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Dear Parents and Guardians.

As we approach the middle of our basketball season, we wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate our teams and to also remind athletes and parents of the expectations during sports. As a faith-filled school community, we work hard to empower youth development and enhance the educational experience through participation in school sports. We strive to integrate sportsmanship, personal growth and leadership through our programs.

As per Alberta Schools Athletic Association, all competitions must be conducted with a high standard of courtesy, fair play and sportsmanship. We all have a role to play in this shared responsibility.

- **Coaches:** The coaches must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship. These are evidenced by proper acceptance of officials' judgment, positive encouragement of player performance and bench behavior.
- **Athletes:** Athletes must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship by proper acceptance of officials' judgment and by showing proper respect for opposing athletes as well as for teammates.
- **Spectators:** Spectators, both student and adult, must demonstrate courtesy and good sportsmanship by positive cheers of encouragement for their team, not against the opposing team.

As parents, guardians and spectators, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards when we enter a facility to cheer on our team. Please know that negative cheering, argumentative comments or shouting towards refs, opposing fans, players, parents, scorekeepers and coaches, or any other display of unsportsmanlike conduct, will not be tolerated. In such a case, you may be asked to leave the facility by a ref, athletic director, teacher liaison or administrator from either our school, or the host school. This is to

*Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture, and Serve
Inspiré par Dieu dans une aventure à découvrir, grandir, et servir.*

maintain a safe, welcoming and caring environment for all athletes, volunteers and spectators.

We know games can get exciting and competitive but regardless of outcome, our goal is to develop character, lifelong skills and positive relationships. Overall, we are struggling to retain refs for our youth sports, mostly due to the negative behaviours overshadowing the positive ones within the sports communities. Middle School sports are a great skill level to train our refs, who are often teens themselves, helping them to gain the skills to move onto the next level. We thank you for working to lift up our athletes and refs, for cheering positively, for respecting the game and for helping us shape our athletes to become the best possible teens they can be.

Finally, if you are willing, or have the confidence to share your knowledge of the game and would like to join our community as a volunteer ref or coach, please do not hesitate to call.

We always appreciate the time and effort coaches, teachers and refs give to our students on their evenings and weekends.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My door is always open.

Yours in Christ,



Erika Pottage

