

A Message from the Principal

Garfield High School has a long and proud tradition in Athletics. Garfield's Athletics program has had great success with teams winning State Championships and League Championships in almost every sport.

At Garfield we believe in the value of Athletics for the entire student body. Coaches feel the responsibility not only to reach their players the skills and strategy behind the game, but also to instill a sense of respect for the tradition of the game including honorable behavior and rich history. Learning to honor the game builds a sense of responsibility and encourages the maturation of moral reasoning. Coaches realize that they are teaching their players to carry these lessons far beyond the field into the classroom, into the home, and eventually into adulthood. Coaches encourage their players to focus on their level of effort and personal improvement in addition to the final score.

Our coaches help student-athletes recognize that mistakes are inevitable and are an important part of the learning process. The key to success is being able to rebound from mistakes with renewed determination.

Our coaches are expected to embrace two goals in all athletic endeavors: the first goal is to win, but the second (and equally important) goal is to teach life lessons through sports. Athletics are seen as an important part of the total learning experience at Garfield High School. The lessons they learn through their participation are invaluable and help in the overall development of their characters. Sportsmanship, commitment, teamwork, competition, cooperation, and fair play are learned when students are taught to respect the game; to bring dignity and self-control to the contest, win or lose.

Athletics participation also plays an important part in helping each student develop a healthy self-image as well as a healthy body. At Garfield, we believe that all students should have the opportunity to participate in Interscholastic Athletics during their High School careers. There is a place for all athletes of all skill levels to represent Garfield in athletic competitions.

Successful athletic programs depend on a large percentage of student participation. This fact encourages multi-sport athletes. Our coaches will not pressure players to give up other sports in order to secure a winning season in a particular program. Maintaining a culture where positive character traits are developed in our players must come first. When the game is on the line and tensions run high, we will teach our student-athletes invaluable lessons by helping them focus on what is really important.

Thank You for supporting and believing in our teams.

Go Bulldogs!

Ted Howard, Principal