

Dutchess Day School Fall 2011 Sports Program

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another exciting after school fall sports program. Once more we are offering three main sports for your child to choose from: soccer, field hockey and cross country. Remember, our aim is to teach and develop the basic skills and tactics of the game, develop a strong team spirit (win or lose) and foster a sense of commitment and sportsmanship. All this, we hope, will be reflected in the way we play on the field.

Soccer: The teams this year are heavily influenced by the fact that we have 12 eighth graders playing soccer this season. Of course, according to our school policy, all 12 will be playing in the varsity team, which means only a few spaces available for current sixth and seventh graders. Some seventh and most (if not all) sixth graders will therefore be playing JV again this year.

Athletic Director **Nigel Pink** will be coaching the varsity team. **Fran Rainsford** and new faculty member, **Jonathan Shanks**, will be working together to prepare the junior varsity team.

Field Hockey: After last year's highly successful season, field hockey coach **Donna Fedele** is looking to maintain the team's high standard of play. Our squad is boosted by a group of new players from the current fifth grade, and a very strong group of returning sixth, seventh and eighth graders. They should do well again! In addition, we welcome **Gayle Fedele** back to the DDS coaching scene. She will be Donna's assistant coach. (yes, mother/daughter coaching team)

Cross Country: Coach **Krys Wasielewski** returns this year to continue his sterling work with students keen to develop their running talents. Fourth grade students are invited to participate in this activity again this year. We have at least eight races this year! Cross country schedules are available on the web-site. Coach Krys will be training the team from 4 – 5 p.m. each day (no practice on Tuesdays of course). This means that cross country runners will be supervised in the resource room next to the library until Coach Krys arrives. (They are advised to bring snacks).

New PE, Health and Athletics Blog: The sports blog in the past has provided parents and students with the opportunity to read reports of games, view photos of players in action and receive regular schedule updates and changes. My new blog will do this and much more. Accessible on the new Dutchess Day School web site under the heading *PE, Health and Athletics*, this blog will provide valuable links to schedules, directions to games and other important information. It can also access sports photos taken over the last three years.

Information and Waiting Area: This is located in the hallway of the Bontecou Gym. Some seating is available in this area. Sports schedules and other information are available, together with sports photographs from last year. Photographs from this forthcoming season will be added as we progress through the year. I am hoping that parents continue to take photographs at games and e-mail them to me as often as possible.

Sending them in on a CD is great too! I will invariably include them on my blog and place hard copies in this year's photo album.

Snack Parents: Once again, we will need a parent from each team to coordinate the provision of snacks. Please let me know as soon as possible. Your help is much appreciated.

Snacks: At home, we usually just go with orange segments at half-time, providing for the opposition and referees too. For away games, the parents provide our players with orange segments at half-time and individual cartons of drink (usually fruit juice) and individual snack packs such as pretzels or crackers. We definitely want to avoid unhealthy things such as soda and doughnuts.

Late Pick Up: Coaches are expected to wait around after practice is over to make sure that everyone has a ride and that no one is left alone at the pick-up point. If a parent has not arrived to pick up a child, at some stage the coach must decide whether to keep waiting at the pick-up point or take the student to study hall in the main building. This is one of the reasons that study hall exists. In most instances, coaches usually stay around with the student until the parent arrives. However, if a coach has an appointment or commitment somewhere else at a certain time, waiting for a parent to arrive may cause them a problem. If the coach needs to leave, once practice has ended, then the school policy is that the student will be escorted to study hall until the parent can get here. Taking students to the study hall is also ensuring their safety. Please remember that if practice goes on longer than expected, you are free to pick your child up at the time stated or even before. Parents often do that.

I would suggest that if you are late, and I can understand this happening from time to time, please go to the pick-up point first. This is most likely where your child will be. If there is no sign of life there, then you should go to the study hall in the main building.

Finally, I hope everyone is looking forward to the season ahead. It will be great to see you out on the fields supporting the teams. Please help us by watching the games from the opposite side of the field/court to the team benches.

Best Wishes,

Nigel Pink
Athletic Director