



IMMANUEL
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EST. 1979

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Dear Parents of Basketball Players,

Basketball at ICS will never reflect the rest of our society's perspective on sports. There are several reasons for that. One is simply that we are a small school. Our high school and junior high school students need to focus on learning first. They also are going to be involved in many other clubs and activities that will run the family ragged if we increase amount of practices or intensify the schedule. Another reason is because we believe that the focus is not honoring to God. Winning cannot be our main goal. There are too many other issues that are more important. Play that is God-honoring will include practicing skills and understanding that is commensurate with abilities of the players. It will include diligence and hard-work. It will include fun. (All learning ought to be fun. It will not always be fun at every moment!) It will include genuine commendation for good effort and private conversations with individuals who are not participating up to their potential. It will require prayer with and for the team.

Having stated all this, we need to hold out the fine tension of determination to "win." Our team must have an attitude of giving their all to the very end - so that Christ will be honored by good work, not for the glory of winning. Students will need to be guided to understand this tension. It is not about self-esteem, or prestige or any of the other false goals that do not profit anyone. To help accomplish this goal, we have a very simple attendance policy. Students must come to all scheduled practices except when they conflict with other pre-scheduled commitments such as music lessons, doctor's appointments or regularly scheduled events. Those personal appointments for hair and "tanning" needs ☺ should be made on days that are non-basketball days. Student commitment is essential. All absences should be made known to the coach as soon as possible. Any injuries during practice are to be reported to the coach as well.

All this will require our coaches, players, and parents to continually rethink what it is that we are doing with sports at ICS. These tensions will be true of all sports programs that are undertaken at ICS.

Sincerely,

Kelly Knowlden
Principal