

SPARTANS BASKETBALL

Desire·Discipline·Determination



2026-2027
Player and Parent
Handbook

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPARTAN?

Desire

Do you want to be the best? Are you willing to do what it takes to be *the* best?

Discipline

Are you committed to a common team goal? Will you sacrifice what is necessary for the good of the team?

Determination

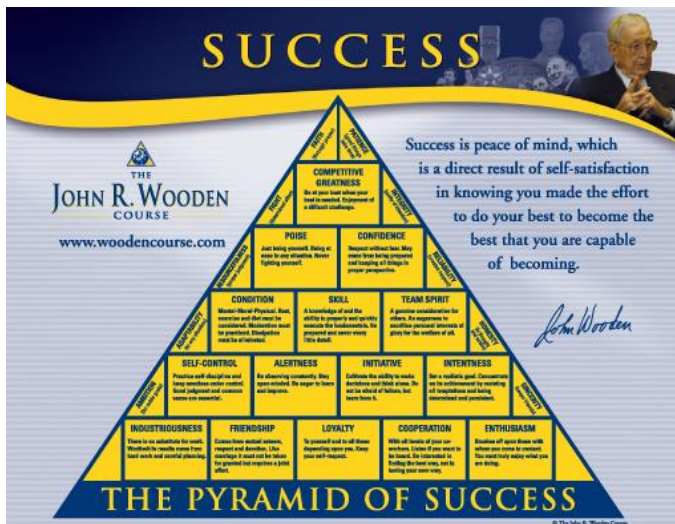
Are you happy with the status quo? Do you want *better* for yourself and your team? Are you willing to work every day, 100%, for a better team? What will you do to make us better?

"It is amazing how much we can accomplish if no one cares who gets the credit."

John R. Wooden

"PYRAMID OF SUCCESS"

John R. Wooden



"Success starts with friendship, cooperation and enthusiasm. Self-control, the right intentions and the drive to do what is right promotes success in a team concept. Having confidence in what you do and maintaining faith and patience are the last steps to becoming a great team. Follow these steps and you will become the best person, capable of success in your life."

-Coach Willis

Inspired by the Pyramid of Success

TO BE THE BEST...

Don't make excuses. Find the answers.

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Open Communication

If absences and/or truancy become a consistent problem for a player, the coaching staff will make every effort to communicate any problems with parents through phone calls or email. To help parents understand the steps the coaching staff is taking to discipline your child, we have set up the following "progressive discipline" guidelines for practice:

1st Unexcused Absence: Counsel the player about the importance of attendance and encourage him to be at practice. Player will sit out the first half of the next game.

2nd Unexcused Absence: Counsel the player; notify the parent/guardian via phone call, and suspension for an entire game.

3rd Unexcused Absence: Counsel the player, set up a meeting with the player, parents/guardians and coaching staff and the player shall be suspended for two games.

4th Unexcused Absence: Counsel the player, set up a meeting with the player, parents/guardians, coaching staff and athletic director, and discuss the possibility of dismissal from the team.

What is considered an unexcused absence?

- Missing practice without notifying the coach prior to practice with a valid excuse
- A doctor or dentist appointment that can be rescheduled for another time
- Family events (e.g., dinners, birthday parties, vacations, etc.) that conflict with team events
- Missing practice for another sport during basketball season (November-February)
- Missing practice for another event without approval from the head coach (includes all months)
- Even notifying a coach about an absence doesn't necessarily make it **EXCUSED. It must be VALID.**

******It is important that the players understand that they have made a **COMMITMENT** to the team and their teammates, and absences affect the success of our team and its goals for a successful season. ******

Players are encouraged to arrive **15 minutes** prior to the scheduled practice time to change into their practice gear, use the restroom in preparation for practice. Players who are not prepared prior to the scheduled practice time will cost the team additional conditioning. Consistent truancies will face individual discipline, including suspension or removal from the team.

"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail."

Affirmations

One of the most important steps to building self-esteem and self-confidence in oneself and the team is the reinforcement of a positive learning environment. While players may fail from time to time in any aspect of their lives, it's important to support these players with a nurturing but firm hand so they may learn from their mistakes. The coaching staff makes every effort to support these ideals in their practices, game instruction and interactions among the parents. I ask that all the parents support our effort to do this while at home and in the community so their sons may receive a consistent discipline plan. If you have any questions about this support system, please ask Coach Willis.



Expectations

What is expected of me? What must I do to make the team successful?

- Show up for practice on time and prepared
- Give your best effort every day
- Don't make excuses
- You're not satisfied with your best
- Contribute regularly and don't exclude yourself from the team
- Follow the "Pyramid of Success"
- Follow the instructions of the coaching staff and administration
- Focus on what it takes to succeed each day
- Follow the guidelines set forth by the team
- Involve parents with your basketball life
- Keep your grades at a minimum 3.5 GPA
- No "F" grades at any time
- Make Spartan Basketball "family"
- Follow the SPARTAN WAY



The “Vision” and “Mission” of the Program

“Our Vision”

Through the example of those Spartans that played before you, we will dedicate ourselves to ascending the ranks to become a top tier basketball program for years to come by being the best team, players and people on and off the court during every possession, every game, every class and every day.

“Our Mission”

As a member of the Spartan basketball brotherhood, we will work tirelessly to “make each day our masterpiece” by becoming the best person, student and player that we can be while dedicating ourselves to the team and to Villa Park High School.

Core Values of Our Program

Be selfless!

Sacrifice and comradery are important to facilitate team cohesion. If players commit to team play, they will build the trust and respect of their peers. If we want to be successful as a team, players must be willing to sacrifice their individual accolades. Be concerned more with each other than yourself.

Do what is right, even if it isn't the popular choice.

Athletes are faced with difficult decisions, whether it's in the game, in the classroom or in their personal life. And these young men will learn valuable life lessons that will go way beyond the court. "Through sport, young people can develop morally; they can learn the basic code of ethics that is transferable to a moral code of life."

—Rainer Martens

Embrace opportunity, not excuses.

These young men will embrace the challenges that face them and learn to meet them head on. A thorough preparation system before practices and games will be utilized to instill confidence in the players. Through tough love, understanding and discipline, these young men will be equipped with the tools to succeed in academics, high school and life.

Be a role model for others.

We ALL are role models for Villa Park High School, and our actions are viewed and interpreted as an example of the Spartan community. Our level of sportsmanship and effort are indicative of our program and should be exemplary. Therefore, our men's program should be the model for which other programs are measured. Although winning is important, it is not the means to an end. It is hard work, dedication, intensity, teamwork and unity that defines our men's program. This includes all stakeholders (parents, players, coaches and fans).



School Administration

Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston, Jr.

Athletic Director

Mr. Tom Fox

Assistant Principal of

Discipline

Mr. Jonathan Pongco

Assistant Principal of

Curriculum

Ms. Victoria Luong

Activities Director

Ms. Shari Scott-Sawyer

Assistant Principal of

Special Education

Mrs. Shasta Campbell

ASB/Athletics

Secretary

Ms. Ashley Roman

Villa Park Spartans

As a demonstration of our commitment to excellence, student-athletes will exhibit the right attitude, a complete effort, and be responsibility as a player and foremost, as a student and member of the community.

Practice

Late to practice..... Everyone runs
Out of uniform..... You run next practice
Lack of effort..... Everyone runs
Talking back to a coach..... Everyone runs

Game

One missed game..... You sit the next game

Two missed games..... Possible removal from the team,
meeting with coaches

Late to pre-game..... Will not start or sit the first
quarter

Talk back to coach..... sit immediately

Disobey coach on the court..... 1st instance: warning;
2nd instance: sit

What Can YOU Do?

If you become frustrated by losing or by not meeting expectations in some way, here is an answer to most of your questions.

During games: Can you sprint more? Can you be more active off the ball on defense? Can you work constantly to expect a shot, be prepared for a pass or be in position to rebound? Can you encourage your teammates on the court or on the bench?

In Practice: Could you arrive earlier, work harder, care more, or use your time wisely to improve? Could you get your teammates to do the same?

Off the Court: Can you talk to your coach and/or your teammates? Express your goals and feelings to your teammates and/or coach and discuss with them what it will take to reach your goals. Have a plan to achieve these goals. Stay focused on what it takes to achieve your goals/dreams.

In the Off Season: This is when you make the biggest impact on the program. Did you get better today? Did you take the extra shots in the gym to improve? Did you work on your defensive stance? Rebounding? Did you go to the weight room and get stronger? Did you practice your skills? Did you commit to it?

Are you consistent and repetitive about following the plan to be better? This is a team game, and you can't afford to care only about yourself. You, along with your teammates, must motivate one another and strive for excellence. Talk to them. Share your dreams and goals with them. Do as much as you can to build that bond with one another so it will be strong when it is put to the test. We are only as strong as our weakest link.

Parent Code of Conduct

As a representative of the Spartan family, parents and spectators are expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the Century Conference regarding fan conduct. "We expect spectators to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their school, their community, their coaches and their families. They shall refrain from all conduct that might degrade, bait, intimidate, or otherwise discredit their opponents, the officials, the high school athletes or other spectators or parents. Extreme negative behavior by a spectator toward an official, coach, player or administrator of a school will not be condoned!"

Please remember we are representatives and ambassadors of Villa Park HS and the Spartans family. Failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct will result in removal from the game,

and/or a meeting with the school athletic director and/or possibly refusal of admission to future games.

Parent Procedures

Coaches understand the need for parents to want to advocate for their sons. However, be mindful that there is a time and place to air any grievance that a parent or fan may have regarding the conduct of a coach, player, administrator, or spectator from either the opposing school or VPHS.

- It is never appropriate to approach referees and/or coaches before, during or after the game regarding the way they are doing their job.
- It is never appropriate to approach the opposing team's players, parents, coaches, or administration with concerns about the way the game is being conducted, player behavior, protocols, etc. It is the role of the VPHS coach to advocate for these

young men while they are wearing a VPHS uniform.

- It is never appropriate for VP fans/parents/spectators to exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct, including disruptive language and behavior in the bleachers. We all represent VPHS and the Spartans program and are responsible for modeling good behavior for the boys. Inappropriate behavior reflects unfavorably on our program.
- The coaches oversee the fans before, during and after the game. We undermine their credibility and their ability to perform their duties when we engage in inappropriate behavior.
- If you have issues or concerns about a coach, there is a communication “chain of command” we must follow:
 - Program level coach
 - Head varsity coach
 - Athletic director
 - Principal

- Please direct your communication to the appropriate individual and allow them time to respond