

2018 Season Introduction Letter - Head Coach

Dear athletes, parents/guardians, and community members:

It is my privilege to serve as the head football coach for the Navajo Preparatory School (NPS) Eagles. I have been employed by NPS previously as Head Football Coach from 2011-2015 and have returned as head football coach this year. This next season will be my seventh year coaching high school football. Last year, I was an assistant at Shiprock High where we had a successful season.

The reason for this letter is to describe to you the purpose of the Eagle football program and why you should encourage your son to participate in football next season. Even if your son has never played football before I would like you to consider the powerful impact we are trying to make in your child's life.

The purpose of Eagle football is to complement the educational goals of Navajo Prep by emphasizing the physical, mental, and character development of each athlete. To fulfill this purpose statement, the football program will "teach athletes essential traits that are needed to be successful in football and in life." Eagle football coaches believe that to be successful in football requires growth in the body, mind, and the heart of each athlete. This philosophy acts as the basis for our program.

My coaches and I are trying to make your sons or daughters better people. We want to see them grow and mature by providing lessons and mentorship to guide them toward becoming better people. I believe that we all need to continue to grow as people, whether as an adult or a child, we all need to continue to transform. Learning the game of football, as with life, is a never-ending process. We will assist your child in his maturation and development physically, mentally, and with his character development. Parents should be the primary means of developing character and mental skills, but coaches, just like teachers, can assist parents in teaching attributes that are essential in life. I believe that football is a great venue for learning beneficial attributes and life skills. I want to use football as a way to make a difference in the lives of my players. I want to prepare my players so they can go out into the world and raise families, be successful, and contribute to the common good of the community.

A main goal in this pursuit is to create a team. Creating a team is more difficult than teaching football or a specific skill. It's teaching kids how to cooperate with other people; it's making kids understand that they need to lose some of themselves in order for a team to thrive. Our focus is on the team. I want players to understand what it means to sacrifice for a team and achieve team-related goals.

One of the main attributes we want to instill in our athletes is commitment. Commitment is so essential in all areas of life. We want our athletes to be committed year round to improving themselves. For the players, commitment means being held accountable by their teammates, following rules, and pushing themselves through hard work for the benefit of the team. It's not enough just for players to show up and go along for the ride, we want them to be dedicated to pursuing what it takes to be successful in football and in life. We want your son to play football. If they take the courageous step we expect them to commit to the off-season strength training program, maintain high academic standards, attend all meetings and summer camps, and follow the advice of their coaches.

For the athletes the commitment is a promise that they will be there for each other. They will learn if they strive for it, how to be committed to a team; they will be able to honestly say “I was there for you.” Their shared commitment will create a brotherhood between the players. Players will gain camaraderie, discipline, and lifelong friendships while playing a game.

I look at mentoring your child through a father’s eyes. My children Travian, Brandy, BJ, Tariq and Devarian will likely be under the mentorship of many coaches during their youth. There is nothing I would rather want for my children than a coach that is concerned with more than just the sport, with more than just winning. I want my children to have coaches that inspire them to be better athletes physically, to help in their mental development, and most importantly, that assist in the positive development of their character.

I will model what I expect from my athletes. I am not a person that follows the saying “do as I say, not as I do.” So when I expect athletes to consistently train and lift weights in the off-season, I will be training as well. When I emphasize proper nutrition, I will lead by example and maintain healthy nutritional habits. I will model positive character traits, proper communication, emphasize education, leadership, serving others, and abstain from addictive behaviors that could negatively impact my family, the team, or myself. I will model the traits that the football program is trying to develop in the lives of each athlete. This will be the standard for the coaching staff and me; we will be good role models to your child.

To reduce the chance of injuries we strictly abide by NMAA rules. Players will always have a helmet on with a formed mouth guard. During the first week of practice players can only contact bags/shields. During the second week there can be full contact but it is limited to 90 minutes for week, and by the third week and beyond full contact is limited to 60 minutes. We teach and emphasize proper tackling technique. We teach Heads Up Football from USA Football and tackling techniques like “Hawk Roll” which attempts to keep the head out of tackling altogether. Players are allowed unlimited access to water at all times. The NMAA association with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has set such rules to make the game safer and reduce injury risk. The Eagle football coaches will do our best to make sure the game is as safe as possible.

It is my job as head coach to teach your son how to play football. I’m going to push them to improve, hold them accountable for their actions, and teach them how to play the game at a high level. Through the process they will learn valuable life lessons. I am asking you and your son to make a commitment to the football program for the 2018 season.

Thanks for your dedication and support of Navajo Preparatory School athletics and the Eagle football program.

Sincerely,

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