

Sportsmanship Expectations for Athletic Events

Statement

The R.A.I.S.E. core values of the MCPS Athletics program teach and reinforce respect and sportsmanship, academic excellence, integrity and character, spirited and safe competition, and equity and access. It is expected that spectators reinforce these values by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. A condition of entry into an MCPS athletic event is that all spectators agree to recognize the event as an extension of the learning process and that all present have the responsibility to model appropriate behavior. The event is a unique opportunity for spectators to be a part of a positive and productive learning environment and to model behavior appropriate to a public-school setting.

Expectations

- ◆ **Applaud** student-athletes for their efforts
- ◆ **Accept** the decisions of officials and coaches
- ◆ **Appreciate** all participants for their commitment
- ◆ **Support** school personnel in conducting a spirited and safe competition
- ◆ **Maintain** composure when breaks seem to go against your team
- ◆ **Respect** the rights of other spectators
- ◆ **Reward** sportsmanlike behavior through cheering
- ◆ **Focus** attention on the positive aspects of competition
- ◆ **Encourage** student-athletes by showing enthusiasm and positive recognition
- ◆ **Demonstrate** concern for the safety and welfare of student-athletes
- ◆ **Report** any negative or discriminatory comments or behaviors to school personnel—
SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Remember

The students competing are not professional athletes. They will make errors during the course of competition, as will game officials and coaches. However, all participants are exhibiting their highest degree of effort and commitment to excellence. Negative criticism and booing will not help them to improve and are unacceptable forms of expression. Additionally, comments that are discriminatory in any manner are unacceptable and should be reported immediately to school personnel. As spectators, you can assist in the development of student-athletes by focusing attention on the positive aspects of their performance. Your cooperation is important and is appreciated.

TOGETHER #WeRAISE MCPS ATHLETICS

