

TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS TRYING OUT FOR CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL BASKETBALL 2009/2010 Season

Dear Parents –

We hope you have taken the time to read our **Corpus Christi Athletic Program** and **Corpus Christi Athletic Club By-Laws documents** which are posted on the school website. It is in your best interest to review the Program fully so you can make informed decisions about your family's participation in this program. Any Athletic Club Board Member is available to answer questions anytime.

We will provide details about the Teams, Player Selection, and Coaches below. Please also be aware of the following requirements:

1 – Volunteer Participation. Our entire program runs with volunteer organizers and coaches --no paid staff. As with all other sports programs, you and all involved will be asked to commit a relatively small amount of volunteer time to help. Whether it is taking tickets at games, helping with concessions, or any other coordinator position that fits your interest, we need all parents committed to helping us run our program. If your son or daughter is selected to play, you will receive a full listing of volunteer assignments and it will be your responsibility to change positions or swap out time slots for your volunteer time. Coaches will also be reminding parents during the year who have not offered their time.

2 – Fees and Forms. Medical Forms will be distributed and need to be collected prior to the first practice. Fees are \$125 per player for Varsity and JV-A Level. JV-B Level, if we have the teams, is \$75. **Coaches will not allow a player to practice until we receive your Medical Form, and we will not issue a game uniform until we receive the Fee. These are both ours and Deanery Rules.**

3 – Coaches. We are fortunate this coming year to have a number of returning coaches at both the Varsity and JV levels. However, if you have coached in the past or have an interest, please call a Board member. Things change, and it is useful to know who may be available.

4 – Teams and Selections. (For complete details, please see our Athletic Program Document)

Varsity – We will select one Varsity Boys team and one Varsity Girls team from 7th and 8th graders. Based on the rankings by independent evaluators at our Try-Out, 10 players will be selected to play, possibly up to 12, but the total number of players selected is primarily the Coach's discretion. The Central Connecticut Deanery League plays a competitive level of basketball, you as a parent need to be prepared to have a positive conversation if your son or daughter does not make a Varsity team.

Junior Varsity – We make every effort to accommodate as many players as we can at the JV level from 4th to 6th grade. However, this is entirely dependent on 1) coaches available to work with a second or third team, and 2) available court time. This year, we anticipate possibly running at least two JV teams each for boys and girls with the levels to be determined (JV-A level versus JV-B level).

Our JV level program is set up to first select a JV -A level competitive team and an A2 or B team that can concentrate on further developing fundamentals. Based on independent evaluation at try-outs, the first 10 to 12 athletes will participate on the first JV A team and the next (up to) 10 athletes on a second JV A-2 team, or possibly a second JV B team, depending on skill levels. *We believe grouping players with like talent promotes more efficient practices and allows better concentration on developing fundamentals at each respective level.*

Evaluations - We secured highly credible and independent evaluators who have extensive basketball knowledge and are able to objectively assess players based on athleticism and skill. *This process will be fair.*

Basketball evaluators will be using a formal ranking system based on a player demonstrating -

- Speed, aggressiveness, ball handling, court vision, passing ability, and athleticism at the 1 and 2 spot.
- Versatility to play between the 3 & 4 positions with movement on the court, rebounding and athleticism.
- Height, strength, rebounding, and footwork are key components at the 5 spot.

Obviously, other factors can be considered at a program level such as the ability to playing multiple positions, being a team player, work ethic, positive attitude, and other factors that that could have been demonstrated during prior years of experience either at Corpus Christ or other school or town programs.

Decisions to finalize rosters will be made within 48 hours from the tryout date. *We will not discuss specific rankings but will discuss the program and team structures.*

Playing Time - Parents and players need to understand that playing time at the Varsity Level is entirely up to the coaches who are competing for end of season Playoff spots. We encourage our coaches to offer game playing time to as many players as possible, but this is not required. As a parent, you need to be prepared to discuss with your son or daughter that just participating in a Team sport has great value and that hard work can also potentially pay off down the road.

At the JV level, the Deanery League requires coaches to allow a minimum of 6 minutes of playing time per game at the JV level as best they can, so keeping more than 10 players per team at the JV level has pros and cons while trying to meet this requirement.

Please also be aware that because of availability of time slots, we are generally able to enter only the first JV-A Boys and Girls teams in the annual February Frenzy. We do also explore other tournament options during the winter for second JV teams.

Closing Message –

As also explained in our Program Document, the team selection process is not an enjoyable part of sports. We need to be fair keeping all kids' best interests in mind and also understand that being selected for a team sport should not involve accommodations or entitlements. Parents need to understand this dynamic and should have an active role in preparing a child if he or she does not make a team or a team of choice. Parents can positively reinforce to a child that there are always opportunities to work hard and try again or pursue using his or her wonderful talents in other sports or activities. We hope your player makes the team. But if not, *it is up to you, not us*, what message you want to convey.

Finally, our Board and Program directors worked very hard last year to secure the coaches and court time to allow as many players on the court as possible. We thank all involved, as well as our volunteer parents, as we look forward to another successful season.

Best Wishes,
Corpus Christi Athletic Board