

# Crusader Athletic Philosophy

*“Engage the mind, elevate the spirit, and stimulate the best effort of all who are associated with the institution.”*

## Middle School/High School Junior Varsity Level Statement of Philosophy

To develop and build strong Christian values in our student-athletes through the spirit of competition. The mission of the athletic department ultimately, is that of the Academy’s academic program: EXCELLENCE.

In this context, excellence includes commitment to physical and emotional well-being, social development of our student-athletes as well as to the development of their sense of citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play. The development of individual and team skills, exertion of one’s best effort, the will to win and general conduct that brings credit to Crusader Athletics.

The measure of “excellence” when applied to interscholastic athletics means a level of performance that will frequently produce success, both on the field and in the classroom and the realistic opportunity to compete for conference and state championships. It requires that student-athletes engaged in athletics be students first, that they be admitted according to this criterion, that they progress satisfactorily towards a degree, and that their graduation rates as student-athletes not be different from those of non-athletes.

### Evaluation and Selection Process

One Program System: The coaches from junior high through high school varsity work together in the preseason evaluation, tryout and selection process in each specific sport.

Participation numbers vary in size from year to year and sport to sport (roster caps will be instituted on a case by case basis when appropriate).

Seventh and eighth graders may play up a level if their skill and maturity level combined will allow him or her to make a “significant contribution” to that upper level team. Significant Contribution is defined as a starter or first substitute in (provided the parents of the student-athlete consent to allow the student to play up).

Playing Up Factors: Physical, Social, Emotional Development, academic progress and sport-skill development.

### Participation and Competitive Guidelines

Designed to be a competitive program while meeting the individual developmental needs of each student-athlete.

Each student-athlete will have an opportunity to earn the privilege to participate through athletic skill, proper attendance, attitude and work ethic.

A student-athlete’s position, role and playing time are determined by the coaching staff according to how he/she will best serve the team.