

BRIARHILL ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS IS A PRIVILEGE . . . NOT A RIGHT

AND YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EARN THAT PRIVILEGE

Welcome to Briarhill Athletics. Enclosed you will find information for the upcoming school year and requirements for those wishing to participate in the athletic program. Our mission is to prepare each athlete for the high school experience and provide him with the selflessness, toughness, character, and discipline to be a Marcus Marauder. If you need any assistance, do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at the following:

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General Information

Boy's athletics will provide each student with the expectations and skills needed to compete at the high school level. Sports offered are football, basketball, cross country, track, and soccer. **Everyone who signs up for athletics will either be in Football or Sports Development at the beginning of the year.** Football, cross country, and track do not require students to try out to participate. Selection for basketball and soccer will follow a try-out process and cuts will be made. Teams will be based on attendance, skill, effort, and attitude. Students that are not selected for basketball will participate in an off-season program. The athletic program is an upper-level conditioning class with high expectations. Students must participate, be responsible, cooperate, and show improvement to achieve athletic success.

The purpose of the Sports Development program is to prepare students for future high school athletic competition and develop individual skills. Training will consist of activities focusing on speed, strength, stamina, flexibility, coordination, agility, teamwork, confidence, and pride. In addition, specific sport skills training will be implemented when deemed appropriate by the staff.

All students enrolled in the athletic class will earn grades based on individual levels of fitness and daily participation that includes appropriate dress, attitude, and effort. To be promoted to the 8th grade athletics class, students must participate in 2 sports during the year and must be in good upstanding with coaches and administration. 7th and 8th grade students who do not participate in football or basketball must participate in cross country.

Middle School Athletic Philosophy

- To seek personal growth regardless of starting point,
- To encourage participation in all sports,
- To stress the high ideals of class, self-discipline, selflessness, kindness, and sportsmanship,
- To allow all participants to participate in all games,
- To require participants to be properly examined, equipped, instructed, and supervised
- To foster proper respect for all,
- To compete within the spirit of the rules - be humble in victory and gracious in defeat,
- To instill good work habits

Attention to personal growth and achievement is a primary focus of the program. Although physical skill

development is necessary to become a good athlete, it must be balanced with a positive attitude and outlook in relation to one's teammates and role on a team. The following attributes will be acknowledged and discussed throughout the year in athletic class:

Attitude – Our attitude sets our altitude and fuels our energy.

Compete – We love to compete; we have a 1-0 mentality.

Tough – we are tough, we are comfortable being uncomfortable.

Family – We are family, we love our brothers.

Discipline – We are disciplined, we strive for excellence in all we do.

Fight – We will fight our opponents till hell freezes over then fight'em on the ice.

Marauder Mission Statement: To cultivate men of integrity who relentlessly pursue excellence.

Marauder Vision Statement: We earn everything every day, We will execute Marauder DNA, We will be the toughest team in Texas

SPORTS

Sports offered at LISD middle schools include football, cross country, basketball, track and field, and soccer. Though some sports do have individual aspects, all sports have a team aspect. Participation in these sports means the student-athlete has a responsibility to his teammates. Middle school tennis and swim/dive is run through Marcus High School. Commitment to athletics in a yearlong obligation. To be in and remain in athletics, the student must participate in at least one sport each semester. Trying out for team is not the same as participating.

Football and cross country are non-cut sports, i.e.no tryouts. All who sign up for athletics will be in football or Sports Development at the beginning of the year. Selection for basketball and soccer will follow a try-out process and cuts must be made. Team selection will be based on attendance, skill, effort, attitude, and reliability (academics and behavior). Students not selected will participate in the off-season program. Track and field is a semi-cut sport. We avoid cuts, if possible, but some events (usually field events, hurdles and relays) may have to make cuts due to limited practice time and facilities. Sprints, mid-distance, and distance do not make cuts. However, there are limited number of entries per meet (3 entries per school per event); therefore, participation in the meet is not guaranteed. If a student is not selected to participate in a meet, he may still fulfill a sport participation credit if regularly attends practice.

DRESS

All athletes must dress out in the required uniform. Items will be ordered from Locker Room Sports. Each athlete is required to purchase a red t-shirt, black shorts, and game socks. If they participate in football, then game pants must be purchased as well. **This dress is mandatory for those students enrolled in the athletic class.** The above uniform is to be worn ONLY during athletic class, game days, and other dates deemed appropriate by the coaching staff.

Athletes are required to wear appropriate shoes with socks. This includes running shoes for track, cross country, and sports development, court shoes for basketball, and cleats for football and soccer. Students should keep cleats and tennis shoes in their locker all year if possible.

Proper attire and grooming are essential for the safety of all participants in sporting activities. All types of jewelry are prohibited and will not be allowed. Students with facial hair will be asked to shave.

PARTICIPATION

Membership in the athletic program is a ***privilege***, and students will be held accountable to a high level of expectation. Participants are required to dress out daily in the required uniform and exert supreme effort in all activities. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class/team, grade reduction, restricted playing time, or disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the coaching staff.

Athletes are expected to arrive to class, practice, and games on time. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Briarhill Student Code of Conduct, reduced playing time, or other action(s) deemed appropriate by the coaching staff. Coaches will be flexible with practices, but all members are expected to be at every contest. When an individual is selected for a team, players and parents must make a commitment to attend all practices and contests.

If, for any reason a student is not able to participate fully due to an injury or illness, the parent should write a note to the designated coach explaining the situation. Modifications will be made accordingly. A doctor's note is required if the condition persists longer than two consecutive days. We want your athlete to be safe and to be able to heal if injured. Often, when a student goes to a doctor the note will read – Sprained ankle, no athletics/PE for 6 weeks. This means the student can do nothing for those 6 weeks. Please be cognizant of doctor limitations. We want to protect the athlete, but we want the athlete to be allowed to improve where he can.

Athletes will be expected to attend and be on time for athletics class, practice, and games. This includes times when workouts start before school or finish after school. Athletes must be able to attend these hours outside the normal school day. Having an approved reason for missing 1 practice is acceptable. Missing 2 practices for 1 competition preparation will result in the athlete being deemed unprepared to compete, and thus he will not be allowed to participate in the competition. To No-Call or No-Show, i.e. be absent without informing a coach prior to practice/class, is unacceptable. Habitual offenders may be removed from the program.

STUDENT-ATHLETE

Student-athletes are expected to do all that a student does and all an athlete does. They do not compromise one for the other. Student-Athletes are expected to:

Be prepared for class every day (rested with all materials)

Exude exemplary behavior in the classroom.

Turn in all work complete, on time, and with best effort. No zeros.

Prepare for quizzes and tests.

Seek help for difficult concepts and other needs.

Retake available quizzes and tests in a timely manner.

Maintain an average of 75 or higher in all classes. *

*Student-Athletes below a 75 whose teacher will vouch that the student is giving great effort will be given leeway.

Student-Athletes do not miss practice, games, or the athletic period for tutoring. Students may get approved absence from athletic responsibilities under rare occasions. To do so, students must:

Exhaust all tutoring possibilities before missing a practice or game, e.g. afternoon tutoring, lunch tutoring, morning tutoring that does not interfere with practice

Have no zeros.

Be maximizing class time (according to the teacher).

Be turning in all work on-time, complete, and with best effort.

Take all available retakes.

Ask for the request 24 hours before the practice or portion of the practice that would be missed.

If a student-athlete meets these criteria and is still struggling, the student will be allowed to miss if permission is asked. Students with unique situations, such as but not limited to excessive absences or consecutive sick days, may be granted access to miss practice to catch up. Academics are a priority over athletics.

ELIGIBILITY

Students who participate on a team are required to pass all classes at the end of the first six-week grading period and nine weeks reporting dates. An athlete who fails a class will become ineligible to play in game competition for approximately three weeks. During this time, he is expected to participate in all practices. If, at the end of the three-week period **ALL GRADES ARE PASSING**, he will be allowed to compete again following the 7-day grace period. Lewisville ISD, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the University Interscholastic League, will determine specific day(s)/dates for eligibility. Habitual failure and low grades may result in a loss of eligibility, playing time, and removal from the program.

BEHAVIOR

Briarhill athletes will be held to a high degree of appropriate behavior on the field, court, and in the classroom. Their actions reflect directly on the integrity and pride of the school, athletic program, and community. Coaches retain the right to revoke the privilege when an athlete is not in compliance with policies, procedures, and/or expectations. Failure to do so may result in reduced/restricted playing time, disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the coaching staff, and/or removal from a team or the program. Athletes assigned to I.S.S. for violation of the code of conduct may not be allowed to participate in game competition during that time. This includes traveling with the team and standing on the sideline. A student serving a suspension may travel to the game(s) on his own and sit in the bleachers. Minimum suspensions for ISS are as follows:

1st ISS One Game Suspension

2nd ISS Two Game Suspension

3rd ISS Removal from the Program

A severe incident, even one, may result in the removal of the student-athlete from the program. An accumulation of minor unsatisfactory classroom behavior may also result in disciplinary action equivalent to that of an ISS.

Students should exude exemplary behavior in competition. Though competitions can present adversity, students are expected to respect the competition, the referees, the opponents, the fans, and the coaches.

Fouls for dissent or disrespectful behavior will result in suspension, e.g. unsportsmanlike personal foul (football), technical foul (basketball), yellow (for dissent or disrespect) or red card (soccer). The student may be removed for the remainder of the competition. The suspension, regardless of length, will be for the following competition(s).

SECURITY

Each student enrolled in the athletic class will receive a locker with an attached lock. The student is required to lock all belongings in his locker. Lockers should remain clean and free from excess. If a problem arises, the student should notify a member of the coaching staff. Please remember the following:

- Do not share your combination with anyone
- Do not share lockers
- Only use your assigned lockers
- Keep your locker shut and always locked
- Follow locker room rules as indicated by the coaching staff

Failure to do the above could result in damage, theft, or loss of privileges. Students are expected to financially reimburse the school if damage occurs to the lockers.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents are responsible for transporting athletes to and from all practices. Students should arrive by report time and be picked up at the designated time. Parents will receive a practice schedule from each coach indicating dates and times (Practice times will be placed on the SportsYou App). Parents are also responsible for picking up their child after each athletic contest. Lewisville Independent School District provides bus transportation to all games away from the Briarhill campus. Students are required to ride the bus with other team members to and from these games; however, parents may pick up their child at the away site if they sign their student out with the coach at the game. Athletes will not be allowed to ride home with anyone other than their parent, unless approved by Coach Cogbill 24-48 hours in advance of the contest. Failure to follow this rule may result in disciplinary action from school officials. Football will transport players to and from game sites (no signing out due to the importance of returning equipment to the school).

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Parent expectations of a coach:

- 1) Emphasis on student safety
- 2) Concern for student's well-being, physical and mental
- 3) Respect for the time of the student and his family
- 4) Clear, prompt communication

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- 1) Program and team expectations and requirements
- 2) Locations and times of practices and contests
- 3) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- 1) What your child needs to do to improve.
- 2) Any concerns about your student's physical or mental well-being
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much or the position you hoped for. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is the best interest of all students participating.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- 1) Playing time of your or another athlete.
- 2) Team strategy.
- 3) Play calling.
- 4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures are suggested to help promote resolution to the issue:

- 1) After waiting 24 hours, call or e-mail the coach to set up an appointment.
- 2) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- 3) Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
- 4) **DO NOT** confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation but often escalate it.

We prefer to talk to the athlete before any parent meetings are set up. We feel like this is a very important age for the athletes to learn to be a self-advocate.

Please follow the proper Chain of Command.

- 1) Specific Sport Coach
- 2) Briarhill Athletic Coordinator (Mitch Cogbill)
- 3) Principal (Dr. Tina Krol)
- 4) Marcus High School Athletic Coordinator (Mike Alexander)
- 5) LISD Middle School Athletic Coordinator (Cole Ford)
- 6) LISD Athletic Director (Cristie Liles)

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the athlete have read and understand the rules and requirements as set forth by the Briarhill Middle School Athletic Program and agree to abide by these policies for the duration of the 2026 – 2027 school year.

Parent / Guardian Signature_____

Parent / Guardian (Print) _____

Student Signature_____

Student Name (Print) _____

Date _____

PERMISSION TO VIDEO

The coaching staff uses video and pictures to record sports activities, make presentations, and motivate athletes to excel. These are often displayed in the locker room to provide immediate feedback to the students.

I give permission for my son to be recorded by video or camera while attending an athletic function or performing sports activity for Briarhill Middle School.

Parent Signature_____ **Date** _____

Please sign and return the last page of the athletic policies to a member of the boy's coaching staff. You may keep the packet for further reference. Thanks, and welcome to Briarhill Athletics.