

REDEEMER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Mission: To assist in training children to practice Christ-like attitudes and exhibit godly character through the use of athletic gifts in a competitive team setting.

Philosophical Foundations

A. Purpose

1. As God has gifted students with athletic as well as academic and artistic skills, He calls coaches to help children **develop their skills** to use for His glory and honor, **disciplining their bodies** as the temple of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor.6:19, 20)
2. As in the covenant school, students are best trained and **coached by godly, mature adults** who can best equip them in the young, impressionable years. This process is enhanced by fellow teammates who share rather than resist the same biblical approach to sports and respect for authority. (Prov. 3:14, 20)
3. As all gifts and skills need an outlet for expression, **proper competition** is the venue for our student athletics. As Eric Liddell, Olympic champion and Christian missionary, stated: "When I run, I feel His pleasure." Competition with the purpose of glorifying God leads to respect and relationship, not the destruction, of one's opponent. (I Cor.9:24, 25)
4. By exemplifying a Christ-like approach to sport and competition, coaches and students have the opportunity for **outreach to other teams and competitors** both in the example they set, the relationships they form, and the things they say. Plus, they are being grounded in godly principles and habits in sport that will prepare them for being salt and light on teams where coaches and teammates may not embrace Christ or biblical principles. (Matt. 5:16)

B. Participation

1. The Athletic Program is not to substitute for the healthy exercise of all students through Physical Education, but rather is established as **extra-curricular opportunity** for students that are adequately gifted for training and competition. Therefore, all students may not qualify, as some sports may hold tryouts to determine participation.
2. Competition can be overemphasized in our culture at the expense of teamwork and cooperation. Therefore, we believe that **Middle School age students** are better suited for regular competitive athletics than their elementary school companions.
3. Since the academic and character growth and nurture of students must be considered as the **primary assist** of the school to parents, those students whose progress in these areas may be impeded by athletic competition will be denied participation.

C. Coaching and Mentoring

1. The hiring and development of **godly Christian coaches** in all sports are an important priority of the school, not only for the physical training but the spiritual training of their athletes.
2. The coaches are mentored and shepherded by the Athletic Director who views his calling as an **equipping ministry** to his coaches.
3. The ultimate desire of our coaches is for their **athletes to grow** in biblical disciplines, the fruits of the Spirit, and in applying their gifts and skills for the purpose of doing their best in and hopefully the winning of contests. Lessons that apply in all of life can be learned in sports.