



January 30, 2011

Dear Warrior Baseball parents:

Warrior Baseball 2011 is upon us. It seems like just a short time ago that we finished the 2010 season. I am looking forward to what the new season holds for both the varsity, sophomore, and freshman programs. Please read this letter carefully as it contains pertinent information regarding the pre-season, tryouts, spirit pack and contact information.

Coaching Staff

This season, the Warrior Baseball coaching staff will have a familiar look but will be missing Willie Bosque, who is now part of the Padre organization. We will miss Willie and all he has done for this program, yet we are extremely excited to continue the winning tradition of Warrior baseball. For those of you who I have not met, my name is Brad Byrne; I am truly honored to be named the Head Varsity Baseball Coach. I have served in many capacities at Wheaton Academy, Assistant Varsity basketball coach, Assistant coach for the football team and as the Varsity assistant and pitching coach for the last three years. Rick Dzingel will continue to be the Varsity Assistant coach; he has been part of Warrior baseball for six years and is instrumental to the continued success of our program. Coach Craig Lochridge will be entering his fourth year as head coach of the sophomore team. Assisting him will be Dick Clancy (fourth year) and Matt Browning who will be entering his third year. We are still searching for a freshman coach, so your continued prayers for us to find a suitable candidate would be greatly appreciated.

Tryouts and Cuts

Tryouts this season will be held February 28- March 2. Depending upon the weather, tryouts may be indoors or outside. Players should bring equipment for both locations (cleats & tennis shoes, practice gear & long sleeves, etc.). Tryout times are yet to be determined. I will make sure to have an informational meeting with all the players to let them know the times.

In preparation for tryouts your son should be throwing, hitting and running to help him be ready. We are offering open gym on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. up until February 28 to give them an opportunity to hit, throw and run in the field house.

I wanted to prepare you, as parents, if your son does not make the team. No athlete is exempt from being cut – grade level will not factor into our decision at the Varsity level. Cuts are the part of our job that keeps us up at night. So please know that any decision the baseball coaches make is done with a lot of prayer and consideration.

Please commit to pray for our baseball staff, season and athletes. Most importantly during the tryout period, pray that God will lead us, the baseball coaching staff, to make the right decisions for our baseball teams.



Commitment

As a member of either the Wheaton Academy Baseball Program, it is expected that your son commit to being a member of the team throughout the season. As a member of the team, your son is expected to be at every practice and every game unless unable to attend due to illness or injury which should be communicated to the coach prior to his absence.

Spring Sports Kickoff Party

The Spring Sports Kickoff Party will be held at Wheaton Academy on Saturday, March 12, beginning at 12:00 PM. Please keep in mind that at least one parent must attend the kickoff. Come for a time of fellowship with other parents and players, as well as an opportunity to hear from the coaching staff about the upcoming season.

Sports Physicals

The IHSA requires that all student-athletes must have a current physical on file in order to be able to participate in high school athletics. This includes tryouts. Please make sure that your son has a current up to date physical filed in the athletic office. Your child will not be allowed to participate until this has been taken care of.

Spirit Pack

I have enclosed the spirit pack brochure for the upcoming baseball season; please note the date and code on the top of the form. The lead time is 3 weeks for all ordered items. I have also made arrangements for a second order date if you desire to wait until after tryouts. I will notify you of that date once we have made the final determination of teams.

Please note that Salkeld Sports has discounted all of our spirit pack items and a portion of each order will be credited to Wheaton Academy Baseball account.

Access code is on WA baseball website

Mandatory items to be purchased through Spirit pack (Varsity, sophomore, and freshman):

The mandatory practice gear for Warrior baseball is black shorts and both color practice shirts (maroon and grey).

- Practice short sleeve T-shirts: one maroon and one grey, either Badger or Nike brand (your choice).
- Hats: varsity will have 2 hats, white and black; JV and freshman will have maroon – can be purchased through Coach Byrne or the athletic office.
- Nike team polo: **Varsity players only**

Required items may be purchased outside of spirit pack (Varsity, sophomore, and freshman):



- Maroon socks
- Maroon belt
- Black and white cleats (base color black)
- Maroon/ long sleeves (cold weather gear)
- Athletic supporter/cup

Varsity players are also required to have:

- Black socks
- Black belt
- Black long sleeves
- Grey pants and white pants with maroon piping t(they are listed as white pants on spirit pack)

Suggested items (these are items that are not required but are items that would be helpful for your player to have):

- Warrior baseball jacket (most varsity players already have a jacket purchased during previous years; please plan for the jacket to be used for multiple years).
- Turf shoes: these can be used inside and outside for practice and do preserve the player's cleats.

Coaches Contact Information

Brad Byrne, Varsity Head Coach

wabaseball@wheatonacademy.org

Craig Lochridge, Sophomore Head Coach

craig@rkanet.com

If you have any further questions regarding the Warrior Baseball program, feel free to contact me via phone at the Athletic office or e-mail (wabaseball@wheatonacademy.org). Thank you for your support of Warrior Baseball.

In Christ

Brad Byrne

Varsity Baseball Coach