player is injured or sick for a long period of time, the coaching staff has the right to make the appropriate decision on playing time.

Conferences will be held with the coaching staff, athlete, athletic director and parents to discuss the actions that deal with the player and her penalties.

#### **Playing Time**

We understand that you want your child to play and the coaching staff respects that. Therefore, each player will be given playing time during the season. However, the coaching staff's decisions on how much playing time that player gets will be based on the following things but not limited to.

- 1.) How they are practicing on a daily basis?
- 2.) Is the player making any improvements in their overall individual game?
- 3.) Contribution in games.

Please understand that we as a coaching staff are doing the best that we can to make the team and the program better. It is the responsibility of the player first, to talk to the coach about playing time, not the parents. Here again, this is a minor thing that can disrupt the overall success of the team. We have a policy as a program that you please wait 24 hours before you talk to a coach about an issue you may have.

#### **Team Retention**

- Maintaining academic standards (2.0 GPA- district policy)
- Attending/Be on time for practices regularly
- Never be sent home from practice for inappropriate behavior
- Following rules and procedures as outlined in the district athletic and student W.A. Perry book

#### Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their child. We do ask that you wait 24 hours after a game before meeting the coach. Please do not COACH your child from the stands. Let the W.A. Perry coaching staff coach. We do, however, want you to encourage them.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

1) Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as for other players on the team

2) Locations and times of practices and contests

3) Team requirements (i.e., special equipment needed, school & team rules, offseason expectations)

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1) Concerns regarding their child, expressed directly to the coach, at the appropriate time

2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations

3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- 1) The mental and physical treatment of your child
- 2) What your child needs to do to improve
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

1) How much playing time each athlete is getting

2) Team strategy

3) Play calling

4) Any situation that deals with other student athletes- unless it is a character issue and it directly affects or involves in your child

It can be very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you and they had hoped. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe are in the best interest of all student athletes participating.

Our coaching staff is always willing to sit-down and discuss any concerns you may have with our program. All meetings will involve the coach and athletic coordinator present in conjunction with the parent(s). Feel free to contact us to set-up a meeting on a non-game day. Should you feel the concern is not appropriately addressed after the meeting, you should call the Athletic Administrator to setup a meeting.

#### **Participant Issues**

There will be many difficult participant decisions made throughout the season by the coaching staff concerning the team. You may not agree with all of them, but you must respect and accept them. Our athletic programs will continue to play students/athletes at the highest level of competition of which they can perform successfully. All questions concerning personnel issues should be voiced by the athlete with the coaching staff first. If the issue is not solved after the athlete has talked with the coaching staff, a meeting with both athlete and parent(s) may be set up. If issues still remain after that, a meeting with athlete, parent(s), and Athletic Coordinator/Athletic Administrator can be set up.

The coaching staff will continually praise and correct/critique your games to help you become the best player you can be. Learn to accept constructive criticism and correction. **Never take what is said personally**. Everything that is said is to benefit you and your game.

Everyone will have their own specific role on the team. Every player on the team is valued and has an important role.

The success of our program will be centered on teamwork. It is important that you always put TEAM first. Personal glory must be sacrificed. You as individuals will be recognized through team success.

Understand that practices and games will be INTENSE! Show up every day ready to work at a high level of intensity. Finally, join in with the intensity and make the season exciting and fun! Don't hold back ever...give everything you have every time you step on the court, and we will have a successful season.

#### Athletic Tutoring

All athletes are required to attend academic tutoring for 4 hours per week. Tutoring will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.



#### **Athletic Banquet**

Our sports banquet will be held May 22, 2024 at 5:30pm for all our sports teams. Student athletes can attend the banquet for free. The dress code for the banquet is business casual.

#### W.A. Perry Middle School 2023-24 Athletic Team Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to the following rules that are stated. I am aware of the consequences that may result in my actions as wells as my expectations throughout the season. My signature below indicates my understanding of the information presented.

| Player Name                 |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Player Signature            | Date |
| Parent(s) Name              |      |
| Parent(s) Signature         | Date |
| Administrator for Athletics |      |
| Signature                   | Date |
| Coach                       | Date |



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