

Saint Patrick School

of the Terre Haute Deanery



Athletic Handbook

2024-2025 Academic Year

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Saint Patrick School

of the Terre Haute Deanery

Dear Parents,

*I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything,
even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.*

- Saint Dominic Savio

Welcome to the athletic program at Saint Patrick School of the Terre Haute Deanery!

The Athletic Booster Club is happy that you and your child have chosen to take advantage of the athletic programs at SPS. We know it can be an enjoyable and meaningful experience for both you and your child. The athletic program depends on adult volunteers, so it is our desire that **YOU** will be supportive and dedicated to our program's continued growth. Cooperation between all those involved is so very important to its success. We look forward to another exciting and rewarding year of your family's athletic involvement at SPS!

Special thanks to the members of the Athletic Booster Club who devote their time and energy to fundraising and organizing special events that completely fund our school's athletic program.

SAINT PATRICK ATHLETIC PROGRAM

MISSION

The purpose of the St. Patrick athletic program is to provide supervised athletic opportunities for St. Patrick School students, thereby enhancing their spiritual, physical, and social development. The athletic program promotes leadership, teamwork, discipline, academic achievement, and commitment in a Christian environment.

AVAILABLE SPORTS & CALENDAR

The following sports programs are available for St. Patrick students in grades 6 - 8, depending on availability of coaches and facilities. Other sports may be added if there is enough interest.

If there are too many middle school participants, try-outs will be held. If teams do not have enough middle school participants, students in grade five may be included. The calendar below shows the season time frame for all the major activities sponsored by the athletic program.

Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Cross Country									
Volleyball									
Boys Tennis									
		Boys Basketball							
		Cheerleading							
				Girls Basketball					
						Swimming			
							Girls Tennis		
							Track & Field		

PHYSICALS

All participants in St. Patrick athletics are required to have a physical examination. A completed and signed Athletic Physician Certificate must be on file with the school office *before* a student may participate in practices or games, including those held during the summer months. Physicals on file must be no more than one year old to be considered valid. The form must be filed with the Athletic Director any time after May 1 for the following school year, and is valid for all sports the whole year. Physical forms can be found on the St. Patrick School website, the IHSAA website, or through the Athletic Director.

PRACTICES

Practices for all indoor sports are usually held in the St. Patrick School gym. Running programs will meet at local parks for long-distance training or other track sites for event and speed work. Practice days and times will vary with each team, but will last no later than 9:00 P.M. Our coaches are volunteers, and out of respect for their time, they will not be expected to stay later than five minutes after the end of a practice to wait for a child to be picked up. It is essential that parents drop-off and pick-up or arrange for the same of their child(ren) in a timely manner.

ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Indoor school team events typically begin at 6:00 P.M. Outdoor events typically begin at 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. Games will be scheduled by the Athletic Director Monday through Thursday. Due to occasional facility constraints, some games may be scheduled for Saturday. Opportunities for tournament play exist for each team based on schedule availability, cost, and location. The Athletic Director will work with the school principal and coaches when making tournament entry decisions.

CONFLICTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation on a team is a commitment to the school, teammates, and self. Students are expected to come to practices, games, and meets. Parents are expected to be mindful of this commitment and support their child(ren) in meeting this commitment. An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities at the same time will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. We recognize that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of extracurricular experiences, and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts between St. Patrick sponsored activities. Students are to be mindful of their commitment to St. Patrick teams when involved in non-St. Patrick activities. Students choosing to attend non-school related sports practices and games instead of attending a game or event for their St. Patrick team can be devastating when the pool of individuals St. Patrick has to choose from is limited. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This includes being cautious about participating in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen and notifying coaches immediately when a conflict does arise.

PARENT MEETINGS

Coaches will hold a meeting for the parents of all student-athletes prior to the start of the season or at the first practice to communicate the coach's expectations and other important information about the athletic program. The parents meeting will cover: introduction of coaches and Athletic Handbook including parental responsibilities. The coaches will also review their individual policies and expectations, game schedules, and uniform laundering instructions (if applicable). Practice schedules will be communicated by the coach on a weekly basis. The Athletic Director will provide instructions and organize the schedule for parents to work admissions, concessions, score clock, and scorebook for all home games/events.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

All athletic games and practices will be canceled anytime that St. Patrick School is closed (or dismissed early) due to inclement weather. Parents should contact the coach or school office if they are unsure of the status of a game or practice.

When there is inclement weather during school breaks or weekends, the Athletic Director will work with the opposing school to determine whether or not to cancel games. Coaches will not cancel any games without first coordinating with the Athletic Director; however, coaches may cancel practices without approval of the Athletic Director. The coaches will communicate this decision to parents.

ATHLETIC AWARDS BANQUET

Athletic awards banquet will be scheduled at the end of the school year to recognize all student-athletes who participated in the St. Patrick athletic program. Each student athlete will receive a certificate of recognition based on the sports of participation.

TEAM AWARDS

St. Patrick presents awards to three student-athletes on each team. The Cam Taylor “Mental Attitude” award goes to the athlete on the team that displays the best attitude, spirit, sportsmanship, and commitment to playing to the best of his or her abilities that exemplified former St. Patrick student-athlete, Cam Taylor. Each coach will be able to present two additional awards to their team based on their own criteria. This can be recognition such as Most Improved, Most Valuable Player/Runner, Best Defender, School Spirit, etc.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Students with a cumulative school year grade point average of 3.5 or above will receive a Scholar Athlete award.

SHAMROCK AWARD

St. Patrick School will award one male and one female eighth grade athlete the Shamrock Award. The Athletic Director and coaches of 8th grade athletes will evaluate all student athletes on athleticism, coachability, sportsmanship, team leadership, Christian attitude, and ability to maintain GPA standards.

EDDIE CONNER AWARD

The Eddie Connor Award is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Terre Haute. It is given to one male and female eighth grade student from each of the area schools. The principal and teachers choose the recipient based on the following criteria: character, sportsmanship, respect of rules, loyalty, courtesy, personal development, interest in working with younger children, athletic ability, mental ability, discipline, getting along with others, respect for others, motivation, and scholarship.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OPPORTUNITIES & ELIGIBILITY

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE TEAM SPORTS (when available)

Fourth and Fifth grades are a developmental time in a student's life and these students should be encouraged to participate in team sports when possible. At this level, team sports will focus more on instruction, skill development, and teamwork. When available, all students who have a desire to participate in a sport shall be offered a position on the team, provided he or she is not otherwise ineligible. Academic Eligibility standards must also be met. Please refer to the "Student-Athlete Academic Eligibility Standards" below.

SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH GRADE TEAM SPORTS

Team sports at the middle school level shall be more competitive. Although all students will be offered a position on the team(s) for the sports they are interested in playing, playing time will be determined by athletic skill, prior and/or other outside experience in that particular sport, sportsmanship, attitude, teamwork, and other factors as determined by the coach. One of the goals of middle school athletics is to prepare students for the competitive and rigorous atmosphere of high school sports and to make sure they have the skills and training needed to move to the next level. Academic Eligibility standards must also be met. Please refer to the "Student-Athlete Academic Eligibility Standards" below.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Grade checks will be conducted every two weeks. If a student-athlete receives an 'F' in any subject at a grade check or their GPA falls below a 2.0, they become ineligible and will be suspended from games until improved grades are displayed. A student on academic probation may be a spectator at games, but may not participate until reinstated. Participation in practices is at the parent's discretion until the athlete is reinstated.

Probation and reinstatement begin on the day of grade checks. Reinstatement will occur if the above grade requirements are met at the next grade check time. The Athletic Director will contact coaches and parents of those who are ineligible at the time of grade checks and follow up when reinstatement occurs.

For an athlete to be honored at the banquet, they must remain eligible for at least 50% of the season.

ABSENTEEISM

Any student-athlete with an unexcused absence from school is ineligible to participate in practices or games that day. Any student-athlete with an excused absence may participate in practices or games that day, unless the student-athlete is ill.

BEHAVIOR

School Administration, teachers, and the Athletic Booster Club feel strongly that high standards of Christian behavior and citizenship are necessary to the success of the athletic program. Participation in athletics is a privilege earned by the students and not a right. The privilege carries with it honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Just as the student-athletes, as ambassadors of St. Patrick, are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner on and off the court, so too are the coaches, parents, and fans. The actions of all student-athletes, parents, coaches and fans should reflect positively on themselves, the team, the school, and the community.

Any coach, parent, or fan engaging in un-Christian like and/or unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior at a practice or sporting event shall be asked to leave the premises immediately. Should this unacceptable behavior continue thereafter, the coach, parent, or fan may be barred permanently from attending future sporting events and/or practices.

Suspensions

The Principal or Athletic Director have the right to suspend a student-athlete from participation if rules are violated or conduct unbecoming of a Christian athlete is displayed and will notify parents of the suspension. The Principal has the right to suspend a student-athlete from participation for violations such as unexcused absences, destroying/defacing school property, bullying in any form, inappropriate language or presence (both in person and through social media), serious or repeated behavior infractions and the like. The Athletic Director will notify coaches and parents of the suspension. Any student-athlete engaging in conduct/behavior described above will be subject to the following:

- First Offense: A short suspension of at least one game.
- Second Offense: One week suspension from practices and games.
- Further Offenses: Any individual serving an in-school suspension on the day of a practice or game will automatically be ineligible to participate on that day. A student-athlete serving out of school suspension will be ineligible to participate in games or practices for the duration of the suspension. The Athletic Director will inform the coach and the student-athlete when the individual may resume participation.

RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

STUDENT-ATHLETES WILL: Display Christian behavior at all times.

- Display good sportsmanship.
- Treat their teammates, coaches, opposing team, and officials with respect. For example, student-athletes should say thank you when officials hand them the ball, shake hands with competitors, etc.
- Take good care of gyms, locker rooms, and other facilities used for practices and games and stay out of classrooms and other areas not associated with the athletic event.
- Commit to their team by attending all practices and games. Notify the coach if a conflict arises and an absence will occur.
- Dress presentably and in good taste at all times to present a positive image for your team and school. Hairstyles shall be consistent with school policy.
- Take good care of uniforms and equipment. Uniforms are not to be worn to non-St. Patrick events. Uniforms are returned to the coach or Athletic Director immediately after the last game of the season.
- Abide by the policies and rules of the Athletic Handbook.

PARENTS WILL: Teach Christian values and sportsmanship through example at games and events. Inappropriate language and berating the officials will not be tolerated.

- Refrain from coaching your child(ren) from the stands. This parental “coaching” interferes with the instruction from the coach and results in confusion of the athletes.
- Treat all student-athletes, coaches, opposing teams, and officials with respect.
- Attend the mandatory parents meeting held by the coach at the beginning of the season.
- Provide on-time transportation to and from practices and games. Parents are not to leave their children unattended at a sporting event or practice. For example, a parent may not drop off their child(ren) at a practice or event unless there is a coach or other responsible adult present who agrees to accept the responsibility for the child. In addition, parents are required to pick-up their child from practice and events within five minutes of the end of the game, event or practice. Should the parents of a student violate this policy more than three times during a sport season the consequences could include either a temporary or permanent suspension of the student-athlete from that particular sport for the current school year.
- Work admissions, concessions, score clock, and/or scorebook the number of times designated by the coach. Parents must find a replacement if they are unable to work when scheduled. Children are not allowed to handle admissions or concessions money. They may not help with admissions or concessions unless supervised by at least one adult.
- Help set up the St. Patrick gym for all home games and clean up after the last game of the day.
- Take good care of uniforms by following washing instructions. No alterations are to be made to the uniforms. Return uniforms to the coach after the season is over.
- Abide by the policies and rules of the Athletic Handbook.

COACHES WILL: Exemplify and model Christian values and sportsmanship by teaching, mentoring, and supporting student-athletes. Inappropriate language and berating the officials will not be tolerated.

- Teach Christian values and sportsmanship through example at practices, games and events. Inappropriate language and berating the officials or players will not be tolerated.
- Complete SafeParish training that addresses child sexual abuse and the ways to create safe environments for our children.
- Include prayer at all games and practices.
- Teach the importance of being good sports and playing fair all the time.
- Treat all student-athletes, parents, opposing coaches and teams, and officials with respect.
- Provide a safe environment for all student-athletes at practices and games. This includes having a first aid kit available at all times.
- Follow the CYO rules for their sport.
- Be responsible for the actions of their student-athletes at all practices and games.
- Attend a mandatory coaches meeting conducted by the AD at the beginning of the season and conduct a mandatory parents meeting by the first practice.
- Help maintain the St. Patrick gym by dry sweeping the gym floor after the last practice of the day and ensure upkeep of the locker rooms. The coach of the last practice of the day is also responsible to ensure that the gym is locked and lights are turned out.
- Be responsible for all equipment (e.g. balls) while in use. Ensure things are properly put away after practices and that the bench area and locker rooms are cleaned by student athletes before they leave.
- Coaches will ensure all uniforms are clean prior to returning the uniforms and equipment to the AD after the last game of the season.
- Abide by the policies and rules of the Athletic Handbook.

COACH SELECTION

The Athletic Director will assign all coaches to teams. Coaches must be in good standing with the school and complete SafeParish training prior to the beginning of the school year. When there is more than one candidate for a position, selection shall go by years of coaching experience at Saint Patrick School. While this protocol will be followed, the ultimate decision will be made by the Principal and Athletic Director. Each team will have, at minimum, a designated head coach and assistant coach.

TEAM STRUCTURE

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many student-athletes as possible participate in the athletic program while at St. Patrick, the following guidelines are used to help the AD decide how to structure the teams in the best interest of the student- athletes and the athletic program.

- Teams will consist of student-athletes within the same grade when there are sufficient numbers of eligible players in each grade to form a team.
- Basketball and volleyball teams will be structured so that each team has a manageable number of players to facilitate practices and to increase individual playing time during games.
- If, in the opinion of the coach, there are insufficient middle school participants to field a team, athletes from the grade immediately below may be invited to participate.
- The Athletic Director will place priority on filling 6th grade and 8th grade teams first. This means student-athletes from lower grades may be required to move up to fill out the 8th grade team on a permanent basis. In general, the most skilled student-athletes that best complement the team will be invited to move up.
- Student athletes from lower grades may also be asked to “play up” on a temporary basis when a team’s roster is less than the minimum necessary to put a team on the floor or field for a specific game due to injury, illness, or family emergency. The coach may use these temporary players as they deem necessary for practice and/or games.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The St. Patrick nickname is the Irish. School colors are green and white. The athletic program provides uniforms, balls, first aid kit, and other necessary equipment for each team. Parents must provide personal items such as shoes, safety goggles, mouth guards, etc.

Uniforms

Uniforms are not to be worn to school unless approved by the Principal or AD for school sponsored events such as pep rallies. Uniforms are to be returned to the coach immediately after the last game of the season. Parents must sign a uniform contract for each sport their athlete participates in, and will be charged for lost or damaged uniforms. If you have a problem with your uniform, report the problem to the coach. Do not try to repair it yourself.

Following the reminders below will help our uniforms look good for years to come:

- Wash uniform separately on delicate in cold water with mild detergent. No fabric softener.
- Allow uniform to drip dry. Do not put uniform in the dryer.
- Do not iron the uniform as this will permanently damage it.

FORMS AND FEES

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Parents are required to read the St. Patrick Athletic Handbook. Copies are available on the school website and can also be provided by the Athletic Director. A signed Compact must be on file with the Athletic Director for students to be able to participate in athletics.

GAME ADMISSIONS

Admissions to St. Patrick home games, meets, or events provide revenue to support the athletic program. St. Patrick students are admitted for free. Admission charges and Family Sports Pass Fees are reviewed annually by the Athletic Booster Club and Athletic Director.

CONCESSIONS

In addition to all of the other responsibilities, the Gym Manager and Coaches will share the responsibility of scheduling parents to work admissions, concessions, score clock, and score book for each home game. In some cases, a Team Parent will be established and asked to assist in the duties of scheduling parents to work events.

EXPENSES AND INCOME

The Athletic Director is responsible for collecting all income and delivering the income to the St. Patrick Booster Club treasurer for accounting within the school general account.

Athletic program expenses include, but are not limited to: officials, gym rental, equipment, uniforms, tournaments, and the athletic awards banquet. The Athletic Director, along with the Athletic Booster Club, must approve all purchases of any items in support of the athletic program. Athletic program income includes donations specifically earmarked for athletics, admissions, concession profits, and the sale of Spirit Wear.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Any grievance with the St Patrick Athletic Program policies, or how they are administered, must be provided in writing to the Athletic Director prior to consideration by the Athletic Director and the Principal. If you have a problem with an individual coach and their policies, you must first talk with the coach in a Christian way to express your concerns.

**In addition to those listed in this handbook, Saint Patrick School will follow all rules set forth in the current year's IHSAA rule book for each sport.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK COMPACT

My child(ren) and I have read and reviewed each section of the Athletic Handbook for St. Patrick School of the Terre Haute Deanery.

My signature below verifies that we understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the Athletic Handbook.

_____ Parent/Guardian Name	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Date
_____ Child's Name		_____ Grade
_____ Child's Name		_____ Grade
_____ Child's Name		_____ Grade
_____ Child's Name		_____ Grade
_____ Athletic Director Signature		_____ Date

Please sign this form and return it to the school office by September 1st.