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NMCS Families,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The halls of NMCS are filled with Christmas cheer and both gyms are bursting with excitement with the start of the high school basketball season. I am excited to be a part of the basketball scene at NMCS for the first time and I am looking forward to a great slate of matchups that we have lined up on the schedule.

Our latest athletic communication and updates can be found below. If you ever need anything or have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Newest Comet

My wife and I are excited to introduce you to the newest Comet family member. Sutton Trey Reed was born on Nov. 17 at 1:48am in Big Rapids and was 5 pounds 7 ounces. The name "Sutton" comes from our love for Pure Michigan road trips and exploring adventures. While dating, our first road trip together was Suttons Bay. We have made it a rule ever since to name our children after Michigan town names that mean something to our relationship.

Both Ellen and Sutton are now doing great and we thank the NMCS community for their generosity throughout the birth of our first child.



Winter Sports Coaches

Introducing our 2022-2023 winter sports coaches! These individuals are committed to offering the best experience and Christ centered focus for your student athletes.

Varsity Boys Basketball – Kyle Benthem
Varsity Girls Basketball – Rich Bennett
JV Boys Basketball – Shawn Pattee
JV Girls Basketball – DeNay Tossey
8th Grade Boys Basketball – Jeff VanNoord
7th Grade Boys Basketball – Joe Quales
8th Grade Girls Basketball – Sarah Pluger
7th Grade Girls Basketball – Joe Cucinella

Winter Schedules

Winter high school basketball schedules are posted and will be updated live as schedule changes happen. The school Google calendar is also still a good resource to use. To easily access team by team schedules, check out the "Winter Schedule" tab at nmcs.us/athletics.

Comet Spirit and Gear

As you travel around to different schools this winter supporting our Comets, be sure to show your Comet spirit! Being a part of the NMCS community is a special privilege and we should represent that spirit with class and respect wherever we go. The Comet gear store is always open and rotates in many new items throughout the year so make sure you are representing!

As Christ followers in today's world, the public eye will be sharply focused on us and our athletic teams. Our traveling athletic teams and fans and our hospitality at home events is the perfect way to shine a light for Christ in today's world. In reality, the way we represent Christ may be the only exposure our competition, home or away, gets to the love of Jesus and the Christian lifestyle. We have a unique and eternal responsibility!

Eligibility

With the start of the new season, I would like to remind everyone of our eligibility policy. We hold our student athletes to a high standard on and off the playing surface and the eligibility process aids in that goal. Our goal is to teach proactive responsibility and respect on the playing surface and in the classroom through our Christ centered approach.

What does it mean to be ineligible?

1. Absent from class for at least ½ day
2. Not enrolled in at least 6 classes
3. Failing 1 or more classes
4. Incomplete classwork (3 or more missing assignments)
5. Violation of the Comet Commitment and Christian Citizenship agreement
6. No Comet Commitment or physical on file in the office

Consequences

1. Sitting out practice or competition until missing assignments are completed.
2. Sitting out practice or competition until appropriate effort (individual plan or grade is raised) is made.
3. Sitting out practice or competition until cleared by AD or Principal due to Comet Commitment violation.

Missing practice will almost always naturally lead to missing the next competition, unless cleared by Athletic Director and Principal. Practice time should be used to catch up on classwork and improve grades if a student athlete is marked ineligible.

Tracking and Communication

1. Tracked every two weeks during the active semester.
 - a. **THURSDAY WARNING**
 - i. Student athletes of concern are sent a warning email if they risk being on the "Check List" once Monday arrives.
 - ii. The weekend should be used to catchup on missing work or to improve the grade in hopes of remaining off the "Check List" come Monday.
 - b. **MONDAY CHECK**
 - i. Communication received by student athlete and parent from Athletic Director outlining ineligibility.

Comet Commitment Reminder

At NMCS, playing sports and being involved in the Comet Community is a privilege. Within this Christian community, we all play an important role in upholding our beliefs and guidelines. As a reminder regarding our "Comet Commitment," even in the busyness of the season, we still pursue excellence in all we do on and off the playing surface.

Being a Comet means that we are uniquely different in how we operate and compete. As Christ followers, it brings our community great joy to see our teams interacting and competing in ways that set us apart from the competition and in ways that bring joy to our Lord and Savior.

Thank you for your continued support of Comet Athletics!

Trey Reed
NMCS Athletic Director

