



Cliff Cole
Superintendent

July 2016

To The Parents of All Athletes in the Paulding County School District:

As part of a District-wide Sportsmanship Initiative for the 2015-2016 school year, we are asking for your support in providing positive role-modeling for our student-athletes.

The involvement of our students in athletics contributes to the development of their values system. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness and respect are lifetime values that are taught through athletics. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and grateful acceptance of the results.

The following are the expectations of parents/guardians of our student-athletes in the Paulding County School District:

- *Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game*
- *Encourage our students to perform their best*
- *Participate in positive cheers and comments that encourage our student-athletes and discourage any cheers or comments that would redirect that focus*
- *Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the games, the officials who administer them and their decisions*
- *Respect the task our coaches face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate our youth*
- *Respect our opponents as students and acknowledge them for striving to do their best. Treat the opponents and their spectators with courtesy.*
- *Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances*

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and the Paulding County School District require the reading of a sportsmanship statement before high school athletic events.

"The Paulding County School District, the GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all athletic events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

Another component of the Sportsmanship Initiative is the implementation of a *SPORTSMANSHIP CUP*. This award will be presented annually to the school that scores the highest in terms of overall sportsmanship. Kim Curl and John Henderson are the sponsors of the Sportsmanship Cup. Part of the scoring for the cup is based on input regarding acts of great sportsmanship. When you observe an act of great sportsmanship we would like to hear the details.

(over please)

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Accredited by the AdvancEd Accreditation Commission

Every student athlete and their parents will receive a Student-Parent Athletic Handbook. This handbook will provide more information about positive sportsmanship in our school district. Inside the handbook is an "Athletic Responsibility Acknowledgement Form" that must be signed by the student and parent and submitted back to the school.

If you would like to read a weekly blog on the athletic activities of the Paulding County School District you can go to:

<http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/426>

For more information on Paulding County School District Athletics, please go to this link:

<http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/domain/223>

We look forward to a tremendous year in athletics and sportsmanship at all of the Paulding County School District high schools! We appreciate your support!

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