Mountainside School District

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Kelli Castro - Confidential Administrative Secretary
Athletic Coordinator

Dear Athletes and Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the upcoming tryout period for our middle school sports teams, we want to take a moment to share some important information and set clear expectations for all students and families.

Tryouts are an exciting time that give athletes the opportunity to demonstrate their skills, effort, teamwork, and attitude. Our coaches work hard to create a fair and positive environment where each student can perform to the best of their ability. At the same time, tryouts can also bring feelings of anticipation or uncertainty, especially when team selections must be made.

We want to acknowledge that the process of making a team—or not making a team—is never taken lightly. Our coaches evaluate each athlete carefully, looking at a combination of skill, potential, work ethic, coachability, and how individuals fit within the needs of the team. When cuts are necessary, they are made only after thoughtful consideration and with the intention of building a safe, balanced, and competitive team.

We kindly ask all athletes and families to be prepared to accept the coaches' decisions with respect and understanding. Learning to handle disappointment, to persevere, and to respond with maturity are all important life lessons that extend far beyond sports. While not making a team can be difficult, it doesn't define an athlete's value, potential, or future opportunities. We encourage students to continue practicing, seek feedback, and remain involved in athletics in ways that support their growth.

Please know that our coaches and staff are committed to supporting every student—whether they make the team or not. We are proud of all athletes who are willing to try, to take risks, and to put themselves out there.

Thank you for your cooperation, your encouragement of our student-athletes, and your continued support of our school sports programs. We look forward to a great season ahead.

Sincerely,

Kelli Castro

Kelli Castro
Athletic Coordinator

Christopher Kinney
Superintendent

11/2025