

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2022 Season. The boys have worked hard over the past few months to prepare for the first game of the year.

In case you haven't noticed... I love these kids. They are a great bunch of boys! I'm very excited for this tournament, but I wanted to remind you that this weekend is as much about learning to "play as a team" as it is about winning. It's a chance for me to move boys around in different competitive situations/positions to see how they respond. Again, we are playing competitive baseball, and we will coach accordingly.

My promise to you is that our coaches will coach your son to the best of our ability. All that we ask from your son is a desire to learn, to hustle, and bring a good attitude. We ask for your positive support as parents. Between the three of us, if we can commit to those conditions, we are confident that your son will have a positive experience on our team.

There are a few items that we should agree on before the first pitch:

First, I count on you to help us build team chemistry. Know that we don't tolerate the boys criticizing each other, and if you know of that happening, please bring it to my attention immediately. **Chemistry is our most important ingredient to player growth.** (i.e. If your boy doesn't feel "safe" to play hard and risk a little, he'll slow down to assure success)

Likewise, supportive parents are an integral element of a successful team. Avoiding gossip helps build team chemistry.

Don't get caught up in who is on the bench, or who starts. This is the most talented team I have coached in my past nine years in baseball, and all of our boys will "visit" the bench this year. The bench is not an indication of talent level here... likewise, know that ALL positions are important on a baseball field. Outfield positions do not represent our least talented players. **Please reinforce with your boy that all positions are important in competitive baseball.**

Please do not coach your boy from the stands. Most times, coaching from the stands adds pressure and over thinking. Athletes who "think" slow down (for fear of making another mistake). We don't want slow play. We want our boys clear of mind, loose, and willing to put it all on the line, with no fear of "failing".

We have promoted risk taking and embraced a faultless environment. The kids will make mistakes --- and that is ok --- *it's a major part of the learning process.* **Applaud effort, risk taking, and standing up to challenging situations.** I have talked to the boys at length about Theodore Roosevelt's quote (Man in the Arena, and where to place credit (the quote is in the boys' playbook, and I will attach it to the end of this letter for your reference). **Please reinforce this mindset with the boys. It is unconditional, we will love them no more, or no less, based on baseball outcomes.**

Our team has a "24 Hour Rule". If you are unhappy with a coach, we ask that you let the issue rest for 24 hours, and if the issue still persists, contact me. We will not discuss issues in front of other parents or the boys. All safety issues should be addressed immediately. I always welcome feedback that helps our team.

We will honor the game, honor our opponents, and honor the officials. There is no other way. Please know how that how our parents treat umpires has a significant impact on the course of the game. Please love them up... *it helps our strike zone!*

Thank you! Go <TEAM>



Man in the Arena

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause;

who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt