

## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

This Athletic Handbook is provided to inform students and parents of the athletic procedures and policies of Saint Theresa Catholic School. We ask parents to carefully read all sections of the handbook and review them with their child (ren).

Saint Theresa Catholic School operates in accordance with the Archdiocesan Board of Education policy Number 621 which states:

“A school within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that will be known as a Catholic School shall follow the regulations as set forth by the Catholic School Office.”

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston guarantee all students the rights and privileges, programs, and activities made available to the general student body. Catholic Schools do not on the basis of race, color, age or national origin.

Saint Theresa adheres to the guidelines established by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and maintains full accreditation status. We currently hold membership in the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). Our athletic association is governed under the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA) and West Houston Christian Athletic Conference guidelines.

Saint Theresa Catholic School and administration retain the right to amend the Athletic Handbook. By no means is this handbook considered all inclusive. Administration and staff will exercise professional judgement and discretion to address situations fairly and consistently.

The enrollment of a child(ren) at Saint Theresa Catholic School in athletics is considered to be an agreement on the part of the student and parents or guardians; that they will comply with all school procedures, regulations and policies including, but not limited to, such procedures, regulations, and policies in this Athletic Handbook.

## INTRODUCTION

Sports are an important part of the education, teaching and formation of students at Saint Theresa Catholic School. They are a means to form the will, channel the passions, and develop teamwork through commitment and selflessness. Team sports also provide students with the opportunity to exercise Christian virtues, especially obedience, patience, fortitude, humility, and natural virtues such as punctuality, order discipline, honesty and self-denial. Student athletes must therefore respect and obey the authority of their coaches and observe game rules.

Saint Theresa Catholic School offers team play for girls in basketball, soccer, track, and volleyball (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), baseball (coach pitch for K-1<sup>st</sup>, machine pitch for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>). We offer team play for boys in basketball, soccer, track (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) and baseball.

Additional sports are periodically considered if there is sufficient interest on the part of students and parents. The athletic program falls under the jurisdiction of the School, and is administered by the Athletic Director, full and part-time coaches, and parent volunteers. The Booster Club is a parent organization that supports the athletic program. Saint Theresa Catholic School is a member of the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA), West Houston Christian Athletic Conference (WHCAC), and is bound by all the rules of the league.

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Participation in athletics is a privilege, requiring a commitment from both the student and his or her parents. Students earn the privilege of participation through maintaining a commitment to academics, effort, dedication, desire and self-discipline. To be eligible for student participation the following conditions must be met:

### Academics and Conduct:

State law requires that students be in good academic standing before participation in any extracurricular activities. To be eligible to participate in sports, students must maintain an average of "C" or better in every subject area and have satisfactory conduct in all classes in order to fully participate on a Saint Theresa Catholic School sports team.

Opportunity to participate is determined by eligibility checks, which are held two weeks after the mid-point of the first quarter. The first check of the second, third, and fourth quarters is a check of the final grades of the previous quarter. If a student is placed on probation or is ineligible to play as defined below in Sections a) and b), the period begins on the day following the grade check and continues for two school weeks until grades are reassessed. If a student athlete does not improve academically or behaviorally in the deficient class/classes, he/she will remain ineligible to play through the next two week period until reassessment.

The Athletic Director will notify the coaches, parents, and student athletes of their play status within 24 hours of the eligibility ruling. Situation that would affect a student athlete's playing status are as follows:

- a) Each student must have a final grade of **78** or above to participate in the sports program at STCS. Therefore, if the average grade is below the aforementioned he or she will be ineligible to play.
- b) In the event a student athlete is suspended from school, the student athlete will be ineligible to play on a Saint Theresa Catholic School sports team for a period of two weeks. The two week period will consist of days when school is in session and does not involve holidays or times when school is not in session. The period of ineligibility will begin on the day that written notice of suspension is given to the student/parent and will continue for ten school days. The student may attend practices with the exception of the actual day(s) of suspension. The student cannot participate in game play and cannot travel with team during the ten day period.
- c) Student athletes, who display inappropriate behaviors that lead to a major referral, may, at the discretion of the Headmaster, Assistant Principal, or Coach be subject to the same policies that apply to student athletes who have been suspended. Verbal and/or written notice will be given to the student athlete and parent.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The head coach, coaches or sponsor in concurrence with the Athletic Director are responsible for the team selection process for each sport. Absence from practice may affect play time. Play-off and championship game individual participation is at the coaches' discretion, meaning that not every team member is guaranteed playing time. Middle School teams are competitive and not all players may play every game.

Team Meeting: All Coaches will hold pre-season meetings. Attendance of at least one parent is strongly encouraged. Students are provided with a copy of the Athletic Handbook, fee requirements, practice schedules and game schedules. Addresses for game venues will be emailed to parents. Parents are responsible for knowing all information presented at the meeting.

#### PRACTICES

Students are expected to attend all practices, games, and meetings called by the coach. If a student misses a practice, game, or meeting, the coach must be notified immediately. Students who miss practices, games, or meeting may lose playing time in future games. Students are expected to be picked up immediately after practice and at the conclusion of any games.

#### UNIFORMS, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

School issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for all Saint Theresa games, competitions, practices, and special activities. Athletic uniforms may only be worn for athletic competitions. Uniforms may not be worn outside of school or on Spirit Day unless specific permission is given by the Headmaster or Athletic Director.

Saint Theresa Catholic School is responsible for providing the facilities and equipment needed for practices and games. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as socks, shoes, kneepads, safety glasses, shin guards, and other designated items.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Only parents or pre designated carpool arrangements will be allowed to pick up players from “away” competitions. Students must be signed out by the parent or designated adult. In the event of scrimmages or a weekend competition/tournament, parents are responsible for arranging transportation. Parents must provide transportation to all games.

#### INJURIES

Saint Theresa Catholic School provides medical insurance for students participating in athletic activities through an insurance company. Coverage will be secondary to a family’s existing policies or as a primary provider in cases where this is the only insurance available. Complete documentation of the injury and situation is to be recorded and submitted by the attending staff member.

#### SPORTSMANSHIP

A student athlete whose conduct, dress or other display of behavior is unbecoming of a Saint Theresa student or whose behavior reflects poorly on the reputation of the school can be declared ineligible for athletic competition. Such decisions are made by the Coach and Athletic Director in consultation with the Headmaster.

#### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Students must be in good standing on all financial obligations to the school; this includes tuition, fees, etc. Students will be required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which they participate. Athletic fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full prior to the first practice date. Students wanting to play sports that need financial assistance should contact the Athletic Director.

#### ATTENDANCE

Students with an absence on the day of a game or practice may not participate in athletic activities that day. A minimum of half day attendance is required to participate in athletics. Students must complete at least 3.5 hours of school in order to participate in activities. If a student leaves prior to 11:30 a.m. they may be unable to participate in the scheduled activities.



## SPORTS PROTOCOL

All students that will be playing sports must leave with their parent/guardian at the time of school dismissal.

Parents that have children in Extended Day must make their own arrangements for their child to be picked up for practice.

Parents/Guardian must pick up their child after practice at designated time of practice ending. In the result of late pickup, parents may forfeit the remainder of their child's season, and the child will be escorted to the extended day. Parents will be charged for that day.

In case of one coach at practice, child will remain with the coach until last practice of the day and after practice the child will be escorted to extended day.

Students must leave campus property if they need to change into sports uniforms. If students need to use the restroom, the coach will escort the student to the restroom and stand outside bathroom making sure no one else will go into the bathroom. At no time will any student be allowed back in the school building after practice.

If a student has a medical condition and is in need of an Inhaler, Epipen, or etc., parents/guardian must be present at games and practices to administer if needed. If parent/guardian are not present, the child will not be able to participate in practices or games.

## BOOSTER CLUB

A key to building upon the solid foundation of success and character in our athletic program is an active booster club. An organization that is comprised of Saint Theresa Catholic School parents, alumni and friends with the following mission:

The mission of the Griffin Booster Club is to support and promote Griffin athletic activities, promote school spirit, provide financial assistance to sustain the programs, and act in an advisory capacity to the administration, individual sports and athletic activities at Saint Theresa Catholic School.

By joining the Griffin Booster Club, you will help us provide a balanced program that encourages the student-athletes to make Christian character a top priority, while pursuing a high quality education and lifestyle consistent with Saint Theresa Catholic School standards.

Although our athletes receive a great deal of help and encouragement from the school staff nothing can take place of the enthusiastic support of their parents.

We urge you to join the Griffin Booster Club and become an active member. Many of the benefits which your children enjoy in the athletic program will be provided by our Booster Club. In order to ensure that these benefits will continue for your child as well as future students, new active members are always needed.

The funds that we raise will help pay for equipment and facilities enhancements for our student athletes. We have a program in place that offers these funds to all coaches of our boys and girls teams and we work closely with the Saint Theresa Catholic School Athletic Director, Lamar Holt to ensure that we meet the needs of the different programs.

Our desire is for all parents of Saint Theresa Catholic School students to be booster club members and support our student athletes and coaches as we build the name recognition of Saint Theresa Catholic School.