



BOSQUE MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

“Winning isn’t everything, it’s the only thing.” Vince Lombardi

“Success means doing the best we can with what we have. Success is in the doing, not the getting-in the trying not the triumph.” Wynn Davis

Welcome students and parents to the boys’ basketball program at Bosque School. We have a rich tradition of teamwork and sportsmanship as well as success throughout the years that we have been participating in the Albuquerque Parochial and Independent Athletic League (APAIL). New Mexico Activity Association rules also apply, and as such we recognize the Pursuing Victory with Honor program.

The above two quotations are two extremes of thought that some parents and student-athletes may bring with them when they participate in after school athletics. If you hold dear the first quote, I believe you may be sorely disappointed in your child’s level of participation in our programs in general. The second quote, however, more closely mirrors the schools’ and mine own philosophy.

This letter explains the necessary information that you need to know with regards to practice, game schedules, equipment needs, and expectations. Please visit the school website and the MS Athletic Information page for additional information.

First, practice will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:30 to 5 PM. At 3:25 PM if a student isn’t present, he is late. We will also have an optional weight-training day on Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Students should dress out in the gym and be on court by 3:25 ready to go. Practice will consist of conditioning, skill-building drills, and plays. The basics are just as important as plays. Clothing suitable for athletic participation and different from what they wear for class is required. Athletic support gear is recommended but not required. Shoes designed specifically for basketball are required.

*If a student cannot make a practice due to illness, academics, or otherwise I need to be informed. Commitment to the team is paramount, therefore **all practices and games are required** (aside of illness or family emergency) as well as invaluable in order to participate on the basketball team.

*If a student misses practice the day before a game (regardless of reason) or has violated a practice or school rule (as outlined in the *Student Handbook*) his playing time may be limited. Attendance and character do count.

*Although conditions are made to be as safe as possible, be aware that with any physical activity, a risk of injury is present.

Second, each student will be issued a uniform that is to be taken care of and returned at the end of the season. Replacement shorts and shirts are available, but on a limited basis – remembering the uniform on game day is part of the responsibility of being on a team. To help with this, students should wear the jersey on a game day, but

also remember to use common sense and not wear it when there may be a chance of the jersey becoming ruined as on a field trip or a messy art class. If a student wants to wear an undershirt they may but must follow the rule that for a home game the undershirt must be white in color, for away games the undershirt must be blue (this conforms to NFHS rules). A student may not borrow a uniform garment twice without having returned the first borrowed garment.

Third, playing time is based on a number of components. My perception of a student's abilities and efforts in practice and games is one of them, aside from the number of students allowed to play and the number of students on a roster. It is my hope that each student plays in each game as situations and needs demand, however, no one is guaranteed to play in each game or an entire game for that matter. Merely being on a roster is not enough; hard work, talent and ability do matter. Some will play more than others. Sports, by nature, are competitive after all. I coach such that participation is at a maximum level, but not without maximum knowledge and safety in mind. The game itself has its own rhythm and depending on the psycho-emotional and physical performance in real time during a game, an athlete's court time will vary. All players are not proficient in every skill, but do bring different talents and ultimately improve a team as a whole. I don't coach to win at the expense of an individual's pride and dignity, but I also don't coach to lose. I like to play my students to highlight their strengths for the betterment of the team. In summary each player has a role, including sideline or bench support.

Clearly at this level physical size, age, experience, and abilities differ. During the regular season we need to match up as best as we can to play an effective game while minimizing risk of injury and play a quality game. The playoff games offer a higher level of competition, and we need to be sure to put on the court those that can offer the best chance in moving forward in a safe and productive manner more so than during the regular season. After all, we are building each year in the hopes that those in the younger grades will continue with the team the following year, making each squad deep in experience.

Fourth, I believe that setting goals is a must when participating in sports. I hope that each of our players will learn to play each game with dignity, honor, and respect. At the end of the day result of the game is a toss-up, but favors the team that plays a better game and is better prepared. I believe that as long as our team gives a full and honest effort and can minimize mistakes, the best result will be to our favor. Below are some guidelines for practice and games:

Do:

- **Wear athletic clothing**
- **Be responsible, do your homework and listen to your coach**
- **Wear basketball shoes**
- **Practice good nutrition (no junk food – see handout)**
- **Support your teammates**
- **Work on skills outside of practice**
- **Be on time and have a great attitude**

- **Study your play-sheets and know them 6 ways from Saturday**
- **Support you team**

Don't

- **Goof off**
- **Be late**
- **Give anything less than 100%**

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to help, I am easily reachable via email (rberg@bosqueschool.org), school phone (898-6388), or cell phone (385-2253).

Lastly, I have been coaching a variety of sports for over 10 years and have always had a great time teaching various skills and strategies. Attitude can play a huge role in a student's perception of their experience. I push students to improve and grow. I do hold all of my players to high standards, and hope that at some point during the season they all accomplish them.

Go Bobcats!

Ross Bergman

Ross Bergman, Head coach
School – 898-6388 (w), 385-2253 (c)
Home – 797-4283
Email – rberg@bosqueschool.org

Team help is needed!

Please consider being a part of home game management.

We need help in the areas of:

Scorekeeper

Game clock

Assistant coach

Team parents - some teams like to have snacks. You can coordinate this effort most easily.