

September 1, 2011

St. Patrick Athletic Parents,

In conjunction with the recent changes in the Archdiocese of Chicago for Catholic elementary schools, changes in the St. Patrick Athletic program for all volleyball and basketball teams are being introduced for the 2011-2012 school year. Below are key changes in this year's program:

- Being part of an interscholastic athletic team is a component of the school experience that should be available to all students. Tryouts were eliminated from the program to create inclusion of all students that meet the requirements for participation (physical, waiver, athletic sign up by cutoff date, and sport fee).
- If there are a large number of participating athletes, the Athletic Board may divide athletes into 2 teams at one grade level. If there is a lack of participating athletes at a grade level, students at a lower grade level may be asked to play up.
- Higher and emerging skill athletes will be evenly divided if there are 2 teams at one grade level. This approach is being used by all teams in the Fox Valley Catholic Conference (FVCC).
- Athlete placement, if there are 2 teams at one grade level at, may be determined by skill assessment by a third party evaluator. Requests for placement on a team due to 'carpooling' may not be accommodated.
- All 5th and 6th grade players are expected to be awarded equal playing time. The focus at this level is on skill development.
- Playing time at the 7th and 8th grade level is a reflection of ability, effort, attendance at practices, and commitment to the team. Strategic playing time is used in competitions at this level.
- Each team is allowed 3 tournaments. The FVCC playoffs at end of season are counted as one tournament.

We appreciate your support and understanding as these changes are incorporated into the St. Patrick Athletics program for the 2011-2012 school year.

Sincerely,

***Tim and Meg Ives***  
Athletic Directors