

JONATHAN DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

Where Great Teachers and Great Students Develop Great Minds

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

139 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07081

(973) 376-1025 Extension 5276
Fax (973) 376-5593
Athletics

Lance Jacobs
Supervisor of

JONATHAN DAYTON ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY AND EXPECTATIONS

Athletics at Jonathan Dayton High School is an integral part of the education experience. Our programs provide opportunities for students to compete, excel, and enhance their skills and knowledge. Our coaches are dedicated professionals with excellent credentials and accredited by the state of New Jersey. Coaches are committed to enhancing student performance both on and off the field.

We are committed to enabling student athletes to have the best possible experience on our athletic teams ... an experience that will enhance their learning, growth, and personal development. The Jonathan Dayton athletic experience teaches more than strategies of sport but exposes athletes to sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork and leadership that will equip them with necessary societal skills to be successful.

High School athletics are highly competitive, and teams in most sports vie for conference, county and state titles. As educators, we recognize that few students will make their livelihoods as athletes, but all will need to know the values of hard work and joint effort towards a common goal. Your role as a parent is essential in helping coaches reinforce these attributes.

High School athletics are a source of community pride. In the Springfield community, they not only fill that role but serve as a source of entertainment as well. Players, coaches and spectators all bear responsibility in representing the Springfield community with character and integrity whether home or visiting an opposing school. It is important as a parent of our student athletes to be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure your child has the best experience possible and show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators and support groups. Conference and state regulations have strict guidelines pertaining to appropriate spectator behavior.

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the premises. Remember, we cannot control the actions of others but we can control how we respond to their actions.

One way for parents to support their children's teams is to join the JDHS Booster Club. The purpose of the Jonathan Dayton Booster Club is to encourage and support the Jonathan Dayton Interscholastic Athletic program and all athletic activities through fund

raising and volunteer efforts. There are many benefits to joining. If interested in joining please contact the Booster Club for further details.

JONATHAN DAYTON ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY & EXPECTATIONS

The Athletic Department believes being a member of an interscholastic competitive athletic team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, provides an opportunity for our student athletes to learn lessons in commitment, citizenship, sportsmanship and life. Student athletes learn the value of working collaboratively to meet team goals, comprehend responsibility and commitment to their team and school. They also gain insight into placing the team first, learning to accept constructive criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with class and dignity, self control and being responsible for their actions.

Student athletes are held to a high standard. Participation in athletics is a privilege and must be treated as such. Athletes are role models and must exhibit exemplary conduct in the classroom and on the field. Athletes are subject to random drug testing as a condition to their athletic edibility. Violation to school and state drug policy can result in forfeiture of athletic eligibility. Parents, spectators bear the responsibility of providing an example of refraining from the use of substances while in attendance of an athletic contest. The Jonathan Dayton High School athletic facilities have a ***NO Tolerance*** policy in regards to the use of substances while in attendance of athletic events held on school grounds. Failure to comply may result in removal from the premises.

One of the main goals of our varsity a program is to put our most committed, responsible and talented athletes of the team on the field of competition to win the contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to Seniors or any other player for that matter. Starting positions can change and are subject to revisions by the coaching staff each day. Student athletes at any high school grade level possessing the necessary skills have the same and equal opportunity to earn a position on the team.

Each member of the team is very valuable to the team's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of time while others may not see, what a parent would consider, significant playing time. There will be athletes on the team that start the athletic contest but this role is not guaranteed every game. Coaches will strategically play the best players at the particular time of the game or by the particular competition. Coaches by the very nature of athletic competition must look at the, "big picture". It is the team that wins contests, not the individual. We remind parents and athletes that coaching decisions are made for the betterment of the team as a whole and for the future of the program, not just for the results of a single game or for the benefit of a single individual. Unfortunately, in a competitive interscholastic program, members of a team are not guaranteed or entitled to playing time.

At times when numbers exceed a carrying capacity the coaching staff is responsible for team member selection. Selection criteria is established by the entire coaching staff of each team. While the selection process incorporates many objective criteria, there is a

certain degree of expertise in the process. Therefore, each student athlete should have a personal improvement plan as one of their goals.

JONATHAN DAYTON ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY & EXPECTATIONS

It is important to follow the chain of command when addressing issues that may arise. If a parent or student has a concern, it is important to contact the coach directly responsible for the issue and follow the chain Coach, Head Coach, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Principal. Please do not attempt to contact/confront a coach before or after a practice/contest/game. That time is solely devoted to the players. It is important to know that all practices are closed to the public due to the athletes becoming distracted during a limited instructional period. When there is a conflict with instruction or teaching philosophies it is important to remember that these are emotional times for both parent and coach and this period does not support objective analysis of the situation.

Coaches have a limited time frame to assemble their team, make team selections and begin athletic competition. They do their best in keeping the most committed responsible and talented athletes and designate them to a certain level to compete against other schools. The coaches are trained in these skills and attend yearly workshops for professional development in their sport. They are expected to assemble the most competitive team possible. While any one of us using our own criteria might select different athletes for a particular team, it is the responsibility of the head coach and his /her staff to select the team members. Our coaches are in the business of coaching because they care about students and care about the game. Our coaches know the limits for positively pushing and communicating with student athletes. When athletes are pushed to their limits they gain motivation, life skills and tools to be successful in the world today. Athletes have fun when they meet their individual goals and team goals by learning how to play together as a team.

8 Simple Rules to Ensure Student Athletes/ Parents a Successful Athletic Experience:

1. Treat visiting teams and officials as a guest, extending to them every courtesy.
2. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
3. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.
4. Understand that it is the coaches' responsibility to make certain that students are working to become a better people and athletes while trying to win games.
5. Recognize that good sportsmanship is important by approving and applauding good team play.
6. Keep any negative thoughts about the coach, the program, or teammates to yourself. Your child has one chance to be a high school athlete, help to make it special.
7. Abide by the 24 hour rule. The 24 hour rule states that the parent will not voice a complaint to the coach within 24 hours of a game.
8. Parents should feel free to speak to a coach about: the treatment of their child,

how the child can improve their skills and the child's attitude and behavior. Parents should not ask about playing time, game strategies and other players.

We sincerely hope this provides you with an understanding of the athletic philosophy at Jonathan Dayton High School. Please take few moments to discuss with your family the components that are involved in operating a successful program and your involvement and contribution to the program. In doing so, all of our student athletes, parents and coaches will have a more successful, rewarding experience.

Yours In Sport,

Principal

Supervisor of Athletics

Please sign below that you have read and understand the Jonathan Dayton High School Athletic Expectations. Return this form along with the Steroid Consent Form before the inception of the season. Athletes will not be allowed to participate unless this document is signed.

GO DAWGZ!



Parent/Guardian – (print): _____

Parent/Guardian- (signature): _____

Student Athlete- (print): _____

Student Athlete- (signature) _____