

September 21, 2020

Dear Parent,

As the Director of Athletics and Student Activities, I look forward to working with your daughter or son this school year. And, while we don't have any interscholastic competition planned at the moment, I believe it is important to share with you the Code of Conduct. Kent School's afternoon athletic and activity program is an integral component of student life, providing physical exercise through a range of intramural and interscholastic offerings as well as instruction in non-athletic activities. Through these required offerings, we aim to instill in our students an appreciation of physical activity we hope will last throughout their lives.

Coaches model and teach values such as discipline, commitment, and respect in order to promote development of character as well as sport specific skills. The teacher-coach model ensures that values promoted on our playing fields and those requisite for academic achievement and social development are consistent. Our coaches are committed to a positive coaching model with dual goals of achieving success on the field of play and helping players use their sports experience to learn "life lessons" that will guide them off the field. To teach these life lessons we espouse three themes I ask your help in promoting so that our students receive a consistent message from teacher/coach and parent. These three themes are:

1. A "mastery" orientation toward competition that emphasizes effort, learning and perseverance as opposed to a "win-at-all-cost" mentality.
2. Emphasizing praise over criticism – fostering an environment where coaches, players and parents supply each other with positive emotional support.
3. Honoring the game by respecting rules, opponents, officials, tradition, and teammates.

You can help support your child's athletic experiences at Kent by following these guidelines:

- Let your child know you appreciate when she/he and her/his teammates put forth outstanding effort (even if they lose a contest).
- Be patient and selective if commenting on your child's play, choosing times when they are most receptive (never during competition).
- Encourage your child regardless of what happens in the game. Try not to give any (or much) advice (especially during competition).
- Before giving advice, note a few things about your child's performance that you appreciated.
- Emphasize your desire for your child to "honor the game" (another term for sportsmanship) by giving her/his best effort and always playing within the letter and spirit of the rules.
- Most importantly, be a good role model.

In addition to following the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council's Code of Conduct and Ethics that disallows yelling at players, coaches or officials, I expect our parents to step forward and cheer our team and the opposing team when good plays are made (see "Sport Parent Code of Conduct" attachment).

Sincerely,



Cortney Duncan

Athletics and Activities Director