



MOUNTAIN VIEW BASEBALL 2017

Welcome to the 2017 season! As coaches, we are excited to start the new year. We hope that this packet and this meeting will ensure smooth communication between the staff and you as parents, and your sons.

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Overall Philosophy

Our mission is to support our school's character development program through our efforts in baseball. More specifically, we will meet three specific goals:

- (1) To develop our players physically and mentally to play baseball at a high, competitive level
- (2) To be competitive in every game and to play with an undying will to win
- (3) To have an enjoyable experience that all involved feel makes our sacrifices worth our time

We want our players to strive to better themselves physically, academically, and in terms of their character. Win or lose, we will act with class and dignity.

Expectations of Players

- Be on time and prepared to play and work each day
- Once on the field, to work as hard and as smart as possible, always with the goal in mind of improvement
- Be resilient under tough circumstances and humble in fortunate ones

Expectations of Parents

- Support your son; help him to be on time and prepared.
- Support your son; make sure he knows his experience is valuable regardless of his role in the organization
- Support the organization; be involved as a fan in a positive, contributing manner
- Support the organization; assist us in your talents and/or financial gifts so your sons can have the best experience we can provide them
- Support the coaching staff; honor our communication requests
- Support the coaching staff; be positive and encouraging to your son in regards to their coach

Communications

We, as a staff, are very open to communicating with you as parents. We understand you may have concerns and we want to address them. We do ask, though, that you honor some simple rules:

Communication Do's

- Use the emails provided on the front page – these are much easier and timely than phone calls.
- Calls during business hours. Please do not call coaches at home unless it's an emergency. Our coaches have families and that time should be honored.
- Chain-of-command – The proper communication chain starts with your son's head coach. If your concern is not addressed, please advance to the head coach, the athletic director, and the school principal. For all concerned, please do not jump over a coach – this creates unnecessary problems.
- Evaluation of your son – we will always be able to talk or email you about how your son is doing and what he needs to improve on.

Communication Don'ts

- Approach a coach at practice or on game days. Coaches have many duties on these days and it's generally better to have a "cooling off" period for both parties and arrange communication through email or the phone.
- Try to discuss with the coach their strategy. This is part of the coach's job and is not up for discussion.
- Discussion about other parent's sons. We will talk to you about your son, but not anyone else's and we will not engage in comparisons between the two.
- Playing time discussions. Playing time is another prerogative of the coach. We will not engage in a conversation about why your son is or isn't playing. This is a conversation for the coach and your son.

Grades & Attendance

Our players have been told that they are students here at Mountain View first. That is their first responsibility and that they should manage their time so that baseball does not become an excuse for poor course work. Athletes make sacrifices to be in their sport and free time is one of them. Players need to become adept at juggling many balls in order to stay in good standing, academically. It is very rare that a player should miss baseball for school – if he's doing his job, he's found a way to get both done and done well.

Grades will be checked by the athletic office weekly. The first time a player has two failing grades or unacceptable marks in a class, they will have one week to improve those grades. If those same classes are failing on the next week's check, they will be ineligible to play until the grade is improved to passing. This is considered a warning. If a player has two failing grades/unacceptable marks after the warning, they are automatically ineligible that week and

cannot regain eligibility until the following week. If grades continue to be an issue, it is the staff's right to suspend the player from practice, and eventually, to release the player from the program.

March 8 is our eligibility date. If players are failing in two or more classes, they are deemed ineligible for the fourth quarter. It may also jeopardize their summer baseball roster spot as well.

Players are also expected to be in class and on time every day to every class. Unexcused absences are unacceptable. We will run an attendance report each week. If a player has an unexcused absence his first penalty will be field clean-up & maintenance after practice. Subsequent violations will range from more clean-up or suspension. This is also a coach's choice.

Players tardy to class will be assigned field and/or equipment duty for the following week. If the player continues to be on the tardy list, the penalty could escalate as far as suspension.

Playing Time

Playing time is something that is earned at all levels of our organization. Coaches do not 'give' playing time, players earn it. That being said, at the different levels, there are different emphases that drive how playing time is derived. This is listed below.

Varsity

The goal at this level is to win as many games as possible. This means the best nine or ten (with the DH) players will play, every game. Age and experience only comes into play when two players are of equal ability and effort. In this case, the younger player may win the job because they have more time to grow and play for us. Our coaches have many, many years of experience in player evaluation and you should be comfortable that we make choices that are best for the team. This may not always seem the best for your son. That's how team sports work. The bottom line for us is that we do what's best for the team's success. We expect all players to work hard all of the time, but parents and players should understand that hard work doesn't equal playing time. The player must also be the best player at that position for the situation presented. We will also continue to develop our players by putting them into situations they may not be ready for, but need to experience in order to get better at that particular skill or scenario. We must keep in mind that a baseball team cannot have only nine players – starters – we need reserve players for special situations too. If all the players on the roster are pulling in the same direction, we'll be as good as we can be.

Junior Varsity

Here, the emphasis changes, slightly. We still want to win each game and we'll approach games that way. The difference here is that we are also trying to cull out the best players to fill upcoming varsity spots vacated by seniors. This means there will usually be four to six players that play every day and four to six spots that rotate or are up for grabs. Players on the JV team should not go more than two games without seeing time on the field.

C Team

The emphasis changes dramatically here from the varsity. At the C level, we want to really see as much of the players as we can to evaluate them and develop them further. All players will see time on the field (not necessarily equal) and will be expected to improve themselves. It is a general expectation that C Team players will not go more than a game at a time without seeing time on the field during a game.

Game Day Routines

Varsity

- **Batting Practice**

Varsity game days will typically begin with pre-game batting practice. Players will be given an early release from school to attend this practice-before-the-game. It is the players' responsibility to find out what he is missing from class and to keep up with his course work. Batting practice is a privilege that can be revoked if players are irresponsible.

- **Dress**

Varsity players should have their appropriate uniform on game days: for home games – white top and pants, black hat, black trim. Road – gray tops and pants, purple billed hat, black trim. During batting practice, players are expected to wear their full uniform or they may shed their jersey for their MV black T shirt. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done. Varsity players are expected to have their own batting helmets. If the helmet becomes damaged, broken, or lost, it is the player's responsibility to replace the helmet – they will not be allowed to use it by umpires.

- **Busses**

When our team is on the road and using district busses, all players will ride the bus both directions. This is a safety issue and one of team unity. Bus rides are often a good time for coaches to talk to players about performance and it helps for the team to bond and be together. Players may never ride home without an adult. The only occasion we allow players to ride with

their parents is when the parent/family is going the opposite direction from Loveland for some other family event, or a special circumstance previously communicated to the staff.

- Sites

All varsity game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "ROAD GAME DIRECTIONS". Please utilize this resource. If your son's game site is not on the website, the head coach will provide it the day before the game.

JV

- MVHS

The Junior Varsity will play most of their home games this spring at Centennial Park & Swift Field (the city of Loveland fields at Taft & 1st Street). There are some home games on Greg Brock Field & a couple on our softball/C Team field.

- Dress

The Junior Varsity has one set of uniforms – Black hat, white top, white pants, and black trim. Players must have the full complement of clothing for each game. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done.

- Busses

The same bus rules apply to the JV team. Most of the time, the JV team will travel with the varsity. Parents be prepared for your son to have to wait for the varsity game to finish before they can return home.

- Sites

All JV game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "ROAD GAME DIRECTIONS". Please utilize this. If your son's game site is not on the website, the head coach will provide it the day before the game.

C Team

- Dress

The C Team players are issued one set of uniforms – Black hat, black top, pants, and black trim. Players must have the full complement of clothing for each game. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done.

- Busses

When our team is on the road and using district busses, all players will ride the bus both directions. This is a safety issue and one of team unity. Bus rides are often a good time for coaches to talk to players about performance and it helps for the team to bond and be together. Players may never ride home without an adult. The only occasion we allow players to ride with their parents is when the parent/family is going the opposite direction from Loveland for some other family event, or a special circumstance previously communicated to the staff.

- Sites

All C Team game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "ROAD GAME DIRECTIONS". Please utilize this. If your son's game site is not on the website, the head coach will provide it the day before the game.

Practice / Game Attendance

Players are expected to be at every game and practice at the time the coach has set. When players are absent they are not learning or getting better and playing time can be lost because of this. If a player is unexcused from a game or practice they will be suspended for one game. A second violation can mean a longer suspension or termination from the organization. This will be up to the staff and the situation.

Training Rules

When your son was cleared to play baseball, you and he agreed to abide by the district's training rules on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. If a player is in violation, the district's rules will be enforced. A second offense may result in termination for that player. In either case, players will need to be reinstated to the organization. This reinstatement process will be made known to the player if a violation should occur.

Lettering

The criteria for lettering is as follows: Play in 25% of the varsity innings played that season, make an appearance in a playoff game, or coach's prerogative. Coach's also reserve the right to deny a letter based on poor attitude, behavior, or attendance.

Summer Baseball

It is expected, but not mandatory, that our players also participate in our summer program.

Summer baseball is our chief time to really develop players and help them get better. Typically:

Varsity / Connie Mack / Senior American Legion

- 40 to 60 games, 3 to 5 days per week
- At least two tournaments, generally one local and one traveling
- Starts first week of June, ends around the second to last week of July
- We will discuss scheduling around other sports and their summer activities
- Around \$650 per player for the season

Junior Varsity

- 30 to 40 games, 3 to 5 days per week
- At least one tournament
- Starts first week of June, ends usually around mid-July
- Around \$485 per player for the season

Fees are expected to be paid prior to the start of the season. Practices start around mid-May depending upon the varsity team's spring schedule.

College Baseball

If you would like to explore the possibilities of college baseball, please communicate that with Coach Smela and let us know what we can do to help. Finding a place to play is a process that must be motivated by the player, not the coach. Our coaches will do everything we can to help a player find a school, but the player must drive the process.

Web Sites / Social Media

Our team's website is mvhsbaseball.org. This site has everything from our schedule/results, statistics, photos, game day directions, contact info, and links to other web sites. When up-to-

date information is needed, please go to our Facebook site. Facebook allows us to make last minute schedule announcements which can happen often in the spring. Our Facebook page is found at Mountain View HS Baseball. Finally, you can follow us on Twitter @MVHSbaseball14. Much of the same information from Facebook can be found here.

Apparel

Each player has been issued the necessary apparel for this season. In addition to the standard field uniform, we expect each player to purchase the program hooded sweatshirt & practice t-shirt. The organization has already paid for these items and needs to be reimbursed the cost. Each of you is asked to settle this bill tonight so we can pay off our vendors. Many of these items are potentially a one time purchase – if it still fits next year and years after, you won't need to buy a new one.

Fundraising

In the past, we have run our own fundraising efforts to raise needed money for the program. That activity, the dinner auction, is no longer viable for us. This year we have contracted an outside agency to help with our fundraising efforts. Our need is \$200 per player. If we can raise that money, we will be able to continue to offer the program that we have now. Parents have two options to meet this goal:

- 1) Write a check for \$200 to cover your player
- 2) Assist in our web-based fundraiser
- 3) Do a combination: once the fundraiser is completed, whatever your son's efforts fall short of the \$200 goal, write a check for the balance at that time.

We know that each of you wants to support this program & what we have tried to do, so thank you!