



2023-2024

Our Father's Athletics

Our Father's Ev. Lutheran School
6023 South 27th Street
Greenfield, WI 53221
(414) 282-7500

www.ofls.org

Issued: August 23, 2023

Philosophy and Goals

The athletic program at Our Father's Ev. Lutheran School is designed to encourage our children to compete with others in a Christian manner. It will also develop their skills, exercise their bodies, promote sportsmanship, and provide avenues for success, as they learn dedication and commitment.

Opportunities

Fall

Girls' Volleyball
(5-8)

Cross Country
(5K-8)

Cross Country
(5K-8)

Winter

Boys' Basketball
(5-6, 7-8)

Girls' Basketball
(5-6, 7-8)

Early Spring

Girls' Softball*
(5-6, 7-8)

Boys' Volleyball *
(6-8)

Co-ed Soccer
(5-6, 7-8)

Late Spring

Track and Field
(5-8)

As you can see there are many opportunities to get involved with athletics. The student/athlete is encouraged to choose one sport per season. However, with permission from the coach and parent, the student/athlete may participate in more than one sport. Playing in one sport per season will eliminate double practice schedules and allow every group practice time in the gym. It will also enable the coaching staff to work more effectively with their group knowing that the student/athlete made the choice to be there.

There are occasional adjustments in the grade levels due to the number of players in the sport. **Some sports may not be fielded due to lack of participation or coaching. Sports denoted with an asterisk did not field enough participants for a team last year.**

Softball, soccer, and volleyball seasons generally run about eight weeks. They may also include tournaments. The football and basketball seasons run about eleven weeks plus tournaments. The cross-country and track seasons run just a few weeks. Cross Country has two to three meets and track has just one meet, at Martin Luther, Milwaukee Lutheran, or Lake Country Lutheran High School. This meet provides an opportunity for every 5th-8th grade student to participate.



GO TROJANS!!

Eligibility

Before a student may begin participating in a sport, one or both of the parents must attend the Pre-Season Parent Meeting. This meeting will cover athletic policies, team rules, parent expectations, practice and game schedules (as is permitted by [MLESSA \(Milwaukee Lutheran Elementary Schools Athletic Association\)](#)), transportation, and general information to help make the season run smoothly. The Athletic Director and team coach should schedule these meetings before each sport season begins.

Participation in our athletic program can provide many benefits for our students. However, they are Student-Athletes, and success in the classroom must come first. The Athletic Director, coaches, teachers and parents will monitor grades, behavior, attitude, and amount of late school work. If the school performance is lacking, a plan for improvement will be implemented. This may include but will not be limited to: a suspension from participation in practices, and games if necessary. The following is the Extracurricular Participation Policy from the Our Father's Board for Christian Education:

"If a student's academic performance falls below a "C" in any subject area, a conference between the parent(s) and teacher will be scheduled to determine continued eligibility. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Principal will make a determination. An "F" in one or more subjects will automatically exclude a student from extracurricular activities. A student will remain ineligible until grades have been raised to at least a "C". Grades will be reviewed weekly (each Monday) to determine when the student will become eligible. Poor classroom attitude and conduct may also result in keeping a student from practice and game participation."

Since we compete in the Milwaukee Lutheran Elementary School Athletic Association (MLESAA), we must also abide by the league's rules regarding age.

"A participating player must not have reached his/her 15th birthday by September 1st of the school year in which he/she desires to participate. A participating player at the 5th or 6th grade level must compete at the 7th and 8th grade level at the MLESAA track meet if he/she has reached his/her 13th birthday by September 1st of his/her 6th grade year."

Drug and Substance Abuse Policy: Our Father's Lutheran considers the illegal use of drugs and other substances (including chemical, alcohol, non-prescription medicines, and tobacco) as a danger to our student body and therefore will not tolerate it in any situation involving Our Father's Ev. Lutheran School or at any event in which Our Father's is represented. Illegal use of drugs or substances either on or off campus will disqualify a student from representing Our Father's in any extracurricular activity for one year from the time of the offense. A student present in a situation where illegal use of drugs or other substances occurs will be subject to the same discipline unless evidence indicates a reasonable attempt had been made to remove himself/herself from the situation.

Participation

Every student who is eligible is encouraged to participate in a sport each season. No one will be “cut” from a sport. If numbers warrant, teams will be divided in the following manner.

1). The 7th and 8th grade team will be split into an **A Squad** (more skilled and competitive) and a **B Squad** (more skill work needed and less pressure) if the numbers warrant. This may result in a mixture of 7th and 8th graders on either team, and will enable players to compete on a level that will most benefit the individuals involved. Squads will be determined by coaches involved with the approval of the Athletic Director.

2). The 5th and 6th team will split according to grade level if numbers warrant more than one team. If one grade has too few players to fill a team, coaches, with the approval of the Athletic Director, will determine what players will be shifted to fill the need.

Fourth grade students may be invited to participate in the 5th/6th grade level of our athletic program if the Athletic Director and coach feel a situation warrants. Fourth grade students will be required to fulfill the same expectations as the other members of the team. Playing time is not guaranteed to any player and will depend on individual ability and game situation. For the safety of everyone involved, fourth grade students WILL NOT be permitted to participate on 7th/8th grade level teams, or on teams which are intentionally composed of 5th-8th graders.

Students who are absent from any portion of the school day due to illness will not be permitted to participate in any games or practices on that day. Students who are absent for a portion of the school day for a non-illness-related appointment (e.g. orthodontic or dental visit etc) are still permitted to participate in afterschool athletic events.

Part of the education Athletics provides is an understanding of commitment and doing one’s best at all times. It also includes fulfilling the commitment when circumstances become challenging. We want to teach our students how to conduct themselves in moments of success and also in moments of disappointment. When we allow a student to stop participating in a sport because a situation has become difficult, we are not taking advantage of a teachable moment, so important in a child’s development. Parents, coaches and the athletic director should work together to support and nurture each athlete.

Schedule

The league sets schedules for 7th and 8th grade sports. Specific times, dates, and sites are given for football, soccer, basketball, and volleyball.

Schedules for 5th and 6th grade sports are scheduled by each individual school.

Scheduling of Practices and Games

Scheduling of practices and games is done by the coaches who are involved in a particular season and the athletic director. Please note some sports have their game schedule created by MLESAA. Therefore, those schedules will not be released until the league does so.

Gym time is very limited and tight. Scheduling of games not scheduled by the league is done by the coach and submitted to the Athletic Director for approval by a certain date.

Games are never scheduled during another team's practice time without prior consent of the coach whose team will lose practice time. This meeting should avoid any game/practice conflicts.

The school calendar should be kept in mind to avoid conflicts with other school activities. No Our Father's games or practices should be conducted during Our Father's worship services. We must also keep in mind Advent and Lenten midweek services.

Practices

Practices are a key element for developing teamwork and individual skills. We must use the time as best as we can.

Clothing: Practice clothing should be clean, in good repair and in accordance with the school dress code (see July 2023 document). Shoes should be of good quality, have laces (or proper fastening devices) and be appropriate to the sport. This will lessen the chance for an ankle injury. (Slip-ons and knock-arounds are not acceptable).

Attendance: Attendance at practices is **mandatory**. If a student is going to miss a practice, a note, written by the parent(s), explaining the absence is required.

Detention: Repeated detentions for academic or behavioral reasons may result in suspension or removal from the team.

Unexcused Absences: An unexcused absence may be given for the following reasons: missing practices, no notification, inappropriate clothing, poor excuses, detention, and the like.

The coach will use the following criteria to enforce attendance at practice/games:

1 st Unexcused Absence	Warning
2 nd Unexcused Absence	One game suspension
3 rd Unexcused Absence	Dismissal from team

Siblings: It is up to the coach to decide whether or not a sibling is allowed to stay at practice in order to alleviate the problem in family transportation.

Pickup Time: Players are expected to be at practice and picked up from practice on time. Coaches are not babysitters! Repeated abuse of pickup time may result in the child's removal from the team.

After School View: If there is a reason to stay after school and wait for practice to begin, the student/athlete will go to a designated room to study until his/her practice begins. He/she will not be allowed to leave campus; this also includes any siblings that may remain.

Games

Attendance at games is **mandatory**. Although extraordinary circumstances occur and “prior commitment” is understood, scheduling of other activities around regular game time is requested. Written notification should go to the coach for any absence.

Playing time is determined by:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Level of play | 4. Attitude toward team |
| 2. Skill of player | 5. Level of competition |
| 3. Player’s practice attendance | 6. Game situation |

At the **7th and 8th grade level** coaches will try to get all players in games for a reasonable amount of time; however, no playing time is guaranteed, particularly in tournaments. At the **5th and 6th grade level** playing time will be made as equal as possible.

Tournaments

We participate in tournaments in basketball and volleyball. These tournaments are usually held at the halfway mark or later in the season. However, on occasion tournaments do open a season. Seventh and Eighth grade teams are allowed 2-3 tournaments per season. Fifth and sixth grade teams are allowed one unless the game schedule only includes tournament games. Additional tournaments are allowed with the approval of the Athletic Director, Principal, and the Board for Christian Education.

Transportation

Transportation to and from games, scrimmages, and practices is the responsibility of parents. Pooling rides is a simple task, aided by the school directory and the telephone. Please be sure that the students are at the games by the times requested by the coaches.

Fees

Fees: Each athlete will be required to pay an athletic fee. This will cover various costs such as uniforms, equipment, and the payment of our outstanding coaching staff. The fee is determined by sport, length of season, and practice/game time. The fees are due before the first game (no pay – no play) and are nonrefundable if the student/athlete decides to leave the team.

The fees are as follows:

Football:	Martin Luther sets fee	Softball:	\$25.00
Cross Country:	\$5.00	Basketball:	\$30.00
Volleyball:	\$25.00	Track:	NO FEE
Soccer	\$25.00		

Uniforms

Care: Take caution and extreme care when washing the uniform. Wash all uniforms in cold water and air dry; never put uniforms in the dryer. The uniform should never be worn for anything other than games.

Return: The uniform will be returned in the same condition it was given out. If it is not, you will be billed for the replacement cost of the entire uniform. Often replacement costs are more than double the original cost of a uniform.

Parent's Role

Parents need to be supportive of their children's efforts. Being at games, picking up children on time, being a supportive spectator, discouraging unsportsmanlike conduct, and the like are ways Christian parents teach their children to be humble winners and gracious losers.

We expect parents to support the coach(es), especially in the presence of their children. It is difficult to resist coaching from the stands, but remember the coaches are the coaches. Undermining a coach's authority is harmful to both the team and to your child. If you really want to be involved, contact the Athletic Director. If a parent disagrees with a coach in any way, he/she should speak to the coach first and privately in a Christian manner (Matthew 18).

Parents need to always remember that they are responsible for nourishing their children's faith by regular Sunday worship, Sunday School, Bible Class, and home devotions. Athletics, or any other aspect of our lives, should never overshadow our worship lives.

Acceptance of Guidelines
2023-2024

Below is a form that acknowledges that the student and parent(s) have read and understand all the above information and are willing to abide by the aforementioned guidelines. The acceptance form should be returned to the Athletic Director in the fall before the first game of the season (even if you will not be participating until winter or spring). Medical and liability forms were included in your school registration packets and are already on file. Return one form below for each athlete. Additional copies of this section are located in the office with Mrs. Wang.

We have read and understand the athletic guidelines and will abide by them.

Student/Athlete: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Team(s): _____

For Office Use Only

Date paid: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Team(s): _____

Recorded By: _____

Our Father's Ev. Lutheran School is a not for Profit organization, 501(c)3, under the group ruling and contained in a letter dated January 8, 1965 from the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service