

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

We are pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the interscholastic athletic program at Margareta High School. A goal of the Athletic Department is to provide our athletes with the best environment in which their sport experience may be as rewarding as possible. We believe that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication available to parties involved. The "Communication Guide" has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators and athletes communicate more effectively.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach may have for your child and the team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, for example: fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Athletic Code of Conduct and any additional rules that may affect your child's participation
- Requirements to earn a letter

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO THE COACH

- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Special needs of the athlete, for example: physical limitations that may not be obvious to the coach or any medication they may be taking.

As your child becomes involved in the various athletic programs at Margareta High School, it is our hope that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding. There are some items of concern, though, that must be left to the discretion of the coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved under the circumstances present.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue.

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment
- If a coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, call Troy Roth, Athletic Director. An appointment with the coach will be arranged for you
- **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE SESSION. THESE CAN BE EMOTIONAL TIMES FOR BOTH THE PARENT AND COACH. MEETINGS OF THIS NATURE DO NOT PROMOTE RESOLUTION AND, IN FACT, OFTEN ESCALATE THE ISSUE.**

THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.