

## A Letter from the District Director of Activities and Athletics:

Welcome to the Millard Public Schools activities program. I would like to take a moment to explain a small part of how the athletic and activities programs are conducted at our high schools.

In each program, coaches and sponsors are responsible for team and/or program selection. The coaches and sponsors establish conditions for selection. This may be a very subjective process and any one of us might select different students for the team or program if we had the responsibility for selection. We believe, however, that it is the responsibility and right of the coaches and sponsors to select the members of the team or program with whom they will work for the season and/or event.

A key goal of any competitive team or program is to use the best combination of students available, in the judgment of the coach or sponsor, to win the contest and/or have a successful event. Starting positions, playing time, and roles for a game or event are not guaranteed to any student. Some students may play a great amount of time in a game or receive a big role for an event while other students may not receive what you consider to be "significant" playing or performance time. We believe it is the responsibility and right of the coaches and sponsors to determine the time and/or role received by each student during each game or event.

Every team and program wants to win or have a successful event and each coach or sponsor wants to win or have a successful event. In the attempt to win or have a successful event, coaches and sponsors will use different strategies at appropriate times. These strategies might differ with the decisions you might have made if you were the coach or sponsor. The coaches and sponsors do the best that they can to make the proper decisions at the proper time so that our groups perform well and win the game or have a successful event. We believe it is the responsibility and right of the coaches and sponsors to determine the strategies used during a game or event.

There may be times when you have a concern about your student's participation on our teams and/or in our programs. When these concerns arise, we ask that you use the following chain of communication to deal with the concerns:

- \***First**, ask your student to talk with the coach or sponsor.
- \***Second**, if the issues have not been resolved, then the parent/legal guardian and student should request a meeting with the coach or sponsor outside of class time, practice time, and event time.
- \***Third**, if these two steps have not succeeded, then the parent/legal guardian may request a meeting with the Assistant Principal for Activities at the school. The student, coach or sponsor will be included in this meeting.
- \***Fourth**, if resolution has not been achieved, the parent/legal guardian and student may request a meeting with the Principal, in which the coach or sponsor, parent, student and assistant principal will attend. We hope that the concerns can be addressed at the site level.
- \***Fifth**, if questions continue to exist, the parent/legal guardian may request a review by the District Director of Activities and Athletics. The District Director will review the steps taken and may hold a meeting in which the parent/guardian, student, coach, assistant principal and/or principal may be asked to attend.

Topics that will not be addressed by administrators in these meetings include playing time, game strategies, playing level, starters, student selection on teams, and comparison of students' skills. These are decisions properly made by and discussed with our coaches and sponsors, and we support the freedom of coaches or sponsors to make these types of decisions. We believe that by using this approach, most of the concerns can be resolved at the most appropriate level.

By being a parent/legal guardian and student in an activity, regardless of the time spent in the game or event, you can learn many valuable lessons. These lessons include, but are not limited to, accepting the role you are assigned, good sportsmanship, appreciating good effort by any of the participants, respect for all participants, working for a greater role, practicing self-control, and accepting the responsibility for our actions.

We hope this information helps you to understand the chain of communication in our athletic and activities programs. We wish our students and parents/legal guardians the best of luck with all of their pursuits, both in academics and activities.

Craig T. Whaley  
District Director of Activities and Athletics