



Greetings Middle School Soccer Team Parents and Players,

As the summer grows to a close, the beginning of the fall soccer season is only a few short weeks away. It was my good fortune to assist Coach Dino with the team last year, and this year I'm excited to fill the Middle School coach's position that became vacant when Dino moved up to assist with the Varsity Soccer team.

Our successes last season were driven by a very cohesive team that was led by an outstanding group of 8th grade players. This year we have an opportunity for the new 8th grade players, and our younger players, to step forward and fill the positions vacated by those seven fine athletes. We will build upon the strengths we developed last year — ball control, passing, and defense. Plus, we will focus on other aspects of the game, such as winning the 50/50 ball. This will be an excellent opportunity for all the players to elevate their level of play as there will be ample time on the field for everyone during games. Additionally, I will be looking for some new leaders to emerge in practice and during the games.

My main expectations for the team are very simple:

1. I expect everyone to come to practice and games with their equipment and ready to play.
2. We will show respect for ourselves, the opposing players, and the referees; and we will represent the Academy with class. Verbal abuse/taunting/loss of self control is not acceptable for any reason.
3. Athletics can teach many life lessons, but the players must remember that their main focus is their studies and grades. The opportunity to excel on the field is a privilege that is earned by excelling in the classroom.

Finally, you will notice during the season that I will have a different coaching style than coaches of past seasons. While being appropriately animated on the sideline during the games is okay, my style is a quiet approach. I will give minimal directions while players are on the field. The majority of my advice to the players is offered while they are on the sideline or between halves. My approach should not convey a lack of interest or intensity on my part, just a different style of coaching during the game. You're welcome to discuss this with me at any time during the season, and always feel free to contact me with issues or concerns.

I look forward to another exciting season with the team.

Greg Bowman