***WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED?***

FOR PRACTICES

Swimmers/divers will need a practice suit (brief or jammer NOT trunks), goggles, towel, and water bottle. Swim caps are optional for practice, but is typically encouraged. Additionally, divers may want to provide their own chamois for practice. Athletes may want flipflops or slides to wear on deck during practice and at meets.

FOR MEETS

In addition to the above equipment, swimmers/divers will need to order a team suit (not to be worn at practice). The team will provide swim caps and parkas for swimmers.

***HOW DO THE BOYS GET TO PRACTICE?***

Swimmers are allowed to drive themselves to practice, get rides from other students, and parents can drop off. Due to the proximity of the pool to MHS, there is NO DISTRICT-PROVIDED transportation to practice. We encourage non-driving athletes to arrange rides with other teammates or with family. Swimmers must be ready to be in the pool by 3:15, and practices are typically done by 5:30.

***DO SWIMMERS ATTEND EVERY PRACTICE?***

It is expected that swimmers are in attendance at every practice. Swimmers MUST communicate any changes to the coaching staff.

***HOW DOES THE TEAM GET TO THE MEETS?***

Transportation will be provided to all swim meets throughout the season, except for any meets at the Maize District Pool. Swimmers MUST ride the bus to meets.

***CAN PARENTS/FAMILY ATTEND MEETS?***

Parents/family are allowed to attend meets. Most pools that we compete at are not as large as our facility so space is VERY limited. If you have extended family that would like to watch your athlete, we recommend having them attend the Maize meets. For what it is worth, Andover does have a little more seating capacity but it is still limited and VERY crowded. We recommend bringing a camping/folding chair with you in case the seating area is full, there is usually a space to setup near the pool area.

Parents/family will not be allowed to ride the team bus and will have to provide their own transportation. Swimmers will not be allowed to leave early from a meet (unless previously authorized by the coaching staff).

***ARE THERE TEAM UNIFORMS?***

Again, your athlete will need to purchase a team suit (jammer or brief). The team will provide a personalized swim cap for each athlete (ordered new each season, typically with last name, but up to the swimmer), and parkas will be loaned out to each athlete to be used for meets. Additionally, the boosters will provide a team shirt for each athlete.

There will be additional apparel through an online team store that your athlete may desire (joggers, hoodie, etc.) but is not required. The window for purchasing apparel is very small due to our first meet being early December.

***WHAT ABOUT ORDERING GEAR FOR FAMILY MEMBERS?***

Feel free to show your support for your swimmer/diver by purchasing gear through the team store!

***WHEN AND WHERE WILL APPAREL ORDERS COME IN?***

Items will be delivered in a bulk order (but subdivided into individual orders) hopefully in early December to your swimmer/diver at practice. We are hopeful we will get our order before the first meet.

***MY SON/FAMILY IS NEW TO SWIM/DIVE THIS YEAR; DO I NEED TO VOLUNTEER?***

We ask for everyone to volunteer at our home meets. It takes A LOT of people to pull these meets off and would love to have you join us.

For most volunteer spots (timers, deck runners, heat stagers), no experience is necessary, and you will have the best view of your swimmer/diver.

Be on the lookout for links for Sign-Up Genius very soon since we host our first meet!

***WHO ARE THE COACHES, AND HOW CAN I CONTACT THEM?***

Coach: Tedd Gibson teddgibson64@gmail.com

Assistant Coach: Jeremy Bernard [jbernard@usd266.com](mailto:jbernard@usd266.com)

Assistant Coach: Kelly Thorn kthorn@usd266.com

Diving Coach: Luke Wiebe

***WHAT IS THE SEASON SCHEDULE?***

We have updated the most current season schedule to our BLAST site. Plan to leave your Saturdays in January available! And for divers, some Fridays.

***FUNDRAISING***

Like most athletic programs in our district, it is necessary for our team to raise funds to help cover the cost of meals, snacks, equipment, travel, and more. Instead of selling candles or popcorn, we have chosen to use BLAST Athletics to help establich individual sponsors for our program. We have been able to use this for the past two years and have found it to be extremely successful. We need your help in making this happen!

***WHAT IS FUNDRAISING USED FOR?***

Money from fundraising is used to:

* Purchase meals and team snacks for boys to eat on the bus when meets are on school days.
* Team dinners
* State meet gear
* All the end-of-season things: banquet supplies, awards, coach &amp; manager gifts, senior gifts, etc.
* Additional swim parkas and gear for a growing team!

***TEAM DINNERS–ARE THEY A THING?***

The team loves to eat together. Last season, the boys would go out to eat at different restaurants or have a meal at a home. Typically, these would take place on Thursday or Friday evenings. We encourage your swimmer to join in on these opportunities.

***HOW DO YOU LETTER IN SWIM?***

LETTERING POLICY

Athletes must accumulate 200 points throughout the swim season in order to letter.\*

Points are determined as follows:

1. Participation in a Meet: 15 points.
2. Individual Events: First place in a meet earns 20 points; second, 18 points; third, 16 points. This cycle continues all the way down to tenth place, which earns 2 points.\*\*
3. Relay Events: Being on an A team earns you 4 points, B team 3 points, C team 2 points, D team 1 point.\*\*
4. State Swimmers and Alternates: Automatically receive a letter.

\* = The coaching staff reserves the right to letter individuals who have not met the requirements in special situations.

\*\*= Individual exhibition races are not worth any points, but still count towards participating in the meet. Relay exhibition races still count, with the point value determined as stated above.



