



**St. John's Lutheran School
Marysville, OH
Athletic Handbook
(Revised 01/2024)**

Philosophy of Athletics

The Mission of St. John's Lutheran School is: Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly, Make Disciples of Christ as we KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him, **SOW** His love in word and deed.

Interscholastic athletics are an extension of the classroom. Courts, fields, courses, and tracks are mere environmental changes where education still remains the primary goal. All dedicated and eligible student athletes will be given the opportunity to experience such educational athletics.

St. John's Lutheran School engages in athletics to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Promote Christian sportsmanship and fellowship among all concerned (teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, fans, etc.).
- ❖ Further develop technically correct physical skills.
- ❖ Promote respect for and acceptance of authority.
- ❖ Promote cooperation with other individuals in a team effort.
- ❖ Perseverance through time and team commitments.
- ❖ To enjoy participation in athletics now and in the future.
- ❖ To learn self-control in emotional situations.
- ❖ To learn appropriate acceptance of victory and defeat.

Information and Policies

1. Conference: Central Ohio Athletic League (C.O.A.L)

Columbus Torah Academy	Columbus, Ohio
Cypress Christian School	Galloway, Ohio
Genoa Christian Academy	Westerville, Ohio
Grace Christian School	Blacklick, Ohio
New Hope Christian School	Circleville, Ohio
Oakstone Academy	Westerville, Ohio
St. John's Lutheran School	Marysville, Ohio
One School	Gahanna, Ohio

2. Sports 7th- 8th graders (with implementation of 5th & 6th Graders):

Co-ed Soccer
Co-ed Club Golf
Girls Basketball
Co-ed Track

Girls Volleyball
Boys Basketball
Girls Cheerleading

* Athletic teams at St. John's are intended to be composed of 7th and 8th graders. Given the need for additional players, coaches may choose to have 5th and 6th graders on the roster.

3. Completing Rosters:

Rosters may be completed by adding immediate family of a current St. John's student or home school students taking a class at St. John's. Then, if rosters can not be filled, the Athletic Director and the Board of Education may ask other Lutheran school children (Trinity).

4. Academic Eligibility:

St. John's Lutheran School believes that the importance of school work must precede sports. In order to remain eligible to participate in interscholastic contests, student athletes must maintain a GPA of 2.5. A grading period constitutes quarter grades. If a student-athlete becomes ineligible, he or she will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic contests or practices.

5. School Cancellations:

When school is canceled due to fog, snow, power outage, etc. all athletic practices and home games will be determined by 3:00pm. Away games scheduled for that day will depend on the opponent. Parents may call in to the office to find out the status of the game. If school is canceled, practices will be held at the coach's discretion (attendance is voluntary).

6. School Absence:

An absence from school for more than a half day due to illness means a student- athlete cannot participate in any interscholastic contest on that same day.

7. Athletic Attendance:

Being part of a team is a commitment to your school, coaches, & teammates. If a situation arises where participation at practice or games is not possible, the parent/guardian must provide the coach with a written explanation prior to the absence as to why the absence will occur (a phone call or text would be expected). Should there be excessive absences the coach/Athletic Director may deem the student- athlete ineligible for the next scheduled competition. The student-athlete would still be expected to be present at the competition to support his or her teammates.

8. Transportation:

Due to liability concerns and administrative difficulties, St. John's Lutheran School will not be responsible for arranging transportation of any sort for away games. If the Athletic Director, coaches, teachers, or any persons affiliated with the school choose to accept passengers, they are acting as individuals not connected to St. John's in any way.

Carpooling is an act of good stewardship which St. John's encourages. Parents that wish to carpool may do so at their own discretion. Parents transporting students to a game are also responsible for transportation home from the game.

9. Doctor's Physical, Concussion, Handbook Agreement and Emergency Contact Forms:

Each athlete will need to have a physical form signed by a physician clearing them for sports activity prior to participating in any athletic practice or game associated with St. John's. Be aware that student-athletes without completed and current physical forms will forfeit their right to participate.

A form indicating your intent to follow school policies as well as a form collecting emergency contacts and an ambulance waiver must be turned into the coach before participation in athletics.

Starting April 26th, 2013, Ohio law (ORC 3313.539 and ORC 3314.03) prohibits schools from allowing a student to practice for or compete in school sports until the student-athlete has submitted a signed form stating that the student-athlete and the student's parent or guardian have received the concussion information contained in the sheet.

10. Parent Responsibilities:

- ❖ Support your child, school, coach, and team. Practice good sportsmanship. Enthusiastically support teams at athletic events without being over-zealous or critical of coaches and officials. Recognize and appreciate outstanding plays by either team. Use neither profane or obscene language, nor verbal assault.
- ❖ Arrange to have your child dropped off no more than 10 minutes before a scheduled practice, and picked up no more than 10 minutes after the practice is scheduled to end. Please also be prompt in picking up your child after games.
- ❖ Throughout the sports season, parents are needed to volunteer their time to assist with the scoreboard, scorebook, concessions, and admission for regular season games and tournaments. Parents/Guardians are expected to assist with these activities throughout the season.
- ❖ In general, the parent must exemplify everything positive that he/she wants the student athlete to be, if the student athletic program is to be successful.

11. The Student Athlete's Responsibilities:

- ❖ As ambassadors for our Lord, always maintain a Christ-like attitude.
- ❖ Remain academically eligible.
- ❖ Display good sportsmanship and respect at all times.
- ❖ Follow the coach's and official's instructions without complaint or argument.
- ❖ Be courteous to fellow student-athletes, as well as to coaches, officials, and fans from other schools.
- ❖ Attend all practices and games. Missing practices for excused or unexcused reasons means you will play proportionately less in interscholastic contests. Coaches will use their discretion in this area.
- ❖ Understand that playing time will not be equal but will be equitable. Trust that the coach has your education and enjoyment of the game in mind. Playing time is not guaranteed in tournament play.
- ❖ Treat your school-issued uniform with utmost care as it is not your property.
- ❖ Return your school-issued uniform within one week following the conclusion of the season.
- ❖ On game days, wear clothes considerably more dressy than the rest of the school or wear spirit wear. This is a great way of alerting the school to the fact that you are on a team that will be representing St. John's in a contest later that day.

12. All League Award:

The C.O.A.L. recognizes one or more student-athletes from each sports team who clearly shows good sportsmanship and leadership. These student-athletes will be voted on by their peers through a secret vote. The coach and Athletic Director have the final say in this process.

Coaches' Handbook

Given: Extra-curricular athletics are sponsored by St. John's Lutheran School as part of and as an extension of the school's educational program. Therefore, they are educational-athletics. The coach is the team's teacher, authority, and disciplinarian. The coach balances praise of the student athlete with constructive criticism of the student athlete. The athlete is a student of the game and behaves as one striving to learn the game.

Therefore, all coaches and student-athletes accept the following assumptions:

1. The athletic program is a Christian athletic program. Coaches and student athletes strive to perform to God's glory and to the best of their abilities. Coaches know that they are ambassadors for Christ, and as such, conduct themselves in a proper manner when dealing with athletes, parents, officials and fans. They model good sportsmanship and set a good example for players and spectators. This behavior includes the following attitudes/actions:

- A. Displaying a continuous love of Christ at all times.
 - B. Initiate team prayer before competitions.
 - C. Fostering positive and open communication with parents.
 - D. Following officials' instructions without complaint or argument.
2. Commitment to the team, discipline, and sportsmanship are integral parts of the program. Respect for the student-athlete's abilities should be displayed at all times.
 3. Remember – Winning is a goal but not the ultimate goal.
 4. A coach or an appointed adult needs to remain with the student athletes until all have been picked up.
 5. Communication – Clearly inform parents regarding changes to practice schedules. Clearly inform clearly regarding expectations for when & where student-athletes are to arrive at games.
 6. Evaluation – In an attempt to improve the athletic program here at St. John's Lutheran School, each athlete and their parents will be provided an opportunity to offer feedback of the coach and the program as a whole. An evaluation form will be sent home and then returned to the athletic director shortly after the season has ended. These forms will be passed on to the individual coach, along with an overall evaluation for the athletic director. The athletic director will also share this overall evaluation with the Board of Christian Education when needed. Information and feedback is an important evaluation tool for each coach to use for self-evaluation and program improvement.
 7. Safety – The safety of the student-athletes should be of the utmost importance and never negotiated or compromised. All coaches should complete necessary training prior to the start of the season.

Athletic Boosters

The athletic boosters are composed of family and friends of St. John's Lutheran School and its student-athletes. It thrives on volunteerism. Please contact the Athletic Director and/or watch out for announcements of booster meetings if you are interested in supporting our programs through your time and talents.

The boosters are responsible for many things. They host all home games via decorations, concessions, set up, clean up, and collecting gate money. They organize and facilitate fundraisers to provide the necessary monies needed to run an athletic ministry. They organize and facilitate any special events surrounding game days or award nights. They brainstorm to come up with new promotional ideas, festive events, or anything that could encourage growth of our athletic program.

For these and all the other innumerable ways the boosters provide for St. John's Lutheran School Athletics, we thank you very much.

Directions to Opponent's Facilities

Central College

975 South Sunbury Road
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Columbus School for Girls

56 South Columbia Avenue.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

Volleyball and Basketball: Take 270 East to 71 South. Exit on 108b to East Broad St. Turn left onto East Broad. Follow along east until you reach Columbia. Turn Right on Columbia. Park in the front lot of the school or along Columbia Ave.

Track and Field: 1885 Cassidy Ave Columbus Kirk Campus

Take 270 East for nearly 18 miles. Use exit 35A to catch 670 West toward the airport. Take exit 9 and follow signs for Cassidy Ave. Turn right on Cassidy when you reach the traffic light. Look for the Kirk Campus Entrance sign on the left.

Columbus Torah Academy

181 Noe Bixby Road
Columbus, Ohio 43213

Take 270 East and travel for more than 20 miles. Use Exit 41A to enter onto Main Street or highway 40 heading West. Take a right onto Noe Bixby Rd. Follow this road until you come upon the school.

Cypress Christian School

377 Alton & Darby Creek Road.
Galloway, Ohio 43119

Take 270 South to Exit 8 onto 70 West. Travel two miles and take exit 91A onto Hilliard-Rome Road South. Travel less than a mile and make a right onto Feder Rd. Once you have traveled a little over a mile watch for your left turn onto Alton & Darby Creek Road. Follow this road until you come upon the school.

Delaware Christian School

45 Belle Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Volleyball: Take Scottslawn/Watkins to 42. Turn left on 42. Continue on it for about 8 miles until it ends at a local road. Turn left on the local road. Turn right on Sandusky. Turn left on Belle.

Soccer: Take Scottslawn/Watkins to 42. Turn left on 42. Turn Right on Slack Rd. Turn left on Liberty. Fields will be on your right. Address 550 Liberty Rd.

Genoa Christian Academy

7562 Lewis Center Road.
Westerville, Ohio 43082

Take 270 East to I-71N towards Cleveland. Take the Polaris Parkway exit and turn right onto Polaris Parkway. Turn left onto Worthington Rd. Turn right onto Lewis Center Road. The school is on the right.

Grace Christian School

7510 East Broad Street
Blacklick, Ohio 43004

Volleyball and Basketball: Take 33 East to 270 East. After 21 miles use exit 39 Broad St to head East. After traveling nearly four miles, look for the school on the left.

Soccer: 5261 Taylor Road SW Pataskala OH 43062

Take 270 E to exit 35B towards US 62 Gahanna. Continue heading east on US62 for 5 miles as it becomes Granville Street and then Havens Corners. Turn right onto Taylor rd. Field will be immediately on your left.

Should you want to travel to the soccer field by way of the school: Go past the school on Broad St. and turn left on Taylor Road SW. Travel roughly 2 miles. Soccer field is on your right at the corner of Taylor Road SW and Havens Corner.

Liberty Christian Academy

10447 Refugee Road, Southwest
Pataskala, Ohio 43062

OR

ARC Fitness Complex
7072 National Road
Pataskala, OH 43062

TO SCHOOL: Take 270 E for 22 miles. Use Exit 39 to head east on US16/E Broad St. Travel roughly 8 miles and turn right onto Etna Pkwy. After traveling roughly 2 miles, turn left onto Refugee Rd. The school will be one mile down on the right.

TO ARC: Take 270 E for 24 miles. Use Exit 41 to head east toward Reynoldsburg on US40/Main St. While traveling 12 miles to destination, the road becomes National Rd SW.

New Hope Christian School

2264 Walnut Creek Pike
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Take 33 to 270 South. Head south on 23 using exit 52. Look for Sevan Auto Parts Yard on the left with a circular blue sign. Turn left onto the access road to North Court Street and then immediately jog right (30 feet). Go under the Railroad overpass (0.1 mile). Turn Left onto Bell Station Road (about 3 miles). At the stop sign, turn Right onto Walnut Creek Pike (0.5 mile). School will be on the left.

Polaris Christian Academy

1250 Gemini Place

Columbus, Ohio 43240 (not mailing address)

Take 33 East to 270 East to 71 North. Use exit 121 towards Gemini Place and take a left on Gemini Place. The mall will be on your left and the school will be on your right. Enter the gym through the church entrance.

Shekinah Christian Academy

10040 Lafayette-Plain City Road.

Plain City, Ohio 43064

Directions: Take Robinson Road. Make a right on Burns Road. Then turn left on Middleburg-Plain City Road. Continue on Middleburg-PC Road. It will cross over 161 and become Lafayette-Plain City Road. School is on the right.

I have read the St. John's Athletic Handbook and agree to follow the policies and procedures as stated.

Date: _____

Student Athlete Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____