

Softball Parent Letter

Hello Oak Grove parents and players, my name is Robert Shockley and I am very excited to be taking over as the softball coach here at Oak Grove. I look forward to meeting all of you, and beginning the process of making this year's team a successful one. The following letter is to give parents and players a heads up on key dates over the summer, and to provide a clue as to the expectations of the players, as well as what you can expect of me. Finally the letter will cover some of the policies the team will run by this coming season.

Schedule- We will be having a parent meeting July 10th at 6:30pm inside the Oak Grove gym. Pitchers and catchers if at all possible will meet July 24th and will meet every Tuesday and Thursday following that meeting. The first team practice will be held July 31st, and then the team will meet every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Players are required to be dressed and be ready to start by the given practice time, this means arriving early enough to ensure this happens. Practice length will largely depend on team effort.

Expectations of Players- As a player for the Oak Grove Tigers I expect you to **Compete**. Everything you do is being evaluated and no one has earned their position yet. In everything you do whether on the field or in the classroom, I expect you to give full **Effort**. Great effort from a team can mask many mistakes during a game, but that effort must become a habit. In order for the team to be as successful as it can be you as players need to be **Coachable**. Don't be too scared or too proud to try something new when asked to do so. It may be a new position, a new technique, or just a different point of view, but please keep an open mind. Lastly and perhaps the biggest expectation is **Don't Embarrass the Program**. As athletes on this team you carry more than just yourself, you are also carrying the name of the school, your family, and your other teammates. Remember that everywhere you go it is important how you act and the way you carry yourself. Even when it's just you and your phone what you say or post on social media reflects on those associated with you.

Expectations from Me- There are certain things you can expect of me as well. Firstly that I will do the very best I can to teach the fundamentals of the game, and connect the game to life lessons for the girls. Secondly I will be strict and caring with all of the young ladies that come out for the team. Next I want you to know I will have favorites; girls who work hard, have a good attitude, are coachable, and do right in the classroom will get along with me just fine. Girls who have a bad attitude, don't want to work, or are embarrassing the program will have a tough go of it with me. Either way you will get what you earn.

Games- Again for games just like practice players are expected to be dressed and ready to start warm-ups at the given time. Even when at a home game all players are required to stay for both varsity and junior varsity games regardless of which game they participate in. Phones will not be permitted in the dugout for any reason; your focus should be the task at hand. For away games all players will ride the bus to the game, however if after the game a parent wishes to take their child with them all they

need to do is sign the player out with me. You may not sign out a child who is not yours. A special policy of mine is that if a player forgets any essential equipment (jersey, glove, cleats) they will not be playing that day. Players, if it is important to you then you will remember it.