

2023 Lady Buffalo Basketball

Middleton Handbook

Congratulations! You have been selected to represent The Villages Charter Middle School @ Middleton Basketball Team. You were chosen because you possess a willingness to be a team player, have athletic ability in basketball, and great potential. You demonstrate a positive work ethic, drive, competitive attitude, and lastly, skills and/or experience pertinent to this team. We are a growing program and are thrilled that you will be a part of its continued success.

Please read the following information carefully and share it with your parents. This handbook contains guidelines for the basketball program and provides answers to questions you may have. You and your parent must sign the form once you have read through this material together.

The Villages Charter Middle School Athletic Eligibility Policy

The following policy will govern students in grades 6-8 who participate in the following middle school athletic programs: boys' football, girls' volleyball, golden girls, girls' and boys' golf, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' tennis, girls' softball, and girls' and boys' track.

A student must maintain a 2.0 GPA from their previous Semester to be eligible for participation.

Keep in mind that if a student in any grade level is not promoted to the next grade he/she will be ruled ineligible for the first semester of the ensuring school year regardless of GPA.

Discount Cards

Each VCS student-athlete will be required to sell only 10 discount cards each year in order to participate in athletics. Each head coach is responsible for holding the athletes accountable for the sale of their cards. The 10 cards must be sold prior to the first official contest of their sport. The cost of the card is \$10.00 each.

*Failure to sell the 10 cards will result in suspension of play until they are sold.

Practice Guidelines

You are expected to make every effort to attend every practice. If you miss one practice due to a detention or other disciplinary action, you will not be allowed to start and/or play in the following game. If this kind of behavior continues, it will be the coaches discretion as to further consequence, up to removal from the team.

Practices will be held every **Monday through Friday from 3:15pm-5:00pm**. If you are not picked up by **5:15 pm** you will become part of the Buffalo Adventure program and appropriate fees will apply.

Once you hear an announcement to be released for basketball at the end of the school day you are to report to the locker room to dress-out. Please be sure to lock your belongings in your assigned locker. Next, report to the gym to assist in any setup procedures and stretch for practice. During the course of practice you are expected to ALWAYS hustle. Everyone will display a positive attitude and show respect toward their teammates, as well as their coaches. This is not a time for horseplay. Each practice includes specific skills and drills to be covered. Let's maximize our time and improve upon your abilities. You are encouraged to bring water in an unbreakable container to practices. Water breaks will be provided throughout each practice. For safety reasons, no glass containers are allowed in the gym, and chewing gum is prohibited at all times.

Practice ends only after all equipment is put away and the gym is back in order. Everyone is expected to participate in clean-up procedures. If you cannot be at practice, you are expected to contact the coach **before** practice starts. Phone numbers are provided below for your convenience.

All home games will be played in VCMS gym. You will not be dismissed from the games until all equipment is put away and the gym is back in its original order. You must check out with your coach **before** leaving the gym. You are now part of a team that is composed of talented players who will work to be the best that they can be. Remember to play like winners, you must act like winners. Scores on a board don't dictate the person you are, attitude does.

Game Rules

You are expected to attend all games. If you cannot be at a game, you are expected to let the coach know. While at a game, everyone will show respect for, be considerate of, and display a positive attitude toward teammates, coaches, referees, opposing players, and parents. **Playing time may be affected if you choose inappropriate behavior**. Players will sit together in the stands and support the team on the court. Actively watching a sport can provide a valuable learning opportunity that you can take advantage of!

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not have equal playing time and **we do not guarantee equal playing time at each game**. Playing time is determined by attendance, attitude, effort, performance, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future.

Playing decisions are left solely to the discretion of the coaches and are not up for debate or question. You are, however, encouraged to ask what you can do to improve in order to get more playing time. Our goal is to give everyone the opportunity to improve their playing ability so they will be able to play in the games.

We encourage parental support in all of our basketball endeavors. We hope that you find the time spent with our team beneficial and enjoyable. We encourage your efforts to model good sportsmanship behavior as we enter into another exciting season!

Review of Team Expectations

***Turn in discount card monies to Coach Kline or Coach Cumbie by 11/4/23.**

***Be on time to practice and be ready to warm up at 3:15.**

***Be a good steward of the equipment VCMS has provided for the team to use.**

***Keep grades above the required grade point average to participate in school sports.**

***Make up any work that you miss due to a game.**

***Clean up after every practice and game.**

***Know that making the team is a great honor, and something to be proud of but not boastful.**

***Work Hard. Be Kind. Make Good Decisions.**

***High expectations yield high results!**

***Coach Kline - (352) 461-4885**

***Coach Cumbie - (352) 303-8984**

Go Buffalo!!