



Athletics Philosophy

The Bethany Christian School's approach to athletics stems directly from the school's philosophy of education, since it is foundational to everything done in the school. We believe our athletic program should aid in the academic, spiritual, social, and proper physical development of the student-athlete. The athletic program at BCS is designed to be a student focused, Christ-honoring experience in participative and competitive sports. It responds to the need all students have for the age-appropriate development of basic athletic skills, physical fitness, teamwork proficiency and positive personality traits.

Ultimately, the athletic program will demonstrate to the students, their families, and the community that athletic participation can effectively develop and demonstrate Christian character.

The athletic program endeavors to take into account the distinct differences among grade school, middle school, and high school sports. The grade school student-athlete needs an emphasis on instruction and skill development with sensitivity as to how sports experiences can deeply affect personality development. The middle school student needs similar instruction and sensitivity but will also be exposed to competitive interscholastic play. Instruction continues in high school with advanced training and a heavy practice schedule. At this level, athletic expertise will be used, along with other criteria to determine playing time.

Our Goal

Our goal in the athletics department is to play as a team and demonstrate Christ like behavior on and off the court.

Objectives

1. To demonstrate strong Christian character during normal and stressful situations. A coach or student-athlete should always be in control, or quick to correct his/her mistakes.
2. To foster a desire in the student-athlete to manage their academics and behavior in such a manner as to gain the privilege of participation in the school-sponsored sports program.
3. To help the student-athlete learn to handle relationships with their peers and those in authority over them.

Philosophy of athletic participation at BCS

1. Participating in athletics is a privilege not a right.
2. All students have the opportunity to try out for an athletic team. However, based on facility limitations and league regulations, some teams will need to make cuts.
3. The team coach will determine selection of team members. This decision will be based on their academic records, practice attendance, work ethic, attitude, and skill level in that particular sport.
4. The ultimate goal is to allow each team an opportunity to play in every game. Please see the "Level of Play" section for details regarding each grade level.
5. It is NOT the philosophy of BCS to focus on wins, but rather concentrate all of our efforts on building relationships, creating a positive environment for growth, learning the benefits of healthy competition and ultimately to elevate the reputation of Christ through action.

Definitions

Student-focused: Winning, while desirable, is subordinate to student development and enjoyment.

Participative: Implies a focus on instruction and student development. All students who seek to participate and to practice will be given playing time as outlined below.

Competitive: Striving to do our best at all grade levels creates a climate for quality participation and competition. At the upper grade level, competition also refers to the necessity for try-outs and differential playing time in order to optimize the BCS interscholastic sports experience.

Age-appropriate: The program should be adjusted to the physical and emotional maturity of students. The program is distinctly different for grade school vs. middle school vs. high school.

Interscholastic: Competition between BCS and sanctioned schools.