



VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOLS PARENT COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Athlete/Coach Relationship

As your child becomes more involved in the programs of Van Buren Local Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand, however, that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, appropriate discussion between the coach and athlete is encouraged.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to our students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication You Can Expect From the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements; i.e.: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedures should your child be injured during practices or contests.
- Disciplinary actions that result

Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's expectations

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all student athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other issues, such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of our professional staff.





The Mission of the Van Buren Local School district is to challenge and support all students to reach their maximum potential in an ever changing world.

We believe that this goal may not be realized without the appropriate lines of communication among all parties involved.

This "Communication Guide" has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators and students communicate more effectively.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling and game strategy.
- Other student-athletes.

There are situations that arise that may require a conference between the coach and parent. This dialogue is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the others position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the concern and the student athlete be present in the meeting.

Chain of Command

1. Assistant JV/Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Grade/Building Principal
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

Procedure to Use in Discussing Concerns with a Coach

1. Call (or email) to set up an appointment. Please keep in mind that most of our coaches are classroom teachers and meeting time during the academic day may be limited. Your coach's school phone number and extension is _____.

Coaches email addresses can be found on the Van Buren High School athletic website at: www.vanburenathletics.org

2. If the coach cannot be reached, please call Justin Slauterbeck, Athletic Director at (419) 299-3254

3. Please do not attempt to initiate a discussion or confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for all parties. Meetings in this setting usually do not promote a resolution.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the Coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletics Director to discuss the situation further with you, your son or daughter and the coach.
2. At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be discussed and determined.

Philosophy

Van Buren High School expects its student-athletes to have such attributes as:

- Dedication
- Self-sacrifice
- Desire to be the best student-athlete possible

All of those involved with any part of the athletic program should conduct themselves in a manner which sets an example for the younger people in our community. They should have a thorough understanding of the rules, regulations, requirements and standards which make up our athletic program.



Member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association

We hope this communication guide will help you and your child have a rewarding and enjoyable experience as part of a Black Knight extracurricular activity.

GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!