

DECATUR CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

ELITE PROGRAM

THE NATION'S MOST INNOVATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE
STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PHYSICAL & MENTAL WELLNESS

LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SERVICE LEARNING

ELITE ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



Decatur Central High School
5251 Kentucky Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317.856.2196



Decatur Middle School
5108 S. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46221
317.856.5274

www.dchawks.com

DECATUR CENTRAL ELITE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

CORE VALUES & ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Grades 7-12

Designed to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations, and expectations that have developed the rich tradition of competition in Decatur Central athletics.

DECATUR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

5251 KENTUCKY AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46221

Scott DeFreese
PRINCIPAL

Justin Dixon
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Derrek Staton
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Joy Ayers
ATHLETIC SECRETARY

DCHS MAIN OFFICE: (317) 856-5288
ATHLETIC OFFICE: (317) 856-2109
ATHLETIC FAX: (317) 856-2196

DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

5108 S. HIGH SCHOOL ROAD
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46221

Michael Nehring
PRINCIPAL

Missy Harvey
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DMS MAIN OFFICE: (317) 856-5274
DMS ATHLETIC OFFICE: EXT. 05017

MID STATE CONFERENCE

DECATUR CENTRAL "HAWKS"
FRANKLIN COMMUNITY "GRIZZLY CUBS"
GREENWOOD "WOODMEN"
MARTINSVILLE "ARTESIANS"

MOORESVILLE "PIONEERS"
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CLARK PLEASANT MS



DECATUR CENTRAL ELITE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mission

The MSD of Decatur Township is Student Invested, Community Connected. We prioritize Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service, fostering a support system for our families.

Vision

Preparing students to be tomorrow ready.

Purpose Statement

Promote the value of education-based athletics.

Cultivate relationships across the district and within the community.

Support all aspects of student-athlete development.

Participate as active members of the IHSAA, MCAA, Mid-State and Jr. Mid-State Conferences.

CORE VALUES

Integrity

We will strive for high moral character, honesty, respect and distinction in all our actions. We will operate with integrity in all areas of conduct both on and off the field. We will be honest and forthright in our dealings with one another. We will accept that the drive to win is a natural human trait, but success cannot be attained through unfair advantage or achieved through violation of established rules and principles.

Loyalty

Loyalty is the foundation upon which mutual trust is built. We will value each individual's personal commitment and fidelity as essential to the collective team goal.

Teamwork

For every group endeavor, there is an individual responsibility to bear that is critical in reaching the common goal. We will compete as individuals, team members, and members of our community. We will place confidence in the fact that the success of any one person is the result of the dedicated effort of many people, both internal and external to the athletic department. We will recognize individual performance but will collectively celebrate achievements of the team and the department.

Effort

The most significant aspect of all achievement is the quality of the effort put forth. We will expect maximum effort from all athletes in all manners while reflecting our core values in all aspects; including the classroom, the community, and both on and off campus facilities.

Leadership

We will develop leaders by promoting discipline, accountability and initiative. Being an athlete at Decatur Central is a privilege; therefore, we have the right to expect higher standards of behavior from our athletes. We expect positive leadership at all times, as well as high levels of achievement academically and athletically. We expect student-athletes to lead by example in ways that strengthen the team and instill pride in Decatur Central, its families and the community.

Pride in Decatur Central

The rich and living tradition of competition at Decatur Central is forged by all the efforts of those who have come before us. Our personal and team triumphs add to the growing pride that we share with our community. It is through leadership, school spirit, devoted alumni and a collective commitment that we build on the Decatur Central tradition and instill the DECATUR PRIDE that remains throughout a lifetime.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY DECATUR TOWNSHIP ATHLETE TO BELIEVE IN AND ABIDE BY THE CORE VALUES IN AND OUT OF SEASON, ON AND OFF THE PLAYING FIELD, AT SCHOOL AND AWAY FROM CAMPUS.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Designed to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations, and expectations that have developed the rich tradition of competition in Decatur Central athletics.

Conditions of Violations

1. Violations are cumulative from the start of an athlete's career through their senior year, 365 days a year.
2. Violations will carry over from sport to sport and roll-over from one year to the next.
3. Athletes will be held accountable for actions on and off campus.
4. Any report (police, peer, school personnel, parent) will provide enough justification for an investigation into conduct violation.

Responsibilities of our Student Athletes:

Academic:

- Athletes will achieve academically to the best of their ability.
 - **Elite Academic Support Team** is available for all student athletes, in and out of season.
 - **Elite Academic Support Team** works collaboratively with teachers to ensure that all student-athletes are fulfilling all academic eligibility and graduation requirements.
 - Academic progress will be monitored for all student athletes. These reports will provide an opportunity for early intervention and support when academic difficulties arise.
 - Student athletes will receive week-by-week structure and educational support to develop the skills and attributes of a successful student.
- Athletes will attend all required instructional school days and classes.
 - All athletes are expected to attend school daily for a minimum of 4 periods in order to participate in any practice or game. (Excluding professional appointments when provided written documentation from a professional office.) Any exception to this rule must have prior approval of the Athletic Director or Principal.
 - Violation of this responsibility (cutting class/truancy) is up to the discretion of administrators and/or coaches.

Personal Conduct:

- Athletes will conduct themselves in a way that reflects our core values at all times.
- Athletes will use language and gestures that reflect positively on self, school, community and family.
 - Conduct violations may include, but are not limited to:
 - Verbal and/or physical aggression.
 - Out of School Suspension
 - Exclusion from participation or attendance in any contest or practices.
- Athletes will conduct themselves within all digital platforms in a way that reflects our core values.
 - Posting any information, photos, or other items online in any format that could be derogatory towards others or embarrass themselves, their family, our team, our athletic department, or our school. This includes items that may be posted by others on your site.
- Involvement with law enforcement agencies. (Based on an arrest; excluding traffic infractions.)
 - Misdemeanor/Felony may result in up to a 12 month suspension at administrative discretion.
 - Criminal Behavior may include, but is not limited to:
 - Vandalism: recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally damaging or defacing school property or the property of another person.
 - Theft: knowingly or intentionally taking unauthorized control of goods or possessing stolen goods.

Personal Appearance:

- It will be each individual coach's responsibility to establish reasonable guidelines at the beginning of each sports season to maintain the fidelity of our core values by expecting athletes to maintain their appearance through dress, grooming, and cleanliness for the purpose of:
 - Protecting the health and safety of the athlete.
 - Encouraging good personal hygiene and grooming.
 - Protecting the athlete from human indignities.

Commitment to sport:

- Multi-sport Athletes: Athletes may participate in only one sport during any given sport season - unless approved by both head coaches and the Athletic Director.
- Changing Sports: Athletes may be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season only upon mutual agreement of both coaches and with the approval of the Athletic Director and Principal. Should an athlete choose to quit a sport during the season, he/she will not be permitted to join another sport team during preseason practice. Athletes must wait until the current sport season ends before joining a sport for the subsequent season.

Substance Misuse:

- Defined as possession, distribution, use or being under the influence of any chemical considered illegal to student-athletes. Such chemicals include, but are not limited to: drugs, alcohol, tobacco (chewing, smoking, vaping), medication not prescribed.

The Coach, Athletic Director and Principal will conduct a review of the establishing facts and the suspension. Violation of any of these rules will result in the following disciplinary action:

1st offense for chemicals considered illegal to student-athletes:

- Drug and alcohol violations will result in suspension up to 50% of contest season (excluding scrimmage).
- Tobacco (chewing, smoking, vaping) will result in minimum suspension of 10% of contest season.
- The athlete is expected to practice and also sit on the bench during the suspension period with the consent of the Coach and Athletic Director.
- The athlete must attend all practices and games until suspension is complete. Suspension will be extended for each practice and/or game missed during suspension.

2nd offense for chemicals considered illegal to student-athletes:

- 365 – day suspension from practice and contests.

3rd offense for chemicals considered illegal to student-athletes:

- Loss of high school/middle school eligibility.
- The athlete may petition the Athletic Administration for reinstatement **after their 3rd offense and after a 365 – day suspension.**

Honesty/Support Clause

*It is the intent of the Decatur Central Elite Athletic Department to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions, encourage honesty and provide support for a potential addiction. Therefore, any student who voluntarily reports his or her own violation before being reported by some other means, or within 72 hours, will be permitted leniency. The student will serve a lesser penalty for the infraction than stated; he/she will not be permitted to participate in a number of contests equal to one-half of the previously stated penalties. This self-report clause can be used only on a first violation of any rule, **one time**. Any student that requests addiction support through self-reporting will be required to complete cessation programming approved by the school administration.*

Sportsmanship:

- Good sportsmanship will always be the focal point of the Decatur Central athletic department. It will be reflected in how we treat our teammates, coaches, officials and opponents.
- Student athletes at Decatur Central will make positive and supportive relationships with teammates and coaches their highest priority. Regardless of the sport, individual or team, we are only as strong as our collective commitment to our core values.
- After all contests:
 - Decatur Central athletes are expected to shake hands with the athletes and coaches for the team(s) that we have competed against.
 - Regardless of whether we agree or disagree with their calls, athletes will recognize the opportunity to thank the officials for their work in officiating the contest.
- Though we recognize that all sports have some level of aggressive physical contact within competition, at no time will a Decatur Central athlete engage in physical play that would result in unsportsmanlike conduct that would jeopardize the safety of the opposing athlete or the integrity of the Decatur Central team.

Facility Use:

- At no time is it permissible for individuals or groups to use any DCHS/DMS facility indoors or outdoors without approval and authorized supervision.

Hazing Harassment Bullying

Hazing, harassment and bullying activities of any type are in direct violation of our core values and prohibited at all times. Our policy and commitment to our core values are to ensure a safe learning environment for student athletes and staff members.

Statement of Policy

No student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing, harassment or bullying. No student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing, harassment or bullying. Apparent permission or perceived consent by a potential victim does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law shall be subject to discipline for that act. This policy applies to these behaviors on or off school property and during and after school hours. The athletic department will investigate all complaints of hazing, harassment and/or bullying and will take swift appropriate action against any student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school district employee, contractor or volunteer who is found to have violated this policy.

Definitions

Hazing: committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization*, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

**Student organization is considered a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.*

Harassment: an incident or incidents of verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct based on or motivated by a student's or a student's family member's actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or disability that has the purpose or effect of objectively and substantially undermining and detracting from or interfering with a student's educational performance or access to school resources or creating an objectively intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Bullying: an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Reporting Procedures

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing, harassment or bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute these actions shall report the alleged acts immediately to the athletic director or building principal as the person responsible for receiving reports at the building level. Any person may report hazing, harassment and/or bullying directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. Coaches, teachers, administrators, other school district employees as well as contractors and volunteers shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events that might include hazing, harassment and/or bullying. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of such conduct shall inform the building principal immediately. Submission of a good faith complaint or report will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

Athletic Department Action

- Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, harassment and/or bullying, the athletic department shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district. The athletic department may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students or others pending completion of an investigation.
- Upon completion of the investigation, the athletic department will administer necessary and consistent disciplinary action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. The athletic department will address prohibited behavior and provide remediation to deter others from such behavior.

Athletic Department action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with other school policies.

Retaliation - The athletic department will take appropriate action against any student, coach, teacher, administrator or other employee of the school district, or any contractor or volunteer who retaliates against anyone who makes a good faith report of hazing, or who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation or hearing about a hazing incident. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.





*Interscholastic Sports Offered
at MSD Decatur Township*



FALL SEASON SPORTS

DCHS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Varsity/JV Football Freshman Football Varsity Cross Country Varsity/JV Soccer Varsity Tennis	Varsity/JV Volleyball Varsity Cross Country Varsity/JV Soccer Varsity Golf Varsity/JV Cheerleading

DMS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
7th Grade A/B Football 8th Grade A/B Football 7th/8th Soccer 7th/8th Cross Country 7th/8th Cheerleading 7th/8th Tennis	7th Grade A/B Volleyball 8th Grade A/B Volleyball 7th/8th Soccer 7th/8th Cross Country 7th/8th Cheerleading 7th/8th Golf

WINTER SEASON SPORTS

DCHS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Varsity/JV Basketball Freshman Basketball Varsity/JV Wrestling Varsity Swimming & Diving	Varsity/JV Basketball Freshman Basketball Varsity/JV Wrestling Varsity/JV Cheerleading Varsity Swimming & Diving

DMS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
7th Grade A/B Basketball 8th Grade A/B Basketball 7th/8th Wrestling 7th/8th Cheerleading 7th/8th Swimming & Diving	7th Grade A/B Basketball 8th Grade A/B Basketball 7th/8th Wrestling 7th/8th Cheerleading 7th/8th Swimming and Diving

SPRING SEASON SPORTS

DCHS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Varsity/JV Baseball Freshman Baseball Varsity Track Varsity Golf Unified Track and Field	Varsity/JV Softball Freshman Softball Varsity Track Varsity Tennis Unified Track and Field

DMS

MEN'S	WOMEN'S
7th Grade A/B Baseball 8th Grade A/B Baseball 7th/8th Golf 7th/8th Track and Field 7th/8th Unified Track and Field	7th Grade A/B Softball 8th Grade A/B Softball 7th/8th Tennis 7th/8th Track and Field 7th/8th Unified Track and Field

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POSITIVE SPORT PARENTING

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Pride in Decatur Central

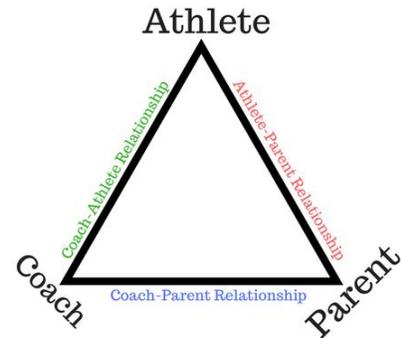
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POSITIVE SPORT PARENT OR GUARDIAN

The mission of the **National Federation of High School Sports** states it will “promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic activities which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.”

As parents/guardians, you become our strongest allies in creating a positive and supportive culture for our student athletes. You play a critical role in an athlete's development and are an essential member of the athletic triangle. This position comes with responsibilities that will require you to support our department's core values of **integrity, loyalty, teamwork, effort, leadership and pride in Decatur Central.**



Integrity - Strive to represent your athlete, yourself, your family, and our school in your actions and conversations. Trust that we all want what is best for your athlete. Have honest conversations with your athlete about **their goals**, they may not align with yours.

Loyalty - Mutual trust is essential within the athletic triangle. Conversations about teammates, coaching staff, game strategy, etc should be positive and constructive, avoiding personal attacks and condescending statements. Your athlete may already feel pressure to perform, they should not have to feel that their loyalty to the program might be against your wishes.

Teamwork - As a parent/guardian you are essential to the work to reach the common goal. Our success is the result of our collective dedicated efforts. Effective communication is critical for our collective success, all members are responsible.

Effort - We will look for maximum effort while acting in a way that reflects our core values. Praise your athlete for their effort, rather than critique their performance. Lofty expectations that they cannot reach will create unnecessary pressure. It is essential that you encourage your student athlete to maintain their academic goals throughout their athletic careers. Practice, training or games cannot be placed before their education. Our academic support team is in place to support all athletes throughout the year.

Leadership - As a parent or guardian, you are the ultimate role model for your athlete. They will look to you to interpret and model how to process their struggles and successes. They will need you to help interpret sport as a way to learn life skills and valuable lessons on commitment, persistence, overcoming adversity, empathy, and leadership. They will look to you for this leadership.

Pride in Decatur Central - We will expect consistent demonstrations of pride in the roles you will play as parents, spectators, and advocates for our school. In word and actions, we will look for conduct and emotional control that supports our core values and instills continued pride in Decatur Central athletics. Losing emotional control, yelling at coaches or officials diminishes our integrity and embarrasses our student athletes.

We, as an athletic department, also have an essential role in the athletic triangle. Our commitment to a successful athletic experience for you and your student athlete will always support our core values and support our school district's mission.

The MSD of Decatur Township is Student Invested and Community Connected. We prioritize Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service, fostering a support system for our families.

Student Learning - We have great pride in the fidelity of our hiring process. We have committed to surrounding your student athlete with the most highly qualified and professionally trained coaches and medical personnel.

Student Safety - All coaches are required to complete safety training in Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Concussion Protocol, and Heat Illness annually to ensure your student-athlete's safety. Our football coaches are also required to complete certification on Senate Bill 222, providing additional concussion and impact protocols. Our partnership with Community Health Network, provides Certified Athletic Trainers for all athletic events and practices.

Customer Service - We are committed to our athletes, their families and our collective success. This commitment involves availability, communication, and support. We encourage positive relationships between coaches and players to ensure the lines of communication remain open. As a critical life skill, we expect student athletes to discuss any concerns or issues directly with their coach. If that conversation does not bring the desired result, a meeting with the coach(es), parent/guardian, and athlete are welcomed.

Topics of the meeting could include:

- Concerns regarding your child's mental and/or physical state.
- Specific ways to help your child improve in the sport.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Student safety.

Topics of the meeting will NOT include:

- Playing time.
- Sport strategy: team, play calling, line-ups.
- Other student athletes.

Contact information for all coaches and administrators will be shared at all pre-season parent meetings and are also available at www.dchawks.com

