

saint mary's catholic school

Athletic Handbook 2016-2017



Saint Mary's Catholic School
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tradition ❁ *virtue* ❁ *excellence*

St. Mary's Catholic School Mission Statement

The primary mission of Saint Mary's Catholic School is to invite our students to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as faithful disciples to prepare them for outstanding achievement in high school and later life. Our rigorous curriculum integrates academic excellence, athletic challenge, artistic expression, and character formation in the effort to serve the evangelical mission of Saint Mary's Catholic Church and School.

Mission of the Athletic Program

Consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church, Saint Mary's School Interschool Athletic Program will provide an environment of spiritual growth, physical development, exemplary conduct, and sportsmanship in competitive athletic events. Loyalty to Church teachings and Catholic education, in addition to encouragement, is the core foundation of Saint Mary's School Interschool Athletic Program. The paramount focus of Saint Mary's School students participating in competitive athletic events will be to do all things for the glory of God.

Purpose and Goals

The Interschool Athletic program is designed to involve the entire school community: the students, parents, and faculty in the enhancement of school unity and spirit. The Interschool Athletics Program will add another dimension to the educational experience that is offered at Saint Mary's School.

The primary goal of the Interschool Athletic Program at Saint Mary's School, in keeping with our Mission Statement, is to provide an educational opportunity to learn and practice good conduct and sportsmanship both as a participant and a supportive spectator. Secondly, the Interschool Athletic Program will provide student athletes the opportunity to learn the basic fundamentals of a particular sport and the ability to practice them in a friendly, safe, and competitive environment.

Athletic Teams

Fall: Lady Ducks Volleyball

Fall: Co-Ed Cross-Country

Winter: Ducks Basketball

Winter: Lady Ducks Basketball

Spring: Co-Ed Golf

Conference Memberships

All St. Mary's Ducks Athletic teams compete in the Carolina Middle School Conference (CMSC). In addition, our Ducks and Lady Ducks basketball and our Lady Ducks volleyball teams compete each year in diocesan tournaments: the Diocese of Charleston Youth Volleyball Tournament (DOCYVT) and the Diocese of Charleston Youth Basketball Tournament (DOCYBT).

Athletic Eligibility Guidelines

Tryouts are scheduled and announced for each sport before the beginning of the season. Tryouts are conducted by the coach, who determines which students are a fit for the team.

Students new to the school, mid-year transfer students, or students injured at the beginning of a season may still be considered for a team, at the discretion of the coaches.

Coaches may choose to allow students who are not on the team, but who have expressed a high interest in the sport to serve as “team manager,” assisting with the recording of player statistics, etc. This privilege is given at the discretion of the coaches.

A student will be permitted to try out, practice, or participate in an athletic event only upon completion of the following:

- a. With the written permission of the parent or guardian. The signed parent release forms will be maintained on file in the office of athletics.
- b. An emergency information sheet on file. This information should be immediately accessible to coaches at all times throughout the season.
- c. A completed, current Pre-Participation Health Assessment Form (physical) on file. A physical is considered current for one school calendar year.
- d. Payment of fees. Registration fees, uniform fees, and other costs (for example, tournament fees) for each sport will be distributed prior to announcing the schedule for tryouts.
- e. A signed Handbook Agreement Form must be returned before the first practice. By enrolling a child in the athletic program a family agrees to abide by handbook policies; this form confirms that agreement.

All forms are accessible on Jupiter or available from the athletic director in the athletic office.

Attendance:

All participants must be full-time students enrolled in Grades 6, 7, 8 at Saint Mary’s School and have good class attendance records. Students will be responsible for all assignments that are due regardless of practice or game schedules.

No student may participate in an interschool contest or practice on a day when that student was absent from school, unless special permission for the absence is granted by the principal and athletic director.

If a student must miss a class in order to attend an athletic event, it is his/her responsibility to proactively plan, in cooperation with the teacher, ways to make up any missed assignment as soon as possible. Students must understand that athletics - and missing class due to them- is a privilege that requires great responsibility on their part to make sure their academics are not being neglected. Failure to meet this responsibility may result in a loss of the privilege to participate in the athletic program.

A tentative schedule of practices and games is announced at the beginning of the season. The reason for any absences should be communicated to the coach. Issues of excessive absence may result in dismissal from the team.

Academics:

Athletic eligibility for students will be determined at the end of each progress report and quarter grading period. Students will be ineligible to play on a team when they have a cumulative quarter/grading period average of less than **“78” (a C average)** for the core subjects of math, science, English, literature, history, religion, and foreign language **or “69” (an F/Failing Grade)** for any single subject grade. When this occurs, the student may practice with the team but may not dress or participate in games and/or tournaments. In a case of academic ineligibility, a student will become eligible when passing scores are reported by the teacher to the principal and athletic director.

Discipline:

All participants are bound by Saint Mary’s School’s disciplinary code. This includes school sponsored activities both on the Saint Mary’s School and Church campus and at away athletic venues.

The student athlete’s conduct is closely observed as the student sits in the classroom, as the student travels, and as the student competes at home and on the road. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. Student athletes are looked upon as role models, particularly by their peers and younger children, and it is important that the student athlete’s personal conduct be above reproach at all times.

The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches. Athletic participation suspensions and disciplinary actions are in addition to normal student discipline as issued by the school’s administration. When appropriate, coaches will report disciplinary issues to the school administration, at whose discretion additional consequences may be given according to school policy.

Playing Time

Once teams are established, playing time for each athlete is at the discretion of the coach. Coaches should be able to plan and strategize for contests without concern of outside influences. It is the policy of the Saint Mary’s Athletic Department that playing time issues are not open for discussion with parents or fans.

Quitting

To be removed from the athletic roster, athletes must meet with the coach and athletic director to discuss the situation. If a student decides to drop out of a sport, for reasons other than poor academic performance and/or disciplinary infraction, they may be ineligible to participate in the next team sport.

The Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are the primary teachers and role models for their children in all things including a respectful and cooperative relationship between the coach and other team members. Any parent/guardian, who has permitted his/her child to participate on a Saint Mary’s School athletic team, is expected to be supportive of the Saint Mary’s School Interschool Athletic Program and the authority of the coach and athletic director. Any concerns related to a team should be addressed first with the coach;

if unresolved, the concern should be addressed to the athletic director. If the concern is still unresolved after speaking to the coach and the athletic director, only then should the concern should be brought to the school principal, and finally to the pastor.

To support their child's team, the parents of each athlete are expected to take a turn running concessions/gate. The Athletic Director arranges this schedule.

Before and after practices and games, parents are responsible for the supervision of students. Children must be under adult supervision at all times while on St. Mary's campus and while attending St. Mary's sports games/special events. The school is not able to accept the responsibility of supervising student athletes or other unaccompanied children at any school-related events and, if necessary, will call parents to pick up their child or children.

All family and friends of student athletes are expected to represent St. Mary's Catholic School in an exemplary manner, showing respect to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and other spectators. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches, along with input from the athletic director and the principal in serious cases. This can range from being asked to leave a game to a being banned from attending any games. In extreme cases, the student athlete may also be dismissed from the team.

Role of the Athletic Director

The Athletic Director arranges schedules, maintains files of required forms, oversees concessions and gate fees, and communicates program information to the principal and to the school community. The Athletic Director oversees the budget of the athletic program with administrative approval for fees, items offered, and pricing. The Athletic Director assists the pastor and principal in the recruitment of coaches and in addressing concerns.

Communication

Game schedules for each sport and season are available on Jupiter, on the school's Google calendar, and on the school website (www.stmarysgvl.org/theschool). Hard copies are also made available in the athletic office. Changes do occur each season, so consistent checks of these schedules are encouraged. Because changes in times and venues for practices and games are a part of athletics, email and/or text messages are the primary means of communication used and are usually effective when changes occur. As soon as changes are made, the athletic department will announce changes via email and/or text messages. Please keep the athletic department up-to-date with current contact information and student medical information. The school administration will be copied on all communication made via email and texts.

Travel

St. Mary's Catholic School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is privately arranged by parents/guardians. The school assumes no liability for accidents that may occur en route to any sporting practice or activity.

The day of an away event that requires early dismissal, the parent/guardian must turn in a completed Travel Permission Form to the front office by 8:30am on the day of the away event.

Recognition

Each year concludes with an Athletic Banquet in May. At the banquet, all athletes are recognized and honored, with additional awards given for outstanding achievement

2016-2017 Athletic Coaches

Coaches are appointed by the pastor and principal, with a preference for staff or for parents with expertise. Those interested in coaching should contact the Athletic Director, who submits coach recommendations to the pastor and principal.

Volleyball

Head Coach: Megan Soulsby

Co- Ed Cross Country

Head Coach: Edquan Pope

Girls Basketball

Head Coach: Edquan Pope

Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Edquan Pope

Co-Ed Golf

Head Coach: Arlen Clarke