

# Letter To Parents

The role of the parent in the education of a youngster is important. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

A student's involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to the development of a value system which has been established in the home. Integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics. These are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives fueled by honesty rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

A good sport- student or parent- is a true leader in the community. As a parent of a student at your school, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- To realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of the contest.
- To encourage all students to perform their best in athletics, just as you would in their class work.
- To participate in positive cheers that encourage students and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus- including those that taunt or intimidate opponents or officials.
- To learn, and understand, the rules of the contest and to respect the officials.
- To respect the task coaches face as teachers and to support them as they educate our youth.
- To respect opponents and acknowledge their efforts.
- To develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances.
- To be a fan, not a fanatic!

As a parent, you have a major influence on your child's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you assume in sportsmanship will influence your child for a lifetime.

**Adapted from the Iowa Girls and Boys Athletic Associations Handbook.**

Remember, in athletics, as in life, **CHARACTER COUNTS!**