****Portageville High School Baseball****

Team Handbook

Conference Champions: 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023

District Champions: 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023

Final Four Appearances: 2022, 2023

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**Attached are the expectations for players and parents for the 2023-2024 high school baseball season:**

**Introductions:**

**Head Coach: Tyler Trover**

Head Coaching Experience: 10th Season

Coaching Experience at Portageville: 7th Season

High School: Bernie High School (2004-2007) Baseball, Basketball

College: Williams Baptist University (2008-2011) Baseball

Graduate School: William Woods University (2018-19) Masters in School Administration

Spouse: Taylor Trover

Children: Aubree Jo (15), Tripp (8)

**Assistant Coaches:**

TJ Smith, Associate Head Varsity Coach

Tyler Fowler, Assistant Varsity Coach, Head Junior Varsity Coach

CJ Kelley, Assistant Varsity Coach, Assistant Junior Varsity Coach

**Goals: (What we as coaches expect to accomplish)**

1. Assist our players in learning how to function as a unit.
2. Help players work through adverse situations and overcome those adverse situations, better preparing them for adulthood.
3. Make our team a family atmosphere. No one person will ever be bigger than the unit.
4. Teach the game and fundamentals of baseball to the best of our abilities in order to maximize performance on the field.

**Expectations: (What players WILL do in order to be a part of our program)**

1. Play the game with respect and integrity. Hustle all of the time, play the game hard, etc.
2. Maintain their grades to be in good standing per Portageville school policy, as well as MSHSAA standards.
3. Respect teammates and coaches at all times.
4. Understand their specific roles and responsibilities on our team.
5. Properly communicate with coaches on daily schedule (Missed practices, etc)

**Program Policies for Players:**

**A.) Practice**

* Players who make our roster will be expected to be at practice every day, unless I have been notified prior. Each missed practice will be deemed as “excused” or “unexcused”. The coach will have final say on which that is. Players who have multiple unexcused practices could be subject to dismissal from the program.
* Practices will begin (unless communicated otherwise) at 3:30 PM after school every day. When we can be outside, we will be outside. Practice will conclude when we have accomplished everything we need to for that particular day. Players will be allowed to communicate via cell phone in order to be picked up, if they do not drive. Players who do not have cell phones will be able to use mine to call their parents.

**B.) Games**

* Game schedules are not final, due to baseball being reliant on weather conditions on certain days. Games traditionally will be played at 4:30 PM, but this is always fluid.
* Players will ride the bus to every game, unless given permission by the coach in a timely manner.
* Players will be allowed to sign-out after the game and ride home with parents, if they choose to do so.
* Players will be expected to perform many tasks on game days that include but are not limited to: Field maintenance, charting, foul ball retrieval, etc.
* Spring break falls during the middle of our baseball season. We will be playing during Spring break, much like other sports must be played around holidays and school breaks.

**C.) Roster Construction**

* Players will be allowed to try-out for the first three days of official practice. Cuts will be made by Thursday of week 1.
* Players will be rostered as either: **JV ONLY, JV and Varsity, or Varsity ONLY**. This decision will be based on performance in practice and games and is always fluid. A player that is rostered as **JV ONLY will NOT travel with varsity on varsity only contests. The JV season will be completed by May 4, 2024, at which time the JV season will conclude.**
* As a coaching staff, we work hard to ensure that we play a full JV schedule. There will be times that we have coaches in split squad situations, meaning the JV will play one place, and the varsity another. We are one of the only schools in SEMO our size that can accommodate this. This is not an entitlement. Many schools do not keep enough, have enough rostered players, or have enough volunteer coaches like we are blessed to have to be able to do this. The other alternative would be to cut more players trying out.
* All roster decisions are **subject to change based on the number of players trying out for baseball.**

**D.) Equipment Needs:**

**Player Responsibility:**

* Glove
* White Baseball Pants
* Socks
* Cleats
* Team Hats (Ordered by program) $25.00

**Team Provided:**

* Jerseys
* Helmets
* Catching Gear
* Catcher’s Mitt

**Communication:**

* Players will be expected to communicate with me on all issues pertaining to program questions. It is their responsibility to alert me of missed practices and issues that may arise. **Not parents.**
* I have an open door policy concerning playing time for **you as a player, but only you as a player.**. Questions or concerns are encouraged by our staff in order to set expectations for players.

**Program Policies for Parents:**

**A.) Responsibility of Parents in our Program**

* Parents in our program are expected to assist our players in following the policies and procedures. This helps maximize a player's experience on our team.

**B.) Parent Meetings**

* Parent meetings are designed for **concerned parents for their child’s well being**. The overall mental or physical “wellness” of an athlete does not include the following: Playing time, placement in the lineup, position on the field, postseason accolades, or excuse making for not following all program policies. Therefore, I will NOT meet or DISCUSS with a parent concerning the following issues:
1. ***Playing time, or lack of playing time****:* This is decided by coaches based on performance in practice and/or games. We play who help our team succeed. Period.
2. ***Placement in the lineup*:** We base our lineup on “maximized runs scored”, meaning the goal is to be the most efficient offense we can possibly be. Many numbers and factors go into our final decision on the placement of our lineup. We will not discuss this.
3. ***Position on the field:*** We will not discuss what position we choose to play our players.
4. ***Postseason Accolades***: Postseason accolades are based on the body of work a player has achieved throughout their season. The fact of the matter is that only the top statistical players will receive these. Also, there will be players from other programs who might receive accolades when your child does not. Coaches do **NOT HAVE THE LUXURY** of voting for their own players. Please consider this. That is why I will not discuss this any further with anyone.

**C. Game and Practice Expectations:**

* Parents are expected to stay out of the dugout before, during or after games.
* Parents will **NOT** attend practice to observe. This is a distraction for our players who are trying to get better.

**Other Pertinent Information:**

The following are a few things that I try to do in order to maximize our players’ experience in playing the game of baseball for Portageville. Many times, extra things **outside of contractual obligations become “entitlements.**” I have always done my very best to treat our players as my own. I spend many hours of my time assisting and instructing your child, while many times falling short as a father, myself. I miss many games, activities, and accomplishments of my own children so that I can be with yours. Please keep this in mind when deciding the issues that you want to pursue in regards to our program.

1. **Fundraising:** Our program has been blessed to have many people step and help us financially over the past seven seasons. The fundraising that we do provides our players with both necessary and privileged tools that we use in practice. We have been able to purchase multiple jerseys so that we can wear different colors. We use fundraised money to purchase meals at times on trips and to ensure our equipment and competitive advantage stay top-level. With that being said, our fundraisers require both community involvement (which has been excellent), as well as many hours of preparation. The signs on our outfield derived from an idea we created to generate revenue through advertising. This requires many hours of my personal time in collecting the advertising money and chasing down local families and businesses who want to be a part of this. The money has been put to important use the last few years. Mainly, it ensures that we keep our playing surface in great condition so that we have the opportunity to play on a nice field, as well as host postseason tournaments.
2. **Senior Day Activities:** Senior day is funded through our “personal funds” account. That means that the senior day gifts that we have been blessed to give have come through that fundraising. When I first arrived at Portageville, I wanted to make senior day in baseball a special time that both appreciates and gives back to those who have committed many hours of hard work to our program. The senior bats that we have handed out the last few years are very expensive, but are a token of our appreciation to our players. Once again, this takes many hours to prepare as I type out bios for each class and individual player. Since we have started doing this, many baseball programs have emailed wanting our “model”. I would not trade doing this for the world, but please be understanding of the time and effort that goes into making something like this happen. It is just another thing that we as coaches try to provide outside of our contractual obligation.
3. **Patches:** Team patches have been something the past few years that our program has funded. Once again, this is something that most school districts do not provide, as a letterman jacket is not something all kids are privileged enough to have. Generally, as when I was in school, parents were responsible for providing for their own patches.
4. **Overnight Trips and Other Experiences:** As a program, we are committed to providing our kids with neat experiences in bigger venues. We try our best to play a few games at Capaha park, and go on overnight trips in order to play the best possible competition. Planning these sort of trips can become overwhelming, as most programs our size will not travel any further than they have to, regardless of what kind of competition they can play. We do this to better prepare our players for playoff experiences. Overnight stays become pricey for our program, and once again we have to fund these trips through our personal funds account. These **experiences are not entitlements, they are privileges** that we try to do in order for our players to build fond memories of trips they took with their teammates. There is a ton of planning that goes into one of these overnight trips, as well as an extra night for the coaching staff spending time away from our families. We have just started trying to do this within the last few years.
5. **Functioning JV Program:** When I first came to Portageville in 2017, I had an idea of what I wanted our program to look like. The idea was that we would be able to provide a full JV program that would help with growth and development of our underclassmen. Last year was the first year, through the building of this process, that we were able to actually do this. Our underclassmen received more live game repetition last year than any other group we have had since I have been here. Baseball is different from virtually every other male sport in our district in terms of the way that JV functions. First, we do not have JV games built in like basketball does. We do not have specific days for JV either based on trying to maximize our varsity schedule. What that leaves, being a small school, is our coaching getting creative to find ways to make these things happen. First, we have two VOLUNTEER coaches on our staff, and one paid assistant coach. Without these guys we could not make this work. Second, most schools our size do not even have JV programs, so we generally play bigger schools whenever possible. This has us as a staff going in two different directions quite frequently. This JV program is beneficial to the continuance of our success. Please keep in mind that most schools that have two programs have an entire JV coaching staff dedicated to that particular program, as well as an entirely different varsity coaching staff. We will continue to have a full JV program as long as we have the numbers to do so for the betterment of our program.

**I have fully read and understand the expectations to which I agree to adhere by both as a player and parent in the Portageville baseball program.**

**Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**