

Athletics is an important component of today's culture. Despite a wide variety in experience, ability and background, individuals come together as a team to work towards a common goal of excellence and unity. High school athletics provides an opportunity for adolescents in America. Athletics teaches participants important life lessons about teamwork, success, failure and the value of always giving their best effort. Athletics is a vital component in supplementing the overall education of students. It is believed that athletics are an extension of the classroom and that coaches truly are educators. We strive for our coaches to be demanding yet not demeaning.

It is my intent for Shawnee Mission Northwest coaches and athletes to respect the game, whatever game it may be. That respect comes by playing hard and learning the values of sportsmanship and teamwork in both victory and defeat. The "team" game is much bigger than the individual player. You always play for the name on the front, not the one on the back. We realize that our success will ultimately be measured by our unity as student athletes, coaches, administrators, students, families and fans. In approaching each athletic endeavor with the spirit of rigorous competition, we strive to maintain good sportsmanship on and off the field of play.

Coaches all are expected, and enhance the philosophy of "Cougar P.R.I.D.E." (**P**ositively **R**especting **I**ndividuals while **D**emanding **E**xcellence).

I am optimistic that the coming year at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School will be rich with exciting team accomplishments. We will strive to be "EVERYDAY CHAMPIONS" on the athletic surface, the classroom and throughout the community. Together we will continue to achieve excellence in athletic competition and maintain our notable reputation as outstanding sports men and women. I look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely

*Angelo Giacalone*

Angelo Giacalone, CMAA  
SMNW Athletic Director



