Dear Parents, Students, and Coaches,

This handbook outlines the philosophy and reflects the policies of the Fortune Academy Athletic Program. Please read this document carefully, sign the attached agreement, and return it to school before attending the first practice date. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the Fortune Academy Athletic Program policies during the current school year.

The Fortune Academy athletic program was established to serve the needs of all students, enabling the gifted to excel and others to participate and improve. Athletes and teams do not receive special attention. Still, they are taught the values of sharing the spotlight and enabling their teammates to fully participate, sharpen their skills and experience a healthy pride and self-worth that athletic improvement and success can bring.

The principles of fair play and sportsmanship must govern every practice and game. All participants should have the respect of others on their team and the opposing team. Competitors should regard the opposition as friends, not enemies. A student-athlete is expected to represent Fortune Academy, their family, and the community in a positive manner. They must follow the administration and coaches' code of conduct as described in this handbook.

Ultimate responsibility for the success of Fortune Academy Athletics lies with the adult participants, i.e., coaches, parents, and other volunteers. Adults involved must remember that the program exists for the overall growth of young people.

Sincerely,

Ryan A. Demos
Athletic Director

Mission Statement of the Fortune Academy:
**Fortune Academy Athletics**

The mission of Fortune Academy is to be a comprehensive school dedicated to educating and equipping students with language learning differences to become competent and confident lifelong learners. The school is designed to provide an environment that nurtures each child’s development, builds upon their strengths, and offers remediation in areas of weakness.

**Mission Statement of the Fortune Academy Athletics Program:**

The mission of Fortune Academy Athletics is to provide the best opportunity for student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and moral character. The program is designed to allow any student who wishes to participate a chance to be a part of a team and enrich their educational path by building confidence, developing athletic skills, providing athletic opportunities, fostering an initiative to succeed, and providing leadership experience with numerous opportunities for self-discipline.

**Fortune Academy Sanctioned Sports:**

During the fall season, Fortune Academy provides a girl’s volleyball team for students 12 years and older and a coed cross country team for students in 5th grade through high school. The winter season provides two boys’ basketball teams; one for 6th-8th graders and one for 9th-12th graders. There is also a co-ed cheerleading team for students 12 years old and up during the winter season. The final season of the school year is in the spring, and Fortune hosts a co-ed track team for students in 7th grade through high school and a golf team for students in 9th-12th grade.

**Fortune Academy Athletics General Information:**
1. Fortune Academy has a “no-cut” policy. All team members will dress for games.

2. Being a member of Fortune Athletics is a commitment. Attending all practices and games is required. Quitting a team any time during the season is strongly discouraged. Reentry the following year to the same athletic sport will be by petition to the Athletic Director and Administration.

2A. While we encourage our student-athletes to participate in many different after-school activities, sporting events such as practices and games take priority over ALL other after-school activities, except for theater productions and Robotics club.

3. Unsportsmanlike conduct: If an athlete is ejected or disqualified from a contest for any unsportsmanlike conduct, there will be a conference with the School Administration and team coach on the following school day. Each case will be handled on its own merits, with discipline being set by the specific case.

4. Any athlete caught possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products, or any illegal substance will result in expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the season, in addition to the policies set forth and explained in the Fortune Academy Parent and Student Handbook.

5. Any student who engages in bullying behaviors will be suspended from play until a conference with the School Administration and team coach. Each case will be handled on its own merits, with discipline being set by the specific case.

6. All school-owned athletic equipment and uniforms issued are the athletes' responsibility. An athlete will pay for any damaged equipment or uniforms not returned at the end of the season.

7. Athletes may be required to purchase personal items such as pants, shoes, cleats, etc. Coaches will determine the required items.

*Additional rules may be instituted as necessary by the coaches with approval by the administration.

**Fortune Academy Eligibility Rules:**
In order to be eligible to represent Fortune Academy in interschool athletics, you:

1. Must have a contract with Fortune Academy for the current school year.

2. Must be 12 years old or older (unless running cross country, then 4th grade and up)

3. Must attend ten individual days of organized practice with Fortune Academy coaching staff before playing in an inter-school match.

4. Must have had a physical examination before your season begins and have it filed with the Fortune Academy Athletic Department.

5. Must not show discredit to Fortune Academy or negatively influence the morale, discipline, or good order of the educational environment at Fortune Academy.

6. Must show written consent from a physician stating the ability to participate if you miss five or more days due to illness or injury.

7. Students must remain eligible to participate in sports by maintaining **GOOD STANDING IN ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES!** Students demonstrate good standing by turning in all homework and meeting daily Fortune Academy academic standards in each class. Coaches and the Athletic Director will check student-athlete academic courses every Friday to determine if the student-athlete is eligible and maintains good standing in all classes.

8. Must follow all Fortune Academy rules and policies.

9. Must actively participate in all practices determined by the coach.

9A. Fortune Academy operates on a three-strikes, and you’re out policy for missing practices or meets/games.

   - 1st unexcused miss of athletic event----- email communication to parents
   - 2nd unexcused miss of athletic event-----1 game suspension; athlete works for coach and helps the team in other ways
   - 3rd unexcused miss of athletic event------Removal from team

10. **Parents, not students,** must contact the coach and inform them why they will not be able to make a practice BEFORE the practice begins. Any absences not given prior notification will count as unexcused. Three unexcused absences will result in removal from the team.

11. Must be in attendance for the final three periods of class the day of the athletic contest to participate in that day’s contest.
12. All student-athletes are expected to be picked up at the designated end of practice time. If parents do not pick up their students at the given time and do not communicate regarding unforeseen circumstances, a late fee may be charged with $10 per every ten minutes late.

**Parent Communication**

Coaches will communicate with you via email every Thursday regarding the schedule for the next week. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the coach first. If they cannot assist you, the athletic director will be glad to help.

Also, before each sports season, we will host a parent information night. This meeting will last about 25-30 minutes and simply cover important information regarding the sports being offered. Parents will be allowed to meet the coaches and ask any questions they might have. They also will be able to pick up the necessary paperwork required to play sports.

**Parent Athletic League (P.A.L)**

Fortune Academy athletics is growing, and we need help maintaining our growth. We expect all parents of our student-athletes to spend at least 5 hours volunteering at Fortune Academy home sporting events. This will be done through Sign Up Genius for each sports season.

*(If all volunteer requirements are fulfilled, Fortune Academy Parents will receive a $50 refund on their athletic fee(s).)*

Parents in the PAL may be asked to assist with some of the following tasks at games. Please note that these activities may vary depending on the season:

- Running the Concession Stand at Home meets
- Keeping an accurate inventory of concessions
- Loading and unloading the coolers into the school van for transportation on basketball home games.
- Taking entry fee money for home athletic contests
- Clean up of gym: putting away chairs, sweeping the floors, taking out the trash
- Committee work and planning for FUNDRAISERS
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Fortune Academy Athletics Uniforms and Fees:

To participate on a Fortune Academy athletic team, there is a fee of $200 for all sports, except cheerleading. Depending on the sport, the fee covers the costs of equipment/uniform maintenance, officials/tournament fees, transportation, coach’s compensation, and other costs associated with running an athletic program. **Students must pay the Athletic fee for each sport they choose to participate in.** [Financial Aid is available to those who qualify. If all volunteer requirements are fulfilled, Fortune Academy Parents will receive a $50 refund on their athletic fee(s).]

- Volleyball- $250
- Cross Country- $200
- Basketball- $250 (Additional cost(s) on top of fee)
- Golf- $300 (includes shirt cost)
- Track and Field- $200
- Cheerleading- $150

**Fundraisers**

ALL student-athletes will have a COOKIE DOUGH fundraiser. This will take place in the Fall.

We will also have other fundraisers to benefit the Athletics Program throughout the year. These may include:

- Back to School night BBQ dinner
- BINGO Night
- Trivia Night

****This is another opportunity for parents to fulfill their 5-hour volunteer commitment.****

*The coach may require items to purchase for players. Most items can be worn as part of the Fortune Academy Uniform.*
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*Volleyball* players are required to purchase a pair of black volleyball spandex shorts with a minimum of a 4-inch inseam or plain black gym shorts as part of their uniform for games and knee pads and appropriate footwear for playing.

*Cross Country* runners are required to have appropriate footwear for running outdoors.

*Basketball* players are required to have appropriate footwear for playing on a gym floor. Basketball players are also required to purchase a warm-up shirt for games. This shirt can be purchased at the Fortune Academy Spirit Store. Please ONLY purchase a back shirt with gold lettering. Additionally, players are expected to have black sweatpants (any brand, some available on the spirit store) for their away game warm-ups. Student-athletes keep the shirts after the completion of the basketball season.

*Cheerleaders* are required to purchase black/white leggings or spandex to wear under their cheer skirts and appropriate footwear.

*Track* runners are required to purchase appropriate footwear for running outdoors and undershirts/pants for cold weather if necessary.

*Golf* team members must purchase the fortune golf shirt to participate in matches and provide their own clubs. The cost of the golf shirt is around $50. Student-athletes keep the shirts after the completion of the golf season. Golfers must also pay for their greens fees and driving range buckets during practice.

All other parts of the sports uniforms are provided by the school during the season and must be returned at the end of the season. **If a uniform is NOT returned or is damaged, Fortune Academy will bill the family the cost of the uniform.**

**Parent Volunteer Opportunities:**

There are several opportunities for parents to volunteer during the school year during athletic events. We have listed some options below. Please note that these volunteer opportunities will vary.

Volleyball home games may need volunteers to run the concession stand, admission table, the scoreboard, line judges, and keep the scorebook.

Cross Country may use volunteers to help with athletes' timing, and overall supervision during a cross country meet.
Basketball home games may need a scoreboard person and a book person.

Home games may need volunteers to run the concession stand, admission table, the scoreboard, and keep the scorebook. Additional help will be required at some away games.

Track meets may use volunteers to help with the timing and supervision of athletes.

ALL FORTUNE ACADEMY SPORTS WILL NEED PARENT VOLUNTEERS ON THE BUS FOR AWAY GAMES.

(If all volunteer requirements are fulfilled, Fortune Academy Parents will receive a $50 refund on their athletic fee(s).)

If you are interested in being a volunteer assistant coach in any sport, please contact the athletic director.

We cannot operate a successful athletic program without the support and care of our parent volunteers.

**Fortune Academy Coaches Code of Conduct:**

Guiding our teams are dedicated coaches who are experts in working with athletes who have learning differences.

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competitions. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times.

- The coach shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the student’s education and, thus, will never place the value of winning above the importance of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall take an active role in preventing drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.
- The coach will not use alcohol and tobacco products when interacting with players.
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- The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct their program in harmony with the total school mission.
- The coach shall master the contest rules and teach them to their team members.
- The coach shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship among spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.
- The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct that incites players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- The coach shall not pressure faculty members to give students special consideration.
- The coach shall work with the athletic director and administration in any case of discipline involved with a student-athlete. Communication is essential.
- The coach is responsible for all student-athletes on their team during practices and contests and shall provide supervision until athletes are dismissed to parents/guardians or, if of age, their recognizance.
- The coach shall contact parents/guardians of students when they are late to pick up and record the time of actual pick up and report it to the business office for billing.
- The coach shall contact the athletic director if they cannot attend a practice or contest due to illness or other matters within 24 hours so that a replacement or decision to cancel can be made accordingly.

Fortune Academy Athletics Awards:

Varisty Letter
A varsity letter is earned through hard work, determination, and meeting the participation requirements. A letter is a significant recognition of achievement, the standards of which are as follows:

1. The athlete must have followed all rules and regulations of the sport.
2. The athlete must be an active team member and show unselfish cooperation and good spirit both in practice and in contests.
3. If an athlete began the season with a team but could not continue with the team due to an injury received while competing or during practice, the athlete may be recommended for a letter by the coach.
4. If a student quits, is suspended, is put on probation for disciplinary reasons, or becomes ineligible during the season, the student may forfeit any letter awards.
5. Student-athletes are expected to represent their school well by following all school policies in school and at the location of their sport. If students fail to meet these expectations, they may forfeit any letter awards.
6. In receiving a 2nd Varsity letter award, athletes will earn the right to purchase and wear a Letterman Jacket.
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**Pin**
Every student who begins and ends a sports season in a particular sport will be awarded that sports pin.

**Chevron**
Student-athletes who earn a varsity year of experience in a specific sport will earn a chevron. Athletes must play in at least half of the varsity sporting contests and be in good standing at the end of the sports season. Coaches and the athletic director make the final decisions on who earns a chevron. Students can earn a varsity letter in the following sports:

- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Golf

**Scholar-Athlete**
A scholar-athlete award is earned through hard work, determination, and finding a balance between extra-curricular activities and school work.
1. Athletes must maintain a 3.5 GPA during the season.

**Participation Awards**
A participation award will be given to student-athletes who participate in elementary athletics.

**Sports Awards Night**
Fortune Academy will hold a sports award program in May of each year to honor all student-athletes.