

GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
15404 Silver Firs Drive Everett, WA 98208
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Matthew Bennett, Principal
Michelle Renee, Assistant Principal

I am excited that your student has chosen to participate on the Gateway Girls Fastpitch Softball Team. It is an honor to represent Gateway on one of their sports teams. I have taught at Gateway for 25 years and decided to coach this year since the former coach retired. I have many years of experience in fastpitch softball both as a coach and player.

I want to make sure that all parents and players are informed on what we will be doing this season, and this letter should answer most of your questions.

Athletic Fee: there is a \$40 fee for each sport a student-athlete participates in at the middle school level. This fee needs to be paid before the first contest. Families can pay online or with cash or check made out to "Gateway Middle School" at the main Office.

Practice schedule: We will have practice after school from 3 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday every day we have school and the first two Fridays of the season. Students will be available for pick up at 4:30 pm. For students who are not able to be picked up, there is a 5 pm activity bus that can take them home. I will stay on campus until all the students are picked up or on the bus. If a student is not picked up by 5:00 pm, I will have them ride the activity bus home. If there is no school there will be no practice, including if school is canceled for weather, we will not have practice. Also, there will be no practices on game days or on Weekends. WIAA rules require that an athlete needs to have 8 practices before they can participate in a meet. We have 11 practices before our first game.

We will have practice on the early release LIF Fridays (9/13 and 9/20 and maybe on other LIF Fridays) from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. We DO NOT have a supervised study hall, so students need to go home after school and return for the 3 pm start of practice. Personal gear for practice (we will be outside for the entire practice; , if it rains, we will be in the gym): - Cleats, tennis shoes - Appropriate layers of clothing including sweats and sweatshirts, base layer clothing, etc.

Game schedule: On the Gateway website under School Announcements, click on Sports Schedules and Directions to check Arbiter Sports.

Student Behavior: I want our athletes to enjoy softball and also expect them to behave safely. In the event an athlete is behaving in a dangerous or disrespectful way I will correct the behavior, give the student a warning and if the behavior happens again, I will correct the behavior and notify parents. If the behavior continues after the warning and parent contact, I will suspend the

student for a week. If the behavior continues when the student returns, they will not be allowed to continue with the team for the rest of the season.

Expectations on Game days: Students will change at school and ride the bus to the game location, if it is an away game. We will NOT have a bus bringing athletes back to Gateway. All students need to get a ride home from a parent or arrange a ride with a friend's parent, with your parents' permission. Seating is limited so you may want to bring a lawn chair to sit in and umbrellas for rainy days. Athletes need to bring the following to each game

- Uniform
- Sweats and any other clothing to keep them warm as they will be outside for the duration of the game
- Water Bottle
- Cleats or tennis shoes
- Glove and helmet

EXPECTATIONS (Every day) - I understand that participation in the athletics program of Everett Public Schools is a privilege. Because students involved in athletics perform and represent their schools in public, they are expected to behave in a way that reflects the high standards and ideals of their sport, team, school, and community. I will be held accountable academically and behaviorally throughout the entire year.

Participation- I will attend all organized functions including practices, competitions, meetings, and celebrations unless the coach/advisor designates such activities as optional. Coaches/Advisors may excuse me from events for reasonable situations per his/her discretion.

School Attendance- Unless approved by a building administrator, I must attend and fully participate in all class periods of the school day to be eligible for contests or practices that day. If I am absent from one or more classes due to illness, I am ineligible to participate or compete that day. If I am suspended from school, including in-school suspension, I may not participate in practices or contests.

Conduct- I will conduct myself in a way that promotes a positive image of the school, the community, and me. If I act in a way that reflects negatively upon the school, the community, or me, I will be subject to discipline under the Athletic Code. This may include suspension or permanent removal from the sport. *Acts that reflect negatively include, but are not limited to, academic fraud or cheating, plagiarism, criminal activity, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.* Such acts may occur during school or non-school activities performed either on- or off-campus.

ASB Card- In order to participate in ASB-sponsored athletics, I must purchase an ASB card. Accommodation may be made if I am a student who qualifies for free or reduced lunch and cannot afford an ASB card. This shall apply to home-school and Running Start students as well.

Previous Semester- I must pass five (5) of six (6) classes or six (6) of seven (7) classes in the previous semester or trimester. Summer school is counted as part of the spring semester. Academic marks in the spring trimester of 6th grade shall be used to determine 7th grade eligibility. Marks from the spring trimester of 7th grade shall be used to determine 8th grade eligibility.

Academic Standards- After satisfying the initial eligibility requirements, I must be passing (no grade of F) all scheduled classes to remain fully eligible during the season. My academic progress will be checked every two (2) weeks. If I have earned an F grade in any class, I will be placed on academic probation beginning the following Monday for the remainder of the season. I may continue to practice and compete. My grade improvement will be verified by a progress tracking sheet initiated by me and submitted to the athletic coordinator. If I am still failing any class at a subsequent grade check, I will move to academic suspension status beginning the following Monday. I can continue to practice with my team but I cannot compete until I am passing all classes. If I am failing two (2) classes at any grade check, I will automatically move to academic suspension status per the WIAA scholarship rule.

Playing Time Policies/ Guidelines: The determination of playing time is dependent upon many factors both measurable and subjective. As head coach, one of my main responsibilities is to make personnel decisions that I believe provide our team with the best chance for success during any given competition. With that said, I am also keenly aware of how playing time affects team climate, the overall well-being of my program, and the development of individual self-esteem and perceived value to the team. I cannot guarantee that any player will play at all during the season, let alone how much they will play. What I will guarantee is that I will have weekly meetings with each student-athlete, and they will be alerted to what needs to change in order for them to earn more playing time.

Parent and student signature of understanding.

I understand that I am financially responsible for the equipment issued to me, which will include:

Softball Uniform pants Softball Uniform shirt _____

_____ (add more if needed)

The school and/ or team does not provide the following, therefore, each participant will be expected to purchase on their own: (include approximate \$)

___cleats___ ___Glove___ ___Batting gloves___
___softball socks___

I acknowledge that I understand and abide by the policies set forth by the program as identified in this document.

Parent Signature:

Student Signature:

How will your student get home after: Practice: _____

Games: _____

I understand that I can enroll in Myers-Stevens & Toohey insurance for the entire school year which can cover injuries at practices and games. I understand that if I want more information, I will connect with my Building Athletic Director.

Parent Signature:

This Signature Page must be returned to the Coach by the End of the first week of practice (Friday)

Nina Bus

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