

# DESERT SKY MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Building a Community of Learners”

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Dear Desert Sky Parents,

I would like to welcome you all to another year of athletics at Desert Sky Middle School. At Desert Sky, we pride ourselves on holding our students and athletes to high expectations, with the belief that when held to high expectations our students and athletes will, and do, perform at a higher level both athletically and academically. We encourage you to get your student involved. Research shows time and time again, that when students are involved in after school activities they are more likely to not be involved in unhealthy activities, they perform better academically, and there is less inactivity in their daily routine. Students who are involved in after school activities have been found to gain confidence, school pride, and a connection to the community as a whole. Our athletic program is a great opportunity for students to experience the many benefits of being involved. Be sure your student takes the opportunity to get signed up for one of our fantastic first quarter sports beginning Monday, July 18th at 3pm in the Gym. Our sports this year will be Flag Football, Girls Volleyball, Cheer, and Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Wrestling, Softball, Baseball, Track, and Boys Volleyball. Athletic fees will remain at \$75.00 per sport. A sports physical is required for participation, students cannot practice without a sports physical that is no more than one year old. **Sign-ups on Monday will be for all sports.** If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 879-2767 or you can e-mail me at [rodriguezsa@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:rodriguezsa@vailschooldistrict.org).

I am also very excited to announce that we will be allowing 6th graders the opportunity to try out for all sports teams except for girls volleyball, due to the large number of girls that typically participate. At the discretion of the coaches and the athletic director, a certain number of positions will be opened up for 6th grade try-outs, which is determined after all 7th and 8th grade students have signed up. 6th graders will be trying out for these positions. If you have a 6th grade student who wishes to participate, please have them sign up on Monday, July 18th at 3pm in the gym. Athletic fees for 6th grade students wishing to participate will not be due until after the completion of tryouts.

This year we will be holding elections for our athletics club Wednesday, July 20th @ 3:30pm in the Desert Sky Gym. Officer positions that will be voted on will be Athletics Club President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In order to be considered for one of these positions students must show up to the elections, have someone nominate them for the office, and have a short speech prepared to present to potential voters. Once all candidates have presented themselves to voters a vote will be taken with those present at the elections. Officers will then be announced and I will have a short meeting with officers at the close of the evening.

I would also like to clarify some things about our sports program here at Desert Sky. Although we do not make cuts, with the exception of 6th graders trying-out for open spots, we do have try-outs for A, B, or C teams. Athletes are placed on these teams according to their skill level which is determined by our head coaches for each sport. The C level is reserved for those athletes who have very little experience and are looking to enhance their skills or try a new sport for the first time. The B level is for those athletes that have a little more experience but are looking to take their skills to the next level. The A level is for those athletes that have much more experience and have played the sport for several years at a competitive level. Both the B and C levels are considered instructional and the coach will, to the best of their ability, attempt to get athletes equal playing time. The A level is much more competitive and is designed for high school readiness, so there is no guarantee that their will be equal playing time. Playing time at each level is also determined by attendance at practices, proper attitude, and hard work ethic. Giving a 100% at practice is a good way to achieve more playing time. All absences from practice require a parent note or a note from a doctor indicating when the athlete can return to practice. Missing practices due to having to serve pride will result in the athlete being excused from the team after the third pride.

Again, thank you for taking the time to consider Desert Sky Athletics for your student.

Sincerely,  
Sal Rodriguez  
Athletic Director  
Desert Sky Middle School