



Dear Parent/Guardian and Student Athlete:

The mission of the Mounds View Public Schools Co-Curricular program is to pursue excellence through a broad range of co-curricular activities that develop skills, builds character, and fosters a sense of belonging in a respectful learning environment. It is important to strive for participants to have a positive experience and feel valued in the athletic program.

Within the pursuit of excellence and sense of belonging comes high school programming that attempts to develop a balance between student connectedness and competition. This constant change in participation by athletes at different levels and the rise of competition amongst student athletes may bring about frustration, questions regarding programming, and playing time of players. Please see the following information in order to gain a perspective pertaining to the specific area of team selection and competition.

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by the school district to be responsible for team selection and playing time. Criteria for selection are established by the head coach, with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Team selection, practices and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff.

If you have questions regarding the process, please address these questions directly to the head coach. Please call the coach to make an appointment outside of school, practice, or game time. If you have further questions the coach has not been able to answer, please contact the activities director.

2. The Mounds View School District athletic program has become highly competitive as many students are participating who have different skill sets for the activity they seek participation in. Due to large schools and roster limitations, some students may not be selected for a team they tryout for. Please understand one of the hardest things coaches have to do is to tell young people they were not chosen for a roster spot on a team.

Please be sure when your child tries out for a team, they understand there is a possibility of not being selected on a team roster. If selected students should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, i.e., 9th grade, B-squad, junior varsity and varsity. It is unfortunate to have a student tryout for a team and then quit because they were not placed on a team they had hoped to be part of. It is important to understand by quitting a team this has taken away someone else's opportunity to be part of a sport program.

3. In athletics there are many "select teams" sponsored by many different organizations. Each coach looks for something different in the skill set of players. Participation on a "select team" does not guarantee any player a spot on another "select team" or any high school team. While we believe players can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to "guarantee" a spot on a high school team.

4. In order to make a varsity team a player must be highly skilled. Thus, all grade levels that are eligible to play a varsity sport will be considered for the varsity roster. Starting positions and amount of playing time are determined by the coach. Some members may play a great deal of time in a contest while others athletes may see less playing time. Each member of a team is very valuable to the team's overall progress including students having personal improvement as one of their goals to help improve overall team success.

In closing, by being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable lessons. Citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciating good play by an opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility and commitment to team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for one's own actions are all areas to help us grow in personal development. Thank you for your support!

Chris Fink, Activities Director