



# St. Peter's Sports Handbook



**St. Peter's Lutheran School  
7810 Maysville Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815  
749-5811**



**WELCOME** to the St. Peter's sports program! We hope it is a positive experience for your athlete and you. Athletics is a major offering at St. Peter's , one that can occupy your child's time virtually from the first day of school to almost the last. Why have such a complete program? Our school's mission statement tells us that we are attempting to help our children grow in five ways: **spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, socially and physically**. Our athletic program is an extension of that program.

Our athletes grow **Spiritually** when they:

- learn to trust in the Lord for all things
- develop faith-filled relationships with Christian teammates

Our athletes grow **Emotionally** when they:

- learn to lose with grace and dignity
- learn to win with grace and humility
- develop the discipline to be good athletes

Our athletes grow **Intellectually** when they:

- discover the relationship between the classroom and the athletic field
- learn the mental challenges of mastering a sport

Our athletes grow **Socially** when they:

- develop spiritual bonds with their teammates
- see opponents as fellow Christians and friends

Our athletes grow **Physically** when they:

- develop coordination through repetition
- develop strength and endurance through practice

It is our desire to have your child experience these benefits through our sports program. This booklet describes our program in detail and describes what you, your athlete and your coach can do to make this a positive experience. Please read it carefully and enjoy St. Peter's sports!

### **St. Peter's Sports – General Overview**

As a member of the Lutheran School Athletic Association, St. Peter's offers a wide variety of athletic experiences on several levels. There are 18 schools in the LSAA located throughout Allen, Adams and Noble Counties.

In most sports, the schools are split into two divisions according to geographic location – North and South. St. Peter's is in the North Division.

Interscholastic competition is offered at two levels: the 5-6 grade division, often referred to as the junior varsity or reserve team, and the 7-8 grade division, or the varsity. It is our general policy not to include students from the lower grades (gr. K-4) on the junior varsity, nor is it our policy to move reserve players up to the varsity level. However, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are allowed to participate in wrestling and in track, and on rare occasions we have recruited younger students when there were not enough players to field a reserve team. Also, when numbers are not sufficient to field a complete team, younger players may be moved to the varsity level.

St. Peter's Lutheran School has a policy which prohibits retaining a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in our extracurricular athletic program.

Each season consists of a series of league games (usually playing each division team once) and a post-season tournament of playoff. There are no league tournaments at the 5-6 grade level although some schools choose to host a tournament on their own.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERED AT ST. PETER'S ARE:**

### **BOYS SOCCER**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Late August or early September

Ends: Middle October

Practices: Held after school on the playground or church field

Games: After school at various sites, Mainly Park fields

Division: Two divisions

Tournament: End of season, involving all league teams

### **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Late August

Ends: Middle October

Practices: Held after school in the gym

Games: After school at various sites, some at St. Peter's

Tournament: End of season, involving all league teams

### **BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Practices – end of October; Games – mid November

Ends: Early February

Practices: After school and early evening, and some Saturdays

Games: JV – after school at various sites including St. Peter's

Varsity: After school and on Saturdays, various sites including St. Peter's

Tournament: End of season, at various gyms and CLHS

### **BOYS WRESTLING**

Levels: Pee Wee, Junior, Senior, based on age and weight

Begins: Early February

Ends: Late March

Practices: In the gym, after school

Matches: After school and some Saturdays, at various sites, including St. Peter's.

Tournaments: Concordia Invitational Tournament @ CLHS

LSAA League Meet @ Wyneken

## **BOYS & GIRLS TRACK**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Early April

Ends: Late May

Practices: After school, church parking lot, school playground

Meets: After school or early evening at CLHS

Tournaments: LSAA Relays @ CLHS, LSAA Cadet Divisional Meet @ CLHS

## **GIRLS SOCCER**

Levels: Varsity (includes girls in gr. 5-8)

Begins: Early April

Ends: Late May

Practices: After school on school fields

Games: After school at various sites

Tournaments: End of season involving all league teams

For more information on each sport, please contact the Athletic Director.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **THE JUNIOR VARSITY PROGRAM**

The purpose of St. Peter's junior varsity athletic program is to give our children exercise, build self-esteem, highlight sportsmanship and acquire new skills. Our intent is not to defeat a child's willingness to take a risk or try a new sport. As a result, it is our policy that every junior varsity player play in every game to which his/her team is assigned. Designated tournament games may be an exception to "everyone plays" rule at the discretion of the coach and athletic director. Athletes are not cut from teams. The emphasis is on participation by all of our athletes. It is important to note, however, that the coach has the right to exclude a player because of poor attitude, attendance or determination.

### **THE VARSITY PROGRAM**

While the varsity level teams also strive for the same ideals, it is important to note that competition and winning the contest become much more important. At the varsity level, St. Peter's maintains a no cut policy. Sometimes, though, we may have large team rosters which makes trying to play everyone a challenge for the coach. At the varsity level, winning isn't the only thing or the most important thing, but striving for victory is one objective of competition. In a close contest, to interject a player with weaker skills into the heat of the battle is unfair to that player and to the team. If we are competing with a school that cuts less talented players, their "second string" is often far superior to our "second team" and a situation of uneven competition results. Many factors enter into the coach's decision on whom to play, when, and for how long. Some of these are: 1) Player's attitude in practice sessions; 2) Player's attitude at games; 3) Players attendance at practices and games; 4) Player's determination in practices and games; 5) Player's skill level attained; 6) Number of players on the team; 7) Score of game; 8) Caliber of opponents generally; 9) Caliber of opponents in the game.

Remember, varsity athletics are not intramurals. If victory is within reach, everyone may not play as much as s/he would like, or when s/he wishes. That is the coach's decision alone. The coach is the only person who has all the data to make the decision.

## **THE ATHLETE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Interscholastic athletics put St. Peter's "on display". Athletes who compete against other schools represent not only themselves, but St. Peter's and their Lord as well. On a day-to-day basis, there is no other program that brings our students and parents together with students and parents from other schools. We expect our athletes to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting their Christian faith in and out of school, in the gym and on the playing field. We expect our athletes to:

1. Attend church regularly
2. Show Christian sportsmanship
3. Have a cooperative spirit with team members and coaches
4. Be a team player motivated by team spirit
5. Win without boasting – lose without complaining
6. Be courteous to all coaches, officials, and opposing players
7. Accept all officials' decisions gracefully

The principal, coach, athletic director or any teacher may, after a conference, exclude a student from participation in interscholastic athletics if the student, because of conduct or unchristian attitude, would not be a worthy representative of St. Peter's. However, the student is expected to attend all practices and be present at games. In addition, anyone found smoking, using alcoholic beverages, drugs, or selling the same, or chronically foulmouthed will be expelled from all athletics for the remainder of the school year.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Prompt and regular attendance is necessary for team membership.

Unexcused absences or tardies in sufficient number will result in probation or dismissal from the team.

- 1) It is the responsibility of the athlete to **PERSONALLY** inform the coach in advance of any anticipated absence or tardiness from a game or practice. Any violation of the above will result in an unexcused absence.
- 2) An unexcused absence will result in the player not being allowed to play in the next regularly scheduled game, but s/he must attend all practices.
- 3) Three (3) unexcused absences will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
- 4) Students should be picked up **PROMPTLY** after games and practices. Check schedule for times. If a student is not picked up within 15 minutes after a practice has ended, s/he will be ineligible for the next game.
- 5) To be eligible to participate in a game or practice a student must be in attendance at school no less than the second half of the day of the event.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students must maintain a C average to remain eligible for participation in interscholastic sports. If a student receives an F on his/her quarterly report in one of the major academic subject areas, s/he will not be able to participate in any sport or cheerleading. The student's status will be re-evaluated at the following grading period. If a student receives an F in music, art, physical education, instrumental music or choir, the student is on probation until the next grading period. During that time, the student may still participate in a sport and must bring the F grade up to at least a D. If at the next grading period the student still has an F in that subject, s/he will be ineligible for that grading period.

## **AGE LIMITS**

The following age limits have been established by LSAA:

- Grade 8 – Must not be 15 years old before August 15
- Grade 7 – Must not be 14 years old before August 15
- Grade 6 – Must not be 13 years old before August 15
- Grade 5 – Must not be 12 years old before August 15
- Grade 4 – Must not be 11 years old before August 15

## **THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Parents have distinct responsibilities toward their children and their school regarding the athletic program at St. Peter's. These areas closely parallel the student's responsibilities

## **THE BASICS**

First, it is the parent's responsibility to make sure his/her student meets all of the basic requirements for the athletic program. These include:

- 1) Ensure the student has adequate accident insurance. Most often this is covered through the parent's insurance company through work. If additional insurance protection is required, it may be purchased through the school at the beginning of the school year.
- 2) Ensure that before the student's first practice, s/he has on file with the Athletic Director a physician's Certificate of Physical Fitness and Parent's Consent to participate (this must be done each year).
- 3) Ensure all equipment to be provided by the athlete is of good quality and in good repair (shoes, shin guards, etc.).
- 4) The school will provide uniforms for each sport. The athlete and His/her parents are to see that the uniforms are cared for and cleaned properly throughout the season and returned in laundered condition as soon as possible after the season has ended. Athletes and their families are responsible for lost or ruined uniforms and equipment.

## **CONDUCT**

This is the most important area of responsibility for the parent. St. Peter's places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of our athlete's conduct on and off the playing field. This holds doubly true for parents. Parents are the most important influence in any child's life. If we expect our athletes to act in a Christian manner on the court, then parents, as role models, must do the same. All of the rules of conduct applied to our athletes are doubly applicable to parents. This is vital for two reasons:

First, by his or her actions in the stands, the parent teaches the child how to respect the game and opposing athletes, honor referee's decisions, and encourage others through positive support.

Second, positive Christian behavior creates a positive image of St. Peter's in the minds of opposing players and parents. There are very few times other than at athletic events where St. Peter's is on display, where other schools' parents and athletes form opinions about us just as we do about them. Through our conduct, we give St. Peter's a positive image.

### **SPECIFICALLY, ST. PETER'S PARENTS SHOULD:**

- 1) Respect the opposing team. In the heat of the battle it is sometimes easy to forget we are playing fellow Christian, fellow sons and daughters of the King. Booing, negative yelling and cheering when an opposing player is injured or fouls out are examples of behavior we do not expect to see from St. Peter's fan or players.
- 2) Respect the referees and their decisions. It seems to be a common belief in Indiana that basketball games are opportunities for fans to release their frustrations on the referees. While we recognize the right of each of us to disagree with the referee, our primary emphasis at any sport event should be on supporting and cheering on our athletes. Critiquing the refs should be secondary and should reflect the Christian nature of our school and team.
- 3) Support our players and coaches. St. Peter's athletic program is designed to provide learning experiences in competitive situations. It is important to remember our athletes are not perfect. They need to be supported in positive ways when they fail. Likewise, our coaches are dedicated, caring Christians. If you have a concern about the coaching of a team, talk to the coach in a caring Christian way. If that does not produce satisfactory results, take the concern to the Athletic Director.

### **THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY**

In any sporting event, the coach is the leader of the day. S/he is the person to whom players and fans alike look for advice and guidance.

Coaches should:

- 1) Be role models for their athletes on and off the court or playing field and provide leadership in displaying the behaviors required of athletes and parents.
- 2) Treat their athletes fairly, wisely and positively within the guidelines established in this book, regarding each student as a valued child of God.
- 3) Teach the positive values of winning and losing.
- 4) Take an interest in and emphasize the spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual and social growth and development of each athlete.
- 5) Conduct practices in an orderly and organized fashion.  
Parents are reminded that practices are the responsibility of the coach. Parents may attend practices only with the Coach's permission.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

St. Peter's athletes participate in sporting events at sites throughout the city and county. For home events, athletes may stay after until the event is scheduled to begin. For events at other schools or sites, it is primarily the responsibility of the parents to see that the athlete is at the site at the time designated by the coach. For after school events, we rely on parents who volunteer to transport athletes to the site. Parents are responsible for getting their child home after the event. Siblings of athletes are **NOT** to remain after school for practices.

## FROM HERE TO THERE

To find your way around town, please use this handy guide to LSAA schools.

### DIRECTIONS TO DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE:

- Take Maysville Rd. South to Lake Ave
- Turn RIGHT on Lake to Coliseum
- Turn LEFT on Coliseum to the cloverleaf
- Turn RIGHT on Washington (U.S. 24 West) to downtown

### ASCENSION "ANGELS"

8811 St. Joe Road, FW 46835                      PHONE: 486-5793

- Take State West to Lahmeyer Rd.
- Turn RIGHT on Lahmeyer Rd. to St. Joe Center Rd
- Turn LEFT on St. Center Rd. to Maplecrest Rd.
- Turn RIGHT on Maplecrest Rd.
- Go under 469 overpass. Continue through stop light  
(about 2 ½ miles). School is on left side of road

### CENTRAL "CHARGERS"

1400 Elm Street, NH 46774                      PHONE: 493-2502

- Take Maysville Road to Lake St.
- Turn LEFT on North River Rd. (Lake St. extended)
- Turn RIGHT on Landin Rd. through New Haven business district
- Turn LEFT on Lincoln Highway (U.S. 14)
- Turn RIGHT on Green St. to Central

### CONCORDIA "CUBS"

4245 Lake Ave., FW 46815                      PHONE: 426-9922

- Take Maysville Rd. to Lake St.
- Turn RIGHT on Lake to Concordia, between Reed Rd and Coliseum

### CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

1601 St. Joe River Dr., FW 46805                      PHONE: 483-1102

- Take State St. to Coliseum Blvd.
- Turn RIGHT on Coliseum Blvd.
- Turn LEFT on Anthony Blvd. to CLHS, corner of Anthony Blvd. & St. Joe River Dr.

### EMMANUEL-ST. MICHAEL "EAGLES"

1123 Union St., FW 46802                      PHONE: 422-6712

- Take Washington through downtown Fort Wayne
- Turn LEFT on Rockhill St.
- Turn LEFT on Jefferson Blvd. one block to Emmanuel

**EMMAUS “ROYALS”**

8626 Covington Rd., FW 46807                      PHONE: 456-4573

- Take Jefferson Blvd. west through downtown Fort Wayne
- Turn RIGHT on Covington Rd., continue down Covington Rd. School is on right hand side of the road.

**HOLY CROSS “CRUSADERS”**

3425 Crescent Ave., FW 46805                      PHONE: 484-9114

- Take State St. to Coliseum Blvd.
- Turn RIGHT on Coliseum to Crescent Ave. (S.R. 37)
- Turn LEFT on Crescent to Holy Cross

**ST. JOHN, KENDALLVILLE “EAGLES”**

301 S. Oak, Kendallville, IN                      PHONE: 260-347-2444

- Take Hwy 3 north from Ft. Wayne (approx. 30 mi) to Kendallville.
- Turn RIGHT at Main St. Follow Main St. into town.
- Turn RIGHT at Rush St. (1<sup>st</sup> stop light).
- Go 2 blocks to Oak St. St. John is at the corner of Oak & Rush Streets. Parking & entrance is behind the building.

**ST. JOHN-EMMANUEL “EAGLES”**

12912 Franke Rd., Monroeville, IN                      PHONE: 639-0123

- Take 469 to Minnick Rd. or go through New Haven to Minnick
- Go SOUTH on Minnick
- Turn LEFT on Monroeville Rd.
- Turn RIGHT on Franke Rd. to St. John’s

**ST. PAUL “BEARS”**

1125 S. Barr St., FW 46802                      PHONE: 424-0049

- Take Washington Blvd. to downtown Fort Wayne
- Turn LEFT on Barr St. to St. Paul’s, corner of Barr and Madison

**ST. PETER – IMMANUEL “COUGARS”**

3845 E 1100 N, Decatur, IN 46733                      PHONE: 623-6115

- Take Maysville East toward Chapel Ridge and 469
- Take 469 South to US 30 East
- Turn Right onto IN – 101
- Turn Left onto E South St/IN 101
- Turn Left onto E 1100 N

**SUB. BETHLEHEM “BULLDOGS”**

6318 W. California Rd., FW 46818                      PHONE: 483-9371

- Take State St. to Coliseum Blvd.
- Turn RIGHT on Coliseum to the west side of Fort Wayne
- Turn RIGHT on U.S. 30 West past North American Van Lines
- Turn LEFT on Flaugh Rd., to Sub. Bethlehem, corner of Flaugh and California

### **LUTHERAN SOUTH UNITY “PHOENIX”**

5401 S. Calhoun St., FW 46807                      PHONE: 744-0459

- Take Washington Blvd. to downtown Fort Wayne
- Turn LEFT on Clinton St.
- Turn RIGHT on Paulding Rd.
- Turn RIGHT on Noll to Unity

### **WOODBURN “WILDCATS”**

4502 St. Rd. 101, Woodburn, IN 46797              PHONE: 632-5493

- Take Maysville Rd. to Lake/North River Rd.
- Turn LEFT on North River Rd.
- Turn RIGHT on Landin Rd.
- Turn LEFT on Rose Ave. (U.S. 24)
- Follow 24 approx. 8 miles to stop light
- Turn RIGHT at light and LEFT on Woodburn Rd. 4 mi. to Woodburn
- Turn LEFT onto Main St. to WLS, corner of Main & 101

### **WYNEKEN “WARRIORS”**

11565 U.S. 27 S., Decatur IN 46733                      PHONE: 639-6177

- Take 469 to U.S. 27 exit **OR**
  - Take Washington Blvd. to downtown Fort Wayne
  - Turn LEFT on Clinton St. (U.S. 27)
- Wyneken is located 6 miles south of the 469/U.S. 27 interchange on the left side of the road

### **ZION, DECATUR “LIONS”**

10<sup>th</sup> and Monroe Streets, Decatur, IN              PHONE: 260-724-7177

- Take U.S. 27 South to Decatur
- Turn LEFT at 224 E. (Monroe St.)
- Go 3 blocks to school on left side of street



## **Sportsmanship Pledge**

- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for and about kids, not adults.
- I will be a positive role model for all children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy to players, coaches, referees, and spectators.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will respect the officials and their authority and will not confront them at the game.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will not encourage or engage in unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing, taunting, cursing, threats, or being physical.
- I will teach all children that doing one’s best is more important than winning.