

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY



SPORTS HANDBOOK (2022-2023)

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A Prayer to See God in Youth Sports

We pray for young athletes...

Who, through sports, develop important values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, and sharing.

We pray for coaches...

Who appreciate the gifts of all players and have respect for the game; who place players before winning and value sportsmanship.

We pray for parents...

Who love their children for who they are, not for how they perform.

We pray for officials...

Who inspire fair play and protect the integrity of the game and players.

*O God, we pray for all who participate in games;
may their hearts be open to see your presence in and through sports;
may their minds remember the element of fun reflective of your Spirit;
may their bodies reflect the gracefulness and wonder of your creation.
Let all who play the games be enriched by your presence in the gym,
locker rooms, and on the fields. Amen.*

St. Thomas More Academy: Home of the **Griffins**

Our Mascot

The Griffin is a half-lion, half-eagle creature with a long and venerable history. With classical roots stemming from the Greco-Roman world, the creature was eventually adopted by many Christian writers and thinkers, and soon become a symbol for Christ and the Hypostatic Union of the two natures in Christ.

The eagle, which is lord of the sky, reminds us of the divine nature, while the lion, which is lord of the earth, reminds us of the human nature. Together, they remind us that Christ our Lord is the true King of the heavens and the earth.

Go Griffins!

Mission and Purpose

The athletic department at St. Thomas More Academy is more than just a sports program. Our mission is to develop the virtues and character of our student athletes and teach them the discipline of excellence. We want our student athletes to be role models in their school, their family and their community. Therefore, the larger purpose of this sports program is to teach our student-athletes to become their best selves within a community of friendship, honoring God with their gifts and talents.

STMA Values

Servant Leadership
Teamwork
Mission and Purpose
Accountability

Sports at STMA

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Girls Soccer	Boys Basketball	Track & Field
Boys Soccer	Girls Basketball	Tennis
		Baseball
		Golf

**The Athletic Director reserves the right to postpone one or several spring sports programs if there is not enough interest in said program(s). The AD also reserves the right to form co-ed teams (when applicable) if team numbers are thin.*

Academic Eligibility Policy

To be considered “academically eligible”, a student-athlete cannot be failing more than one subject AND must possess a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better. If these requirements are not met, the student will be placed on “academic probation” and will not be allowed to play in games.

If a student-athlete is on academic probation or close to being so, that student may be required to agree to an academic remediation plan, which may include study sessions and/or tutoring before school, after school, or on weekends.

PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I accept responsibility for my behavior on and off the field. I understand that what I do and say affects my teammates, my school, and other people either positively or negatively.

I lead courageously and live with integrity by speaking up against injustice and on behalf of others even when it is hard or unpopular.

I act with respect toward myself and the people and things around me, including my parents, my coaches, my teammates, my teachers, my opponents, and the spectators.

I act with empathy. I try to understand what is going on in the hearts and minds of others and what is causing those feelings so that I can be supportive and encouraging. I ask, "How can I help *you*?"

I serve as a role model at all times by talking politely and acting courteously toward coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators. I understand that it is a privilege to represent my family, school, and community as a student-athlete.

I give 100 percent effort to practices, games, and events. I understand that my effort demonstrates my commitment to the team and my respect for my coaches and teammates. I strive to get 1 percent better every day.

I display good sportsmanship. I acknowledge and applaud the efforts of others. I encourage my teammates with positive statements. I refrain from boasting to my teammates and "trash-talking" to members of other teams. I accept defeat graciously. I accept victory with humility. I congratulate my opponent on a game well played.

Because I represent my family, school, and team, I abide by the policies, rules, and guidelines of the school, team, and coaches.

Signature

Date

PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Know and endorse our purpose: to help our students become people of empathy and integrity who will lead, be responsible, and change the world for good.

Support the coaches by applauding behavior in your child and their teammates that demonstrates characteristics of integrity, empathy, sacrifice, and responsibility.

Acknowledge and appreciate players' growth toward maturity and their effort in establishing stronger relationships with teammates, coaches, and themselves.

Affirm your child and their teammates when good character, healthy sportsmanship, and other-centered behaviors are displayed. Do not affirm only their athletic performance or a victory. Do not boast about their accomplishments.

Serve as role models for our players, talking politely and acting courteously toward coaches, officials, other parents, visiting team parents, and spectators at practices, games, and meetings.

Please model good sportsmanship. Acknowledge and applaud the efforts of team members and opponents. Accept defeat graciously by congratulating the members of the opposing team on a game well played. Support the team regardless of how much or how little your child plays or what the win-loss record is.

Encourage your child and their teammates with positive statements, even when they make mistakes. At every practice they are growing physically and emotionally. At every practice they are learning moral and ethical lessons. At every practice they are developing character.

When problems or questions arise, please have your child present the problem to their coach. We want players to develop self-advocacy.

Because I am a parent with the power and platform to make a positive difference in the life of every player, I commit to this code of conduct. If I fail to live up to these standards, I will allow for accountability and take responsibility for my actions.

Signature

Date