



# **St. Anthony School**

## **Athletics Handbook**

### **2025-2026**

St. Anthony School  
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## Introduction

Welcome! We are pleased that you and your child(ren) are choosing to become active members of the St. Anthony Athletics program. We look forward to watching and coaching your child(ren) as they represent our great school with outstanding sportsmanship and academic achievement. We have a rich history of success and sportsmanship, and it is our sincere goal for St. Anthony Athletics to be regarded as a premier athletics program in the Inter City Catholic League.

The following document is intended to provide you with the necessary information to get you and your child(ren) prepared for participation in St. Anthony Athletics. This handbook documents the relevant policies, procedures, and expectations currently in effect for the Athletics Program. Please familiarize yourself with the information provided herein, and keep in mind that the *Athletics Handbook* in no way supersedes the *St. Anthony School Student-Parent Handbook*.

## Mission Statement

St. Anthony Athletics represents the interscholastic sports component of St. Anthony School, which is a ministry of education within St. Anthony Parish. As such, the Athletics Program shares in the mission of the parish and school: ***“We let their light shine.”***

## Philosophy

Athletics is one facet of St. Anthony’s approach to a student’s total educational development. Participation in athletics should develop a student physically, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Through athletics, we strive to cultivate students of strong Catholic character and personal integrity who pursue excellence in all endeavors.

Participation in athletics is a privilege that brings with it certain responsibilities. Student-athletes are expected to display appropriate attitudes toward sportsmanship and academics. St. Anthony Athletics exists to assist in developing the characteristics of a well-rounded individual such as strong ethical standards, leadership, self-discipline, teamwork, and integrity.

## Goals

The goal of St. Anthony Athletics is to pursue excellence in everything we do. Although winning is often equated to success, it is not what defines excellence. Winning should not be the sole focus, but playing to win is critical to our success. We will play to win in the following ways:

- Exemplifying Catholic values
- Displaying sportsmanship whether winning or losing
- Committing to the team
- Playing hard and with determination
- Developing and improving athletic skills
- Fostering school spirit



- Being disciplined
- HAVING FUN!

## Governance

St. Anthony Athletics is administered by the Athletic Director, who reports directly to the Principal. The Pastor also provides guidance to the Athletic Director as necessary. The Athletic Director is responsible for implementing the policies and guidelines as set forth by the Pastor and Principal.

## League Membership & Sports

St. Anthony is a member of the Inter City Catholic League (ICCL), which includes all diocesan grade schools in St. Joseph, Elkhart, and Marshall counties in Indiana.

Students at St. Anthony are provided the opportunity to play in any sport offered by the ICCL. If sign-ups for a sport are insufficient for St. Anthony to field a team on its own, student-athletes from other ICCL schools may be placed with St. Anthony student-athletes to form a team. When St. Anthony student-athletes constitute a majority of the roster, St. Anthony will endeavor to sponsor that team. Otherwise, St. Anthony student-athletes will be placed on a team sponsored by another ICCL school.

Sports offered for the 2025-2026 school year are as follows:

<b><u>SPORT</u></b>	<b><u>SEASON START</u></b>	<b><u>SEASON END (estimated)</u></b>
<b><i>Football (Boys)</i></b>	August 6	First Sunday in November
<b><i>Softball (Girls)</i></b>	August 6	On or about October 31
<b><i>Soccer (Boys)</i></b>	August 6	On or about October 31
<b><i>Soccer (Girls)</i></b>	August 6	On or about October 31
<b><i>Volleyball (Girls)</i></b>	October 8	Before Christmas break
<b><i>Basketball (Boys)</i></b>	November 1	On or about February 15
<b><i>Basketball (Girls)</i></b>	January 2	On or about March 17
<b><i>Baseball (Boys)</i></b>	March 15	Before Memorial Day (weather permitting)
<b><i>Tennis (Boys &amp; Girls)*</i></b>	March 15	Before Memorial Day (weather permitting)
<b><i>Track (Boys &amp; Girls)</i></b>	March 15	On or about May 17
<b><i>Golf (Boys &amp; Girls)*</i></b>	April 7	Before Memorial Day (no rain outs)

\* Club sports administered by outside organizations

<http://www.icclsports.org/> Twitter: [@icclsports](https://twitter.com/icclsports) Facebook: [iccl- \(Inter City Catholic League\)](https://www.facebook.com/iccl-)



## Policies

### **Athletics Policy and the Right to Amend**

Because unforeseen situations can arise, St. Anthony Athletics reserves the right to initiate, modify, or eliminate these policies and guidelines as necessary. Unless specified otherwise, the Athletic Director represents the primary decision-making authority for St. Anthony Athletics, subject to the oversight of the Principal and/or Pastor.

### **Cell Phones**

Students are not permitted to use their cell phones during athletic events. This includes practices, games and scrimmages. Students should keep their cell phones in their bags for the entire duration of the event. If there is an emergency and a parent needs to get a hold of their child, they should contact a coach. Failure to comply will result in the coach confiscating the phone until the end of practice. If using the device during events becomes a continuous problem, the student athlete will be suspended for a game. The Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Pastor may adjust the suspension at their discretion.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at all practices and games is mandatory for all team members. Student-athletes are expected to attend the entire practice or game, and leaving early on a regular basis will reflect poorly on the student-athlete's commitment to the team and may impact playing time. If a student-athlete will not be attending a practice, meeting, or game for any reason other than illness or family emergency, the Head Coach should be notified at least one day prior to the event being missed. Any student-athlete who leaves an athletic event without the permission of the Head or Assistant Coach will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from the team.

Student-athletes must attend class the day of a practice or game in order to participate in that practice or game. If a student-athlete is absent from school or does not finish the school day (except for excused doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies), they may not participate in any athletics activity occurring on that day. A student-athlete who is absent from school on a Friday may participate in weekend practices and games at the sole discretion of the Principal.

#### *Excused Absence*

Illness, doctor/dentist appointment, death in the family, family emergency, or an absence pre-approved/discussed with the Head Coach in advance. If a student-athlete gets ill during the school day and goes home, their absence will also be excused.

#### *Unexcused Absence*

Any absence that is not excused. If an unexcused absence from practice occurs, playing time may be impacted at the sole discretion of the Head Coach. Repeated instances of unexcused absences may result in the student-athlete's suspension for one game. In addition, any suspended student-athlete will be required to attend the game and must sit on the team bench as teammates normally do.



### *Tardiness*

Tardiness will also be considered either excused or unexcused based on similar criteria to the excused or unexcused absences described above. The Head Coach will have the authority to decide whether a tardy is excused or not. Student-athletes are expected to be on time for classes, meetings, practices, and games. Tardiness will not be tolerated and disciplinary action may be taken by the Head Coach as deemed appropriate for unexcused tardiness.

### *Quitting a Sport*

Decisions on team sponsorship and school pairings are made based upon sign-ups and the student-athlete's ultimate participation. When a student-athlete joins a team, he/she has made a commitment to the school, team, and coaches. His or her quitting disrupts team unity, may deprive other student-athletes of any progress made, and may jeopardize the continued existence of the team itself. Unless in extreme circumstances, a student-athlete should never quit a team during the season. If a student-athlete quits a team during the season, he/she forfeits participating in any other St. Anthony sport until the completion of the previous sport season. If you quit a sport in the middle of a season, you will not receive a refund of activity fees. If there is a unique situation for the child quitting, that may be discussed with the Athletic Director in advance.

A student-athlete who quits but requests to return to a team may do so at the Head Coach's discretion and subject to minor disciplinary action up to and including suspension from games. If such a student-athlete demonstrates poor morale or teamwork after returning, the Head Coach may dismiss him/her from the team after consulting with the Athletic Director.

### *Scheduling Conflicts*

In the event that a student-athlete has a scheduling conflict between two legitimate school activities (e.g., a band/choir concert and an athletic contest on the same night), the parent(s) shall decide which event the student-athlete will attend. Sponsors of both events are to graciously accept whatever decision is made and no repercussions are to be taken against the student-athlete. In addition, no efforts to coerce the student-athlete one way or the other beforehand are to be used by the coach, program director, etc. The Athletic Director will make every reasonable attempt to avoid these situations; however, scheduling of athletic events is managed by the ICCL and may result in conflicts arising. If the conflict involves the student-athlete missing or arriving late for a practice due to rehearsal or some other legitimate school activity, the Head Coach and sponsor of the activity should discuss the situation and try to arrive at an amicable solution as necessary.

## **Cancellation of Team Functions**

In the event of a cancellation of games, practices, or other team-related events, the coach will contact his or her players as soon as possible. Rain or snow will not necessarily result in cancellation of practices or games for outdoor sports.

However, all St. Anthony Athletics practices should be presumed canceled for the day when there is a school cancellation due to inclement weather.





Parents are encouraged to follow the ICCL on various social media platforms (Twitter: [@icclsports](#); Facebook: [lccl- \(Inter City Catholic League\)](#)) for league announcements regarding game cancellations.

### Club and Travel Sports

Participation on a non-St. Anthony team, such as a club or travel team, during an ICCL sport season is discouraged. If a student-athlete and his/her parent(s) elect to participate in this manner, the St. Anthony schedule (this includes both practices and games) should take precedence over the non-St. Anthony team activities.

Student-athletes are required to disclose a potential conflict with the St. Anthony schedule as soon as possible to his/her Head Coach. Head Coaches are encouraged to work with the student-athlete and his/her parent(s) to develop an acceptable solution; however, practice and game playing time may be reduced at the Head Coach's discretion as a result of conflicts arising because of participation on a non-St. Anthony team.

### Complaints & Grievances

Involvement in St. Anthony Athletics will bring some of the most rewarding moments of your child's life. It is important to acknowledge that there may also be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. If questions or concerns arise, St. Anthony Athletics encourages healthy discussions between parents and coaches.

#### *Chain of Command*

If you or the student-athlete have a question or concern, the following chain of command must be followed, preferably after the student-athlete has discussed the issue with his/her Head or Assistant Coach first:

1. Head and/or Assistant Coach.
2. Athletic Board
3. Athletic Director.

DO NOT CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL WITH ANY COMPLAINTS OR GRIEVANCES RELATED TO ST. ANTHONY ATHLETICS. If necessary, only the Athletic Director will involve the Principal in St. Anthony Athletics matters.

#### *24-Hour Rule*

There are many positive results that can occur as a result of constructive communication between parents and coaches; however, there is a proper time and place for this to occur. Discussions should not occur immediately before, during, or after a practice or game unless a prior agreement has been made with the Head or Assistant Coach.

St. Anthony Athletics observes the "24-hour" rule - no discussion of complaints or grievances should be initiated until a day has passed after the event in question. After this time, parents may contact the Head or Assistant Coach to set up a time that is convenient for both parties to meet. The focus of such meetings should be on the student-athlete's standing on the team and how he or she can improve to be more successful. The focus should not be on comparisons to other players or another player's weaknesses.



Appropriate areas of discussion with a Head or Assistant Coach include:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child
- Opportunities or suggestions to improve your child's skills and abilities
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Inappropriate issues to avoid discussing with a Head or Assistant Coach include:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

Coaches should not be expected to justify team strategy, personnel decisions, or accept coaching advice or suggestions from parents.

### *Resolution*

Recommendations and possible solutions will be explored and implemented to the best of our ability. We wish to remedy problems and maintain a healthy, Catholic school environment according to our stated philosophy and guidelines. However, we recognize that not all decisions will be popular ones, nor can all needs be possibly met to everyone's full satisfaction.

## **Eligibility**

### *Initial Eligibility*

Initial eligibility (i.e., satisfactory academic progress and conduct) to participate in athletics is the purview of the school, as well as subject to specific guidelines set forth by the ICCL (i.e., age limits). Neither the Athletic Director nor any coach has the authority to determine the initial eligibility of a student-athlete and will not permit a student-athlete to participate in team activities without the approval of the school.

### *Continuing Eligibility*

All student-athletes must follow the policies and guidelines outlined below and throughout this handbook to remain eligible throughout the season:

- Maintain good academic standing as explained in the "Extracurricular Eligibility" section of the *St. Anthony School Student-Parent Handbook*.
- Follow all team rules as set forth by the Head Coach and approved by the Athletic Director.
- Attend all practices and games on time. (see "Attendance" requirements)



- Comply with ICCL rules.

Any student-athlete may be suspended or dismissed from an athletic team by the Principal and/or Athletic Director at any time for failure to follow school and/or team rules and policies.

### *Academic Ineligibility*

If a student-athlete becomes ineligible due to grades, the office will notify the Athletic Director who will then notify the Head Coach. Any student-athlete who becomes academically ineligible may not participate in any games for the week. Eligibility is ran weekly, as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook under “Academic Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Activities Policy” ([school.stasb.org/handbook](http://school.stasb.org/handbook)).

### *Ineligibility Due to Misconduct*

If a student-athlete becomes ineligible due to misconduct in school or as part of the athletics program, the Athletic Director and Head Coach, in consultation with the Principal, will make a determination regarding further consequences up to and including permanent removal from the team.

## **Exhibition Games**

St. Anthony teams are often invited to participate in exhibition, practice, or pre-season games and tournaments against other ICCL schools, as well as area public and private schools. **All such games must be approved by the Athletic Director in advance** to ensure compliance with ICCL rules and applicable insurance coverage, as well as to avoid conflicts with school or parish functions. Out-of-season (i.e., before the first practice date and after the championship game date as determined by the ICCL) exhibition games will generally not be permitted.

## **Facilities and Equipment**

### *Access*

St. Anthony facilities (e.g., gymnasium, fields) and equipment are to be used exclusively for St. Anthony Athletics-related purposes. Access to facilities and equipment should not be made available to student-athletes without adult supervision.

### *Admission Fees*

Admission fees for spectators at events held in St. Anthony Gym are set by the ICCL:

- Adults - \$5
- Students - \$3
- Family Rate - \$10 (intended for members of one household only, not a group rate; maximum of 2 adults)
- Coaches/players/bench volunteers for St. Anthony and visiting teams do not pay
- Faculty and staff of any Diocesan school do not pay (family of employees do pay)



### *Keys*

Keys to St. Anthony Athletics facilities will be given to Head Coaches as necessary and must be returned to the Athletic Director at the conclusion of the respective sport season. Do not use a key to access the school after hours for non-Athletics purposes. If you are accessing the school during normal school hours, you must enter through the main door and sign in with the office.

### *Multiple Use*

The school's athletic facilities also serve as teaching facilities for physical education (P.E.) classes, in addition to other events. Please be considerate of others when using St. Anthony's facilities and equipment, and leave these areas in such a condition that they do not create additional work for the P.E. teacher, other coaches, or any others using the facilities (i.e., clean-up after yourself).

### *Rules of Use*

This floor is designed specifically for athletics use while providing a durable surface that can withstand the other activities that may be scheduled in the gym. In order to ensure the longevity of the gym floor, please adhere to the following minimum requirements:

- Please wipe your feet when entering the gym
- Ensure all tables/chairs have rubber feet before placing on the floor to avoid punctures
- Do not drag anything across the floor
- No gum

### *Scheduling*

When St. Anthony facilities are used by a number of teams during the same season (e.g., Winter sports), the Athletic Director will develop a schedule to accommodate each team's needs. This may require altering existing practice schedules or reducing practice times. Please be considerate and cooperative in situations of high demand.

## **Forms**

All students wishing to participate in the St. Anthony Athletics program must complete the *ICCL Athletic Contract*, *Emergency Medical Authorization*, and *Handbook Receipt Acknowledgment* forms. **All forms must be completed and returned within the first week of practice.** A student-athlete may not be permitted to continue to participate in practice or games until all forms are completed (including signatures from both the student-athlete and parent) and returned to the school. Forms need to be completed on Eventlink.

Completion of all forms is required each year. In certain instances, forms may be required to be completed for each sport played.

If your team is using a St. Anthony's uniform, the student athlete and parent will sign a Uniform Contract stating that you will return the uniform at the end of the season or there will be a monetary fee to replace the uniform.



## Fundraising

The sport participation fees alone do not suffice to financially support the St. Anthony Athletics program. Our biggest moneymaker is hosting athletic events in our gym. The Athletics Program would rather have parents volunteer their time helping during hosting games than having multiple fundraisers. Therefore, it may become necessary to conduct various fundraising events throughout the year. Participation in these fundraisers, while not mandatory, is greatly appreciated and encouraged.

## Injuries

Participation in any athletics program includes the risk of injury, which may range in severity from minor to possible death. Although serious injuries are rare, it is impossible to eliminate the risk entirely. As such, it is everyone's responsibility to participate in a safe manner. Furthermore, all student-athletes must report every injury and necessary precautions to his/her coach. Any student-athlete who is under a doctor's care for an injury should submit positive confirmation (e.g., a doctor's note or direct parent authorization) to the Athletic Director allowing them to return to participation in sports.

St. Anthony School cannot be held responsible for injuries that occur during practices or games.

## Parent Volunteering Requirements

Parents are required to volunteer a proportionate amount of time to benefit St. Anthony Athletics if their child participates in any sport. In addition to coaching, parents are needed to work the admissions and scorer's tables, staff the concession stand, and clean-up the facilities after games. The Athletic Director will create a schedule for parents and send the schedule out. **Rescheduling or switching times or dates is the parent's responsibility.** High Schoolers or 8<sup>th</sup> graders are allowed to work any shift for service hours.

## Participation Fees

St. Anthony Athletics participation fees are required to help partially cover operating costs such as uniforms, equipment, officials, awards, and any league or tournament fees. The Athletic Director, in consultation with the Principal and School Board, will determine appropriate participation fees for each school year.

The participation fee for St. Anthony student-athletes during the 2025-2026 school year is \$40-\$125 per child per sport. **Fees must be paid at sign-ups and are non-refundable** (other than for entirely canceled seasons). A student-athlete will not receive a uniform and, therefore, will not be allowed to participate in games, until the participation fee is paid.

Any parent who acts as a Head Coach for a team his/her child(ren) is on will have this fee waived for that sport; parents acting as a full-time Assistant Coach for a team will only have to pay half of the fee. All Coaches, Head Coach or Assistant Coach, needs to have their Safety Environment completed before the season starts.

All participation fees are paid through FACTS. If a different arrangement needs to be made, you can contact the Athletic Director to set up arrangements. FACTS payments will be deducted



about a couple weeks after the signup is closed – an email will be sent out as a reminder. If you need to change the payment date, contact the Business Manager at [business@stasb.org](mailto:business@stasb.org)

### Playing Time

Playing time is ultimately up to the coaches' discretion based on inherently subjective criteria (e.g., skill level, leadership, attitude). While playing time may be subject to specific guidelines that have been established by the ICCL for each sport, the general expectation is that each student-athlete at the Junior Varsity (JV) level (i.e., 5th & 6th grades) will receive some, but not necessarily equal, playing time in each game. There is no expectation or requirement for playing time at the Varsity level (i.e., 7th & 8th grades); however, coaches are encouraged to provide all team members an opportunity to play at some point during the season.

### Practice Location and Timing

Depending on the sport and availability of facilities, practices may be held on St. Anthony's campus or at locations off-campus. Practices may begin as early as immediately after school on a weekday (no practice can start prior to 1:00 pm on a Sunday if scheduled). Every effort will be made to ensure JV practices will end by 8:00 pm. Varsity practices are permitted to take place later in the evening, but will end by 9:00 pm. Practice times are necessarily dependent on coach and facility availability, however.

Parents are not permitted to attend practices in St. Anthony's gym (exceptions may be made at the Head Coach's discretion for practices held at outdoor or off-campus locations). Regardless, no parent may participate/coach/interject during a practice unless specifically authorized by the Athletic Director. In addition, only those student-athletes on the team are allowed at a team's practice (e.g., siblings cannot stay on the sidelines/hallway/locker room and wait to be picked up). Coaches are only responsible for their players and cannot be expected to supervise others; any unsupervised child not on the team at a practice introduces an unnecessary liability for the school.

Per Diocesan proclamation, practices may not be held on the following Holy Days or Holidays:

- |                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ New Year's Eve | ▪ Easter Sunday                      |
| ▪ New Year's Day | ▪ Ascension Thursday                 |
| ▪ Ash Wednesday  | ▪ Thanksgiving                       |
| ▪ Holy Thursday  | ▪ Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| ▪ Good Friday    | ▪ Christmas Eve                      |
| ▪ Holy Saturday  | ▪ Christmas Day                      |

Practices are generally discouraged over official school breaks (i.e., Fall, Christmas, Spring); however, they may occur if a game is also scheduled over or immediately after the break. Fall sports will necessarily require practices during the Summer break (beginning on or around August 6). Open gyms may be scheduled over a break, but only on a voluntary basis. Under no circumstances will a student-athlete be punished for missing a practice or open gym over an



official school break due to conflicts with scheduled family commitments or vacations that have been previously disclosed to the Head Coach.

### Sign-Ups

Sign-ups for sports will generally occur about 4-6 weeks prior to the beginning of practices, except for fall sports whose sign-ups will occur in the spring of the preceding school year (see sport schedule on Page 4). Sign-ups will be open for up to 2-3 weeks, after which a student will no longer be permitted to join a team unless players are needed. St. Anthony uses Eventlink for Athletic signups.

### Teams

Student-athletes will normally be placed on a team based on his/her grade level. Varsity teams consist of 7th and 8th grade student-athletes, and Junior Varsity teams are comprised of 5th and 6th graders. Some sports have sufficient participation for the ICCL to support additional levels of teams such as a "Colors" division (7th and 8th grade student-athletes not on the Varsity) or leagues consisting entirely of one grade level. Tryouts may be held at the varsity level to determine the placement of student-athletes on the Varsity or Colors teams. No tryouts are permitted at the JV level.

Varsity is considered the top competitive level in the ICCL. Teams at this level strive to prepare student-athletes for high school athletics and require a high level of commitment. Advanced game strategies and individual skills are reinforced and extended at this level. A student-athlete not selected for the Varsity team may be offered the opportunity to join the Colors team, if applicable, to compete at their skill level. Formal game strategies and individual skills will be introduced at this level. If a school only has enough participants for one team, that team must compete at the Varsity level.

Junior Varsity is considered the developmental level in the ICCL. This level introduces basic individual skills, team concepts, and rules of formal competition; however, the actual skill level of participants may vary from minimal to advanced.

A student-athlete may be permitted to "play up" a level (e.g., a 6th grader playing on the Varsity team), but may not "play down" (e.g., a 7th grader playing on JV). Normally, playing up will be permitted only if it is expected that the student-athlete will receive significant playing time at the higher level. Furthermore, any 5th or 6th grader moved up to the varsity level must play on the Varsity team, not the Colors team, and may not move back down to the JV level. The ICCL provides additional guidelines related to playing up.

### Transportation

St. Anthony Athletics does not provide transportation to any practice or any home or away contest. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to ensure that their child arrives at a practice or game ready to participate and on time as determined by the coach. Late arrivals may impact your child's involvement in practice or playing time in a game.

Parents are expected to pick-up their child(ren) at the end of practices and games on a timely basis. Please make every effort to pick-up your child(ren) within 10 minutes after the end of a practice or game.



It is important for parents to understand that a coach will stay with a student-athlete until he/she has been picked up from a team activity, and being late to pick up your child places an unnecessary burden on the coach. St. Anthony Athletics reserves the right to address chronic tardiness when picking up a child in an appropriate manner. Such remedies may include billing parents at a rate similar to that utilized for late pick ups from After School Care (i.e., \$15 for any child not picked-up after 15 minutes) up to removal of the student-athlete from the team.

### Uniforms

School-issued uniforms are to be used exclusively for St. Anthony Athletics' games and practices. Uniforms are only to be worn for games, and are not to be used for P.E. class or any non-school related function. School-issued athletics uniforms may be worn to school on Thursdays during the playing season. All uniforms (including any school-issued practice jerseys) should be treated with care and laundered according to instructions, as they will be used for future teams.

All issued uniforms must be returned to the school at the end of the season. Student-athletes and parents will sign a uniform contract. A student-athlete will be responsible for damage beyond normal wear or for failure to return the uniform to the school at the end of the season. **If a uniform is not returned or is not in good condition as determined by the Athletic Director, a fee of \$100 will be charged as stated in the uniform contract.** That student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in any other St. Anthony Athletics sport until the fee has been paid or uniform returned.

Student-athletes and their families may be asked to purchase or provide some of their own personal uniform components (e.g., shoes, socks, baseball/softball pants, softball facemasks, soccer shin guards, volleyball shorts) for certain sports. Proper attire, such as gym shoes, shorts, and sports bras, is expected for both practices and games. No jewelry is permitted.

### Expectations and Responsibilities

Please be advised that appropriate conduct is expected at all times. All involved in St. Anthony Athletics -- coaches, players, parents/family, and students -- are representatives of the school at all athletic events. St. Anthony School offers an athletics program to its students as a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be revoked at any time as a result of inappropriate conduct.

As fans, we must show good sportsmanship at all times. The Pastor, Principal, Athletic Director, and game officials have the right and the responsibility to eject spectators whose behaviors are deemed to be unacceptable.

### Coaches

The expectations and responsibilities of St. Anthony coaches include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Represent St. Anthony with good sportsmanship and behavior at all times.





- Commit to the education of our student-athletes and encourage academic achievement.
- Serve as role models that exemplify honesty, integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship.
- Supervise and instruct our student-athletes in a positive manner to develop their potential, confidence, and skills.
- Ensure that the health, well-being, and development of our student-athletes take precedence over the win/loss record.
- Remain onsite after events and practices conclude until all participants have been secured.
- Communicate regularly with parents and student-athletes.
- Address any issues with sincerity and with an open-mind.
- Include the Athletic Director on any communication sent out to parents.

Any coach who is ejected from a contest for egregious behavior may be suspended from coaching and/or attending the next game or contest. The Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Pastor may adjust the suspension at their discretion.

### **Parents (and Spectators)**

The expectations and responsibilities of St. Anthony parents (and spectators) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Always represent St. Anthony with good sportsmanship and behavior.
- Show respect toward all coaches, student-athletes, officials, and spectators.
- Cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
- Help with timekeeping, scorekeeping, concessions, admissions, and clean-up.
- Understand that coaching is the coach's responsibility and refrain from interfering during practices and games (non-coaches are not allowed on the sidelines/benches).
- Observe the "24-Hour Rule" and allow coaches the time they need to process their decisions before approaching them with any questions.
- Address any issues with sincerity and with an open-mind.

Any parent (or spectator) who is ejected from a contest for egregious behavior may not be permitted to attend the next game or contest. The Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Pastor may adjust the suspension at their discretion.



## **Student-Athletes**

The expectations and responsibilities of St. Anthony student-athletes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Always represent St. Anthony with good sportsmanship and behavior.
- Show respect toward all coaches, student-athletes, officials, and spectators.
- Respect all school property and equipment, both at St. Anthony and hosting schools.
- Be genuinely interested in learning the rules and skills required for the sport.
- Devote the necessary time to your coach and teammates by attending practices and games regularly and punctually.
- Abide by all team guidelines and expectations established by the Head Coach.
- Work to maintain eligibility and achieve academic success.

Any student-athlete who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior will not be permitted to play in the next game or contest. They will, however, be required to attend the game, sit on the bench in street clothes, and cheer on their teammates. The Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Pastor may adjust the suspension at their discretion.

## **Student-Athletes & Cell Phones**

Student athletes are not allowed to be on their cell phones during any sports practices or if they are working an event at St. Anthony. If a parent needs to get a hold of their child during practice times, they should contact the coach directly. This applies to all students no matter what team they play for.

If the student is working at the admissions table, concession stand or at the score table during an athletic event at St. Anthony, their cell phones should be put away to not distract them from working.



## General Information

### Athlete Prayer

All student-athletes should memorize and be prepared to recite the athlete's prayer prior to all games. The prayer should be recited in a reverent manner and not devolve into a volume competition with the other team:

God our Father, help us to put forth our best effort, to represent our school with class, to respect our opponents, and to grow as disciples of your Son, Jesus. Keep us safe from injury and harm through the intercession of Our Lady, the mother of your Son and our mother, too. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saint Sebastian, pray for us!

### Awards and Banquet

#### *Chevrons*

If a student-athlete completes the entire season, they will receive a chevron for that sport. If a student quits the sport or gets removed from the team for academic or disciplinary reasons, they will not receive a chevron. Chevrons are provided by the Athletic Department.

#### *Banquet*

A celebratory banquet for all student-athletes who participated in a Varsity or JV sport, including any St. Anthony student-athletes placed with another ICCL school's team and non-St. Anthony student-athletes placed on a St. Anthony team may be scheduled after a season has concluded. St. Anthony Athletics will provide refreshments if a banquet is held.

The timing of the ceremony(ies) will be dependent on event scheduling and facility availability and may occur at the end of the school year, the end of each semester, or end of each sport season (i.e., fall, winter, spring). Ceremonies for each sport should be avoided.

#### *End of Sport-Season Party*

End of Sport-Season parties are a fun way to conclude the season and collect uniforms. Hosting a celebration is decided by the Head Coach. The Head Coach is responsible for setting up the event. Set up includes but not limited to, setting up the time and place, coordinating with the Athletic Director (if necessary for collecting uniforms or using the gym space) and creating a sign-up for parents. A celebration may be held at a public place, a home or at the school's gym. If you would like to use the gym for your celebration, you need to get approval from the Athletic Director for your date and time. If you use the school for your celebration, your team is responsible for cleaning up. **The Athletic Department is not financially responsible for the Celebrations.**



## Complimentary Concessions and Admissions

Referees are permitted complimentary food and drink while officiating a contest on St. Anthony premises. The adults scheduled to work will not be expected to pay the admission fee (i.e., the family assigned to the admission table will receive one (1) free admission).

Any current students who have been authorized by the Athletic Director or Sports Director to help in the concession stand or scorer's table **do not** receive any complimentary food or drink; however, they may record the time as service hours.

## Spirit Wear

An online St. Anthony Athletics spirit wear store may be opened periodically for general, non-sport specific items (e.g., St. Anthony Athletics shirts, hats, jackets, novelties). Orders will be filled on a predetermined schedule, so please be aware of the ordering deadline(s) noted on the store announcement and website.

At the beginning of each sport season, St. Anthony Athletics may offer sport-specific items for sale (e.g., St. Anthony Soccer, St. Anthony Volleyball, St. Anthony Softball, St. Anthony Basketball branded shirts and sweatshirts) when St. Anthony is the sponsor school. **These items will be available for a limited time only (usually 7-10 days) and will be unavailable outside of the sport season.** Orders will be filled on a predetermined schedule, so please be aware of the ordering deadline(s) noted on the store website.

## Sport and Team Meetings

St. Anthony Athletics and/or Head Coaches should hold a pre-season meeting to discuss expectations and guidelines, as well as other pertinent information. Attendance of at least one parent and the student-athlete is strongly encouraged. If a meeting cannot be held before practices begin, the Head Coach will communicate relevant information with parents through phone, email, or text.

## Team Pictures

St. Anthony Athletics will schedule pictures for each team it sponsors. The timing of team pictures may vary and is dependent on the availability of the photographer. Team pictures may be scheduled during a practice, before or after a banquet, or during an organized photo session for multiple teams.

## Contact

All questions regarding the policies contained within this handbook should be directed to the Athletic Director, Sam Coulter, at [samcoulter@stasb.org](mailto:samcoulter@stasb.org).



## Acknowledgment



### Athletics Handbook Receipt Acknowledgment

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have received a copy of the *St. Anthony School Athletics Handbook*, read the included policies and procedures, and agree to follow all rules and guidelines enumerated herein. If we have any questions about the content of the handbook, we understand that it is our obligation to ask questions for clarification.

We understand that this acknowledgement is to be returned to the school after being signed and dated; however, failure to read the *Athletics Handbook* or to sign or return this acknowledgement shall not relieve us of the obligation to follow all rules and guidelines that the school and the Diocese establish or in any way impede or prevent the school administration from operating the athletics program consistent with those rules and guidelines.

Parent Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this acknowledgment to the school office prior to the first practice.**