



BS"D: BYHS SPORTS DIGEST

VOLUME 3, WINTER 2008

The Winter Basketball Season

Coaches:

This season we hired two new basketball coaches after a process of very thorough interviewing and background review of many applicants. Thankfully both teams really like their coaches and both coaches have a great attitude and style that suits them very well to coach at Block Yeshiva High School. They both respect and appreciate our unique school and we're sure that they will make a positive difference in our athletics program.

Boys' Basketball Coach: Greg King (Cell #(618) 691-9772, email: gking@calhoun.k12.il.us)

Girls' Basketball Coach: Kurt Neely (Cell #(660) 528-1284, email: kneely1322@hotmail.com)

Uniforms:

The boys' team purchased their own uniforms from Johnny Mac's sporting goods. The boys need to remember that the school requires them to wear their kippa or head covering at all times during practice and games. In addition to voluntarily paying more for their uniforms, all boys must still pay the participation fee (see section below.)

The girls are getting a combination of take-home pieces and new school-issued "Vegas Gold" colored jerseys. The girls have the option of shorts or skirts, with a shirt under their jersey. The shirts and skirts come from a great company called Blue and White Kids (aka Kosher Casual) based in Israel. We were able to get these for a very reasonable price, and the girls will have to pay \$24.50 for the uniform and get to keep those parts. The shorts are also team-issued and individual-purchased and for take home. These uniform pieces make team unity a priority and keeping the dress code simple. All 17 girls who signed up for basketball had jerseys and other uniform clothes ordered for them and are required to pay for them (the extra pieces), even if they choose to not play the entire season.



Practices:

Practice is an opportunity for lots of fun, development of skill, exercise, and team and individual improvement. Basketball is a sport which requires many different skills: offense, defense, shooting, passing, aerobic conditioning, etc. Attendance at practice is therefore very important to the team and usually affects how much playing time one gets in games. That is just something to keep in mind for anyone who may not have been familiar with how these things work.

Day to day questions about practice should be directed to the coach, because the coach and the players determine their daily plans. The Athletic Director and Administration only sometimes know the updated information. The typical schedule is:

Boys' Practices:

When: Monday through Thursday after school (and after Mishmar on Thursdays)

Where: Brittany Woods Middle School, 8125 Groby Rd University City, MO 63130

Phone: (314) 290-4280

Exceptions: Sometimes the coach will make plans for the boys to practice at Epstein when the girls have an away game. This will give them an opportunity to practice on the competition basketball court.

Girls' Practices:

When: Monday through Thursday after school, Sunday 10am-12pm.

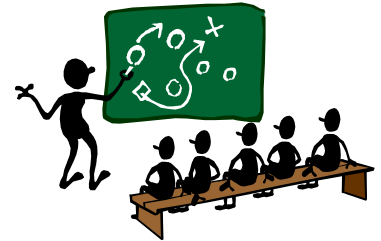
Where: Epstein Hebrew Academy-Block Yeshiva gym

Exceptions: The coach may make Sunday practices at Ladue High School 1201 S Warson Rd St. Louis, MO 63124 Phone: (314) 993-6447

Participation fees:

All student-athletes needs to pay \$100 per season of sports. This is the only way that our sports program can survive- and I mean that literally. It will not continue if we cannot pay our expenses. We cannot take money from the operating budget of the school, because that is needed for teachers and other school expenses. Every person is required to make arrangements for this fee, because it is an important part of the budget. You may either send in a check or speak to me, Kate Friedman, about it for alternatives. If we do not come up with the money, we will have to discontinue the basketball season, because we cannot continue to have a program that cannot afford to run itself and pay its employees, the coaches and refs.

Please consider that \$100 is a lot less money for a lot more time playing sports than Epstein is charging, and it does NOT completely cover the costs of the season. (I only say this to point out that we are offering you a lot for a relatively small price.) We are subsidizing the sports for everyone through very hard work fundraising and cutting costs where possible.



Some payment options and ideas for students and families:

- Fees may be paid in four installments of \$25 over the course of the basketball season
- Students or families can look for a family member, relative, or friend who can sponsor them
- Students may want to find a few extra weekend jobs (babysitting, etc.) in order to enable them to participate and to pay their way. Students can pay in installments.
- You may pay \$150 to join the Athletic Sponsors' Team. Perhaps some people will be able to allocate part of their advertising budget for their business, profession, or office to advertising and thus cover the cost of the student-athlete participation fee.
- Students can do a fundraiser to raise the money to pay their way. This can be done as individuals, small groups, or team. Any way is fine and I am available to help if needed.
- Anyone who is having trouble finding the funds to pay for their participation in this program is encouraged to contact Jewish Family & Children's Service, 10950 Schuetz Road (Phone (314) 993-1000) because they have a new fund to help families with day school expenses, and this fee has been approved by our administration to be part of the overall expense towards which the JF&CS scholarship can go.

Soccer Season Re-cap and Coach Payment Issue:

Almost no boys have returned their school-issued soccer jerseys. These must be returned ASAP, to the boys' school office. They will not be repurchased next year, and other consequences may occur for students who choose not to return their jersey as agreed upon at the beginning of the season.

To date, most of the boys' soccer team has *not* paid their participation fees, despite numerous reminders. Please realize that this tardiness in paying amounts to extremely late payment of the coach for his many hours of work, and demonstrates a lack of appreciation for the loyalty that Coach Leszek Skowrya has shown Block despite not being treated as professionally in the past as he should have been. (He is severely behind on his salary from BYHS and I have been



working very hard to raise money to pay him for his work.) The soccer season was not offered for free to students; it was offered for \$100/player. Please send in your payment ASAP so we can repair this problem.

Safety and Health

- Wear supportive shoes that protect your ankles from injury that could happen with the jumps and jostling of basketball. The shoes need cushioning and ankle support. Get basketball shoes at any sports store.
- Make sure your doctor has approved you for rigorous physical activity. It is up to the family to make sure a student has had a physician's check up prior to sports, either at the beginning of the year or now, if not already done. Please fill out the MSHSAA physical form that can be obtained at the BYHS website under *activities*.

FAQ

What state requirements affect my student-athlete's eligibility?

The rules below come from the Missouri State High School Activities Association, but each school has the right to have stricter rules. This is Rabbi Munk's area of jurisdiction, so speak to the administration with questions.

- A. Students must be in school on the day of practice or competition.
- B. If a student has an unexcused absence from class, s/he may not participate on that date.
- C. Students must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation as determined by BYHS. In the semester prior to participation and the current semester, the student must be earning credit in at least 70% of the of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, or 2.5 units of credit, whichever is greater.
- D. There are hundreds of pages of details and example questions available if you need more information. See mshsaa.org for more information.

What is expected of my student-athlete when playing sports at Block?

In a small school, everyone on a sports team counts! All players should be present at all games and practices, unless they have made special arrangements with the coach. Regularly occurring time conflicts should be discussed with the coach. Good Sportsmanship, respect, and following instructions of the coach is required at all times, *especially* when participating in BYHS sports practices or games off campus.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Parents, most of you received calls from me about signing up to help at boys' or girls' basketball games with a) driving to away games, b) taking score at home games, or c) selling tickets and refreshments at home games. If you have not responded yet, or if I did not call you, please call me, Kate Friedman, Athletic Director at (314) 991-6887 so that I can get you signed up to help make things run smoothly. The games are lots of fun to watch and your help is necessary in order to host and attend games. There are other volunteer opportunities later in the school year that I am gathering people for as well.

Fans Wanted!

Parents and families, please come cheer on your BYHS basketball players! Bring your kids, your friends, your friends' kids, the grandparents! We are building more school spirit and your support makes a big impact on our teams' excitement and performance.

Fundraising:

We would like to thank the following people for sponsoring the BYHS Athletic Department. Please thank them if they you have the opportunity! They are making a big difference in keeping this program going and growing.

BYHS ATHLETICS TEAM SPONSORS

Platinum Level:

Law Firm of C. Marshall Friedman

Game Level:

Arthur Friedman,
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Other Recent Sponsors:

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Ron Kean

John and Janie Weiss
Diane Rich

Sabin Family
Dr. and Mrs. Craig Berkin

We've also received pledges from other generous friends of the BYHS Athletic Department and are grateful to everyone who helps! Please let me know if there are people to whom I can send a letter about the program. It's working and we have a good response rate, so please send in suggestions. You never know who might want to get involved!

Basketball Season Tickets

Available to parents and friends for \$60/season. Pass include immediate family to all home games. Please ask people you know if they would like to buy the season pass! They can pick up their pass at any home game.

Fundraising Ideas

Parents and students, your ideas are welcome and can be put into action to make a big impact! We are looking for more things to sell at the door to games, and more ways to draw more fans, which helps bring in a lot of revenue. So far we've made almost \$300 at the first two home game nights. Let's keep it up!



Game Schedules:

Please stay alert for changes- sometimes schools cancel games!

We are working to add more JV girls' games! Stay tuned!

2008-09 Boys Basketball Season Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
(Th) November 20 th	7:15pm	St. Louis Christian Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(T) November 25 th	7:15pm	North County Christian	EHS-BYHS GYM
(T) December 9 th	7:30pm	Chris. Acad. of Greater STL	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) December 11 th	7:30pm	Barat Academy	Barat Academy
(T) December 16 th	6:40pm	North County Tech	North County Tech
(Th) December 18 th	6:45pm	Tower Grove Christian	EHS-BYHS GYM
(M) January 5 th	7:15pm	Barat Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(W) January 7 th	7:15pm	Grandview High School	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) January 8 th	6:45pm	North County Tech	EHS-BYHS GYM
(T) January 13 th	7:30pm	North County Christian	North County Christian
(Th) January 15 th	7:15pm	Construction Career Acad.	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) January 22 nd	7:30pm	Chris. Acad. of Greater STL	Chris. Acad. of Greater STL
(M) January 26 th	7:00pm	Cleveland ROTC	Cleveland ROTC
(M) February 2 nd	7:00pm	Tower Grove Christian	Tower Grove Christian Sch.
(M) February 9 th	7:30pm	McClure South Berkley	McClure South Berkley
(W) February 11 th	7:15pm	Cleveland ROTC	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) February 19 th	7:30pm	Christian High School	EHS-BYHS GYM
(M) February 23 rd	7:15pm	Construction Career Acad.	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Sa) February 28 th		Districts begin	

2008-09 Girls Basketball Season Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
(Th) November 20 th	5:45pm	St. Louis Christian Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(M) November 24 th	6:15pm	Dupo High School – JV	Dupo High School
(M) November 24 th	7:15pm	Dupo High School – Varsity	Dupo High School
(T) November 25 th	5:45pm	North County Christian	EHS-BYHS GYM
(T) December 9 th	6:00pm	Christian Acad. of Greater STL	EHS-BYHS GYM
(M) December 15 th	6:10pm	Brentwood High School	Brentwood High Sch.
(Th) December 18 th	6:15pm	North County Tech	North County Tech
(M) January 5 th	6:00pm	Barat Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(W) January 7 th	6:00pm	Grandview High School	EHS-BYHS GYM
(T) January 13 th	6:15pm	North County Christian	North County Chr.
(Th) January 15 th	6:00pm	Construction Career Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) January 22 nd	6:00pm	Christian Acad. of Greater STL	Chr. Acad. of Gr STL
(M) January 26 th	6:00pm	Gateway Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) January 29 th	6:45pm	Cleveland ROTC	Cleveland ROTC
(M) February 2 nd	6:00pm	Gateway Tech	EHS-BYHS GYM
(W) February 4 th	6:30pm	Grandview High School	Grandview High Sch.
(M) February 9 th	6:10pm	McClure South Berkley HS	EHS-BYHS GYM
(W) February 11 th	6:00pm	Cleveland ROTC	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Th) February 19 th	6:15pm	Christian High School	EHS-BYHS GYM
(M) February 23 rd	6:00pm	Construction Career Academy	EHS-BYHS GYM
(Sa) February 28 th		Districts begin	

Questions contact Kate Friedman (314) 991-6887, (314) 479-1552, kfriedman18@gmail.com