**PRACTICES**

**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.

**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. 

**CAN PARENTS ATTEND PRACTICES**Practices are typically closed practices. If you have questions or concerns OR would like to attend a practice, please contact Coach Tedd.

**MEETS**

**WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED FOR MEETS?**Swimmers/divers will need goggles, towel, water bottle, team swim caps, and team suits. In addition, the team will provide parkas for swimmer/diver use that are checked out at the beginning of the season. Athletes may want flipflops or slides to wear on deck during practice and at meets.

**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 or at Northwest High School due to proximity. 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, Northwest and Andover do have a little more seating capacity but it is still limited and VERY crowded.

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). Maize High School 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 Maize High Swim/Dive boosters will provide a team tshirt 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 you can see the team store here: <https://swimquik.com/collections/maize-high-school> ) The window for purchasing apparel is very small due to our first meet being early December.

**IS THE CURRENT MEET SCHEDULE THE “FINAL” SCHEDULE?**

Not necessarily–things during the winter weather can get crazy, so sometimes meets are delayed, and frequently meets are added. Plan to leave your Saturdays in January available! (And for divers, some Fridays). The schedule can be found on our BLAST site.

**PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT & FUNDRAISING**

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

We would love to have you join us, and for the home meets we will need ***A LOT*** of help! For most volunteer spots (timers, award sorting, 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 these areas in upcoming emails through Sign-Up Genius.

In addition to meet volunteering, we have different volunteer opportunities throughout the season. This includes ensuring team snacks/drinks get to the team bus before a meet; purchasing snacks/food; helping coordinate away meet team meals; photography; and other team administrative needs like handling finances, etc.

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

Feel free to show your support for your swimmer/diver by purchasing gear through the team store! We will be selling tshirts at the first home meet as well, or you can contact Terry Johnson to get a tshirt. This isn’t a fundraiser for our team, so it truly is up to individual taste. Many families each year purchase t-shirts to show their support at the meets, and they can also be worn when we host meets (we are hosting at least 3 this year).

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

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

**TEAM FUNDRAISING**

We utilize BLAST to manage our team communication and fundraiser. This fundraiser does not involve selling anything and is more of a sponsorship for the season. We were very successful last year with our fundraising and it helped us to purchase parkas, team gear, meals, snacks, and items for our State Team. In addition, it is helping us to provide a team tshirt to all athletes this year.

We want to encourage you to help us make this year’s fundraiser just as successful. You will provide names and contact information and the team along with BLAST will send out communication to garner support and sponsorship this season. In return, we will update donors on team successes and highlight each meet.

Money from fundraising is used to: Purchase meals and team snacks for boys to eat on the bus when meets are on school days; help cover costs for team dinners before home meets; provide additional team equipment and gear; provide state meet items for our team; end of season banquet supplies, awards, coach & manager gifts, senior gifts, etc.; and more.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

The team is also enrolled with Dillons Community Rewards. You can create an account by going to <https://www.dillons.com/> - Go to **My Account** - Scroll down to **Community Rewards** and select **MHS BOOSTER - BOYS SWIMMING**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**TEAM DINNERS**

We anticipate hosting team dinners again this season. These typically take place before every weekend meeting. Some will happen on Friday nights while others on Thursday nights. Ideally we would host a few of these at someone’s house after practice but the team also likes to go to dinner at a local restaurant. If you are willing to host or help with a team dinner, please let me know. The host typically provides the home and we get volunteers to help cover supplies like side dishes, cutlery, plates, drinks, etc.

**HOW DO YOU LETTER IN SWIM?**

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.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Head Coach: Tedd Gibson teddgibson64@gmail.com

Assistant Coach: Jeremy Bernard jbernard@usd266.com

Diving Coach: Heather Richardson heatherpr23@yahoo.com

Team Parent: Terry Johnson terry@projectteacher.org or (316)393-2047