

St. Jude School Athletic Program

Mission Statement

The athletic program at St. Jude School offers our students the opportunity to put into practice the Christian values that are the basis of Catholic education while developing their athletic skills. Athletics are a part of the overall school program and not an entity within itself, and thus our interscholastic teams strive to function as an integral part of the school community in accordance with our Christian values and the philosophy of education at St. Jude School. Everyone involved – student-athletes, coaches, parents, and supporters – must embrace the values of fair play, teamwork, dedication, discipline, and school spirit.

Athletic Program Goals:

1. Teach our student-athletes to treat all others with respect and to represent the school in an exemplary manner that displays integrity, loyalty and our Christian faith at all times.
2. Provide our student-athletes with the highest quality academic, athletic, social, and spiritual experience.
3. Develop and maintain a strong inclusive environment which promotes equity, sportsmanship, compliance, and diversity.
4. Achieve competitive success with every team.

Athletic Board Philosophy

The St. Jude Athletic Board is comprised of parents and faculty tasked with providing leadership and management of our interscholastic athletic program. At all times, the Board shall carry out its functions in a manner to help our student-athletes develop spiritually and physically while reaching the highest levels of success in competition. Board members will maintain their responsibility to the school and our student-athletes through individual accountability and commitment to effort, fair play, and competitive success.

Our Board's philosophy recognizes that the objectives of our teams differ depending upon the participants' age and grade level:

Grades 1-4 (Fun Runners, Intermediate Swim Team, PLAY Basketball, and Track & Field):

Emphasis is on introduction to basic skills and team concepts. The utmost priority is to create a fun learning experience that motivates every student-athlete to remain involved in the program in subsequent years. Competitive success is secondary to fun and individual development. Playing time for every team member in actual interscholastic competitions is mandatory, and equal playing time among all teammates, whenever possible, is encouraged.

Grades 5-6 (Junior Varsity Teams):

Emphasis remains on creating a fun and challenging experience while developing team and individual skills, but with more focus on competitive team success. Coaches should create an atmosphere where student-athletes strive for success in competition in preparation for participating at the varsity level. Playing time for all team members in actual interscholastic competitions is expected, but may not be equal depending upon the situation of each competition.

Grade 7-8 (Varsity Teams):

Emphasis shifts to competitive success and preparing student-athletes for participation in sports at the high school level, while still maintaining a fun and challenging atmosphere. Although individual development remains important, it may be secondary to team success. Playing time for all team members in interscholastic games, whenever possible, is encouraged, but team members must understand and embrace their role in helping the team win.