

Welcome to GB East Middle School Football!

My name is (Coach Merrell) and I will be your son's seventh grade offensive coach. The defensive coach is: (Coach Flood), we will have (1) graduate assistant (Coach Cade).

If you have any questions regarding activities occurring at practice or at a game, we should be your primary contact. **Our school requests that parents wait 24 hours, before addressing a game day or practice concern with the head coach. Emotions often become a factor when trying to address a concern right after the game. Parents and Players are to honor the Grand Blanc Athletic Handbook that has been signed and placed on file at the Athletic Office.**

Parent Mediator: If you have contacted us and are not satisfied with the resolution, you are encouraged to contact the GBEMS Vice Principal Jason Youngs who will help address your concern.

Practices/Player Positions/Play Time: Once school begins practice time will be from 3:30pm-5:30pm also daily, Games will be on Tuesday or Wednesdays. The GB EMS coaching staff will position players based on capabilities and best position to help the team. Play Time is not guaranteed and will be based on Practice Attendance, and Character. We also ask parents to wait until after practice to talk to the coaching staff.

We HIGHLY encourage all parents to stay and watch practice. This will provide your insight into what the kids are learning and the impact on game day. However, parents are not allowed to enter the practice field at any time. If a coach needs a parent, we will locate you.

Disciplinary Policy: Following the Labor Day holiday, any player who misses a day of practice, will be benched for one quarter of play. 2nd day absence will sit first half, 3+ days or more will result in sitting out entire game. Applies also to athletes coming to practice without proper equipment, missing pads, helmets, and mouth guards. Academic Eligibility requirements are outlined in the GB Athletic Handbook, no other football participation is allowed per MHSAA rules, penalty for activity is team forfeiture of games as well as affected player may face other disciplinary actions from the administration.

Inclement Weather Policy: School cancellations are posted on <https://www.gbcs.org> Since we play football in mild weather and severe weather, we will also practice in almost all-weather conditions. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the practice and game day. However, if there is thunder or lightning, we will not have players on the field – practice or game day. If weather conditions seem threatening, please stay close to the practice field.

Equipment/Facility: the GB EMS provides your child's equipment. There will be normal wear throughout the season, but the players are expected to take care of their equipment. DO NOT REMOVE labels on the equipment – this includes the helmet. If you have an issue with any of the equipment, contact me after practice. Failure to return the equipment will result in fines assessed and/or middle school transcripts being held. It is also your player's responsibility to maintain a clean locker room and provide a **combination lock for their locker and maintain their equipment. Please bring lots of Water.**

Coach Merrell cell phone: 810-701-0324

Please return this signed by player/player agent by Thursday August 29, 2024.