



# **BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM HANDBOOK**

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**Home of The Mighty Mustangs**

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Where our roadMAP to success is achieved by  
building better young Men, better Athletes, and better People.

Dear Parents and Players,

Welcome to Mandarin High School's Boys' Basketball Program. As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your head coach. Our coaching staff is committed to helping each student athlete reach their full potential academically and athletically. We desire to impart healthy life lessons that will help each student athlete become productive citizens and positive influencers in their communities as young men. In this program you can expect excellence in character, work ethic, and continuous growth in the game of basketball from the coaches and athletes.

Our team handbook outlines our policies and expectations that govern our program. This handbook shall not supersede nor replace the DCPS student code of conduct or any rules or guidelines set forth by Mandarin High School's Administration and Athletic Departments.

This year will be a great year for learning, building meaningful relationships, and covering the basics of having fun. As a head coach I believe in putting the athletes first and winning second. However, this does not deter us from being excellent and being champions on the court. We hope that you have a blast this season!

George McCleod  
Head Coach

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## **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to provide student athletes an opportunity to achieve personal, academic, and athletic excellence within a safe and supportive environment. Our coaching staff and athletes will support and strive to model our pillars of character which include; humility, integrity, and compassion for others.

## **Vision**

Our coaching staff will inspire, educate, and help every athlete grow into being better young men, athletes, and people. Players will be prepared to enter post-secondary educational settings and/or the workforce as productive citizens. As an elite program, our team will be the standard for winning and scoring more points than our opponents with style, class, and unrivaled hard work.

## **Core Values**

Our core values include character development, serving others, being excellent in everything we do, and thought development which teaches our student athletes to think optimistically regardless of circumstances.

## **Coach McCleod's Coaching Style**

My personal coaching style is predominantly democratic and transformational in nature. I believe that student athletes should be encouraged to play a role in the decision making process for the team within reason. This helps our student athletes become leaders who are capable of thinking critically and solving moderate to complex problems independently and cooperatively. I also believe that our coaching staff should be one that focuses on transforming student athletes into leaders within the school and in the community while making a positive impact in the lives of themselves and others.

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## Coaching Philosophy

*“Teaching lessons of life through basketball and empowering young minds”*

The game of basketball has its way of educating one in the game of life. It touches on many life learning aspects. Some of those being teamwork, pride, self-efficacy, leadership, hard work, endurance, punctuality, and most of all being able to make the necessary adjustments to the many trials that we may face in life.

The boys’ basketball coaching staff at Mandarin High School is dedicated to molding young boys into well rounded young men. As coaches we are committed to teaching excellence and encouraging our student athletes to strive for excellence in all areas of life. We believe that family and academics should be prioritized above basketball. This fundamental belief is a driving force behind our relentless efforts to always be our B.E.S.T. (Being Exceptionally Special Today). As a coaching staff we believe in instilling character, morals, ethics, healthy values, and manners into our student athletes. Our ultimate vision is to assist our student athletes in becoming productive citizens in society so that they may be a positive influence for others.

## Program Goals

1. To uphold our road M.A.P. to success by striving to become better young Men, better People, and better Athletes
2. To create daily habits of excellence
3. To be positive influencers and role models in school and in the community
4. To win the first boys’ basketball Gateway Conference championship in school history
5. To win back to back district championships
6. To win the first boys’ basketball state championship in school history

## Expectations of Coaches

1. Put the student athletes first and winning second
2. Be positive role models
3. Lead with character
4. Treat our student athletes fairly
5. Be honest and encouraging
6. Be knowledgeable and supportive
7. Be prepared and organized for practices and games.

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## **Expectations of Student Athletes**

1. Read and know the contents of the handbook.
2. Be model student athletes.
3. Uphold high academic standards.
4. Check your grade portal daily.
5. Be aware of your academic progress.
6. Be punctual to all team functions.
7. Uphold good character, morals, ethics, healthy values, and manners.
8. Uphold the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) student code of conduct policies at all times.

## **Expectations of Parents**

1. Be sure that your child understands the contents of the handbook.
2. Support the coaching staff's decisions
3. Support and respect all team players and parents
4. Be involved in fundraising, concessions operations, etc.
5. Be involved in the college recruiting process.
6. Allow 24 hours to pass before approaching a coach with concerns after games.
7. After 9 pm initiate concerns via email.
8. Be aware of your child's academic progress. Become familiar with the academic policy and the email system.
9. Do not converse with players during games. This includes while they are on the floor, the bench, in warm-ups, or during half-time.

## **Team Expectations (Rules)**

1. Be where you are SUPPOSED to be
2. When you are SUPPOSED to be
3. Doing what you are SUPPOSED to be doing

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## **Communication Policy**

1. When a coach text messages, calls, or emails a student athlete they must respond to the text in a reasonable time frame.
2. Not responding will result in a consequence

## **Tardy and Absent Policy**

*\*Team function is defined as any practice, game, event, or activity.*

1. If a student athlete is going to be tardy to or absent from a team function, they must communicate via text, email, or phone call to the head coach. This time stamped communication must be recorded at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the team function.
2. When a student athlete notifies the coach of a tardy or absence, he must state the reason why he will not be on time or in attendance.
3. Student athletes who miss any practices will lose playing time. (i.e. may not start, may sit out of a quarter or half, may not play at all, etc.)

## **Social Media**

1. Team members are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner with the use of social media. Team members are representatives of Mandarin High School and this Basketball Program.
2. Team members will not post or respond to any negative reference(s) within our team, towards a teammate, opposing school, or basketball officials via social media.

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## Academic Expectations

All student athletes are expected to perform to the best of their abilities and to set personal goals to be an **HONOR ROLL STUDENTS**.

**Grades:** According to Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) guidelines, all student athletes must maintain a cumulative grade point average of a 2.0 in order to participate in sports. However, attaining a 2.0 is not the goal for any of our student athletes. Our staff expects excellence from our student athletes in the classroom.

**Study Hall:** In an effort to help our boys become independent and responsible learners, we will not hold mandatory study hall sessions. However, our staff will conduct biweekly individual academic meetings to monitor academic progress. The students will be given strategies for success to implement and follow. **Primarily, it is the responsibility of the parent and student to monitor grades and create success plans.**

Tutoring and other safety nets are available at Mandarin High school on a daily basis. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to schedule tutoring sessions with their teachers. Students shall not miss practices to catch up on assignments because they have not managed their time properly. A student may miss practice for certain academic purposes. Those purposes must be approved by the head coach prior to missing practices. The student's will still lose playing time as stated in the tardy and absent policy due to missing the practice(s). Our season schedule allows ample time for our student athletes to complete all assignments and projects in a timely manner. Team members must prioritize and manage their time properly with the help of their parents and coaches.

## Academic Policy

*\*Student athletes are expected to check their grade portals every day.*

1. If there is an unacceptable grade on the portal, the student must email the teacher(s) and copy at least one parent, in addition to all of the coaches on staff.
  - a. If the coaching staff checks the portal and notices any unacceptable grades and have not received an email from the student, a consequence will be issued. Such

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consequences may include but are not limited to, extra running, loss of playing time, and suspension from team functions, etc.

2. This policy is designed to help our boys become proactive with their educational process.

### **Transportation Policy**

*\*Students must be picked up on time. Practices should not go over the specified time limit. If for any reason practice exceeds the time limit without prior notification from the head coach please feel free to remove your child from the practice without any penalties.*

**Away games:** All team members are expected to ride the team bus to the game unless prior arrangements have been made with the head coach. After the game players may ride home with their parents or a sibling age 18 and older that no longer attends high school. Parents may arrange for their child to ride home with an adult relative or another team parent as long as it is approved by the head coach. A coach on the staff must physically see who the student is riding with before the athlete leaves the premise. If proper arrangements have not been made with the head coach, the student must ride the bus back to Mandarin High.

**Home games and practices:** All team members are expected to ride home with a parent or drive themselves. Players may ride home with a sibling age 18 and older that no longer attends high school, an adult relative, or another team parent as long as it is approved by the head coach.

**Pick up location:** Please pick your child up from the rear of the gym in the student parking lot. This ensures that the coaching staff is able to properly supervise in one location.

### **Dress Code Policy**

*\*All athletes are expected to adhere to the team dress code requirements. Failure to do so will result in a consequence.*

**In school:** The DCPS dress code policy will be enforced at all boys' basketball functions whether on or off campus. Student athletes must wear closed toed shoes while on campus or involved in any boys' basketball team functions. Slides and flip-flops are not in line with our dress code policy and shall not be worn unless approved by a coach.

**Game day:** Game day attire consists of Khaki pants and a polo shirt. Khaki pants may not be jean material. They must be a tan color. Brown is not allowed. Each student athlete is required to purchase three Mandarin Boys' Basketball polo shirts. The shirt colors are orange, green and

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white. The players will be instructed well in advance as to which shirt should be worn to school for each game. Team members will wear the team warm-up to school if a game falls on a Friday.

**Uniform requirements (game and practice):** Uniforms must be worn in accordance with the intended purposes. If the uniform is on the body, the jerseys must be tucked. Shorts are not to be rolled up. All team members must wear the team shoe and team sock. Under garments such as spandex material or tights must be the same color as the base color of the uniform. Long sleeve undershirts are not allowed.

**Practice:** Team members are expected to wear their own practice uniform to every practice and shoot around during the season. Practice uniform consists of the following: Jersey, Shorts, and under shirt. These are provided by the program. Players are not required to wear the team shoe during practices and shoot arounds.

## Consequences

*\*Consequences may include but are not limited to the following:*

1. Verbal redirection
2. Meeting between the athlete and at least two coaches
3. Meeting with parents and or AD if necessary
4. Extra conditioning
5. Loss of practice or playing time
6. Loss of privileges

## Post-season Awards

All Mandarin High School varsity teams receive a total of 3 plaques. MHS does not hold sports banquets for junior varsity teams. Therefore, JV teams do not receive trophies.

1. Most Outstanding
2. Coaches Awards
3. Award of choice (Iron Mustang, Most Improved, Intensity etc...)

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## **Lettering Policy**

The Athletic Lettering Policy is as follows:

1. An athlete who has lettered in a sport receives a green letter for his first athletic award (any sport, not just your sport), a bar & a sports pin.
2. The second time an athlete letters they receive a bar.
3. The third time an athlete letters they receive a white letter and a bar.
4. Each time an athlete letters thereafter, they receive a bar.
5. When an athlete letters seven times (TOTAL), an athlete receives the 7 Letter Club Award.
6. Athletes who have lettered 4 times in one sport will receive the 4 year Letter Award.

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## **Merit/Demerit System**

The merit/demerit system is designed to guide our boys along the path of success within our program. Merits provide rewards and recognition to members of the program for exceptional behaviors within the school and community setting. Both merits and demerits may be administered to any team member by any member of the coaching staff. Athletes must monitor their behaviors at all times. This includes, in school, school sponsored events, all team events/activities, and social media conduct.

Demerits remain visible on the student athlete's record. By the same token, merits may be earned to serve as an avenue to counteract the number of demerits received. However, regardless of the number of merits a student athlete has earned, too many demerits can result in suspensions or removal from the team.

Team members should try to keep up with their merits and demerits. They should have some idea of where they stand at all times. The coaching staff will keep a record of all merits and demerits for each team member. The merit/demerit system is in effect for 365 days.

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### **Merits:**

*\*All merits must be approved and and/or verified by the coaching staff. The staff may issue additional merits that are not listed for added exceptional conduct.*

Straight A's on any Report Card-----	2 merits
A/B Honor Roll -----	2 merits
Perfect School Attendance -----	2 merits
Volunteer at community events (Limit to a total of 4 hours) -----	1 merit/hour

### **Demerits:**

*\*New circumstances and situations may arise during the year. Therefore, the coaching staff may issue additional demerits that are not listed for unacceptable conduct.*

Late to practice without a time stamped notification -----	1 demerits
D's or F's on the report card -----	2 demerits/grade
Not participating in team activities/fundraisers -----	2 demerits
Wrong uniform, socks, shoes, etc. -----	3 demerits
Not cooperating with captains or coaches -----	3 demerits
Inappropriate Social Media Posts -----	3 demerits
No-call/no show to practice, game/function -----	5 demerits
Coaches contacted by Teachers about negative classroom behavior -----	5 demerits
DCPS Student Code of Conduct Class III and Class IV infractions -----	20 demerits

### **Merit/Demerit Scale:**

3-5 Demerits = 1-3 day suspension

6-10 Demerits = 3-6 day suspension

11-19 Demerits = 4 game suspension

20 Demerits = Expulsion from the team

NOTE: Demerits earned out of season may result in an indefinite suspension

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## **Handbook Acknowledgement**

**❖ By signing our names, we are stating that we have read the team handbook and have a complete understanding of its contents.**

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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