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Players, Parents, and Guardians, WELCOME!

We are looking forward to the opportunity of getting to work with your daughter this spring. We are excited to help her grow as a student-athlete through the sport of softball.

In order to ensure the you and your daughter have an excellent experience playing softball for Tartan High School we have taken some time to outline a few key elements for the upcoming season.

Please know that if you have questions or concerns about the following information you should feel free to contact the coaching staff or school administration.

Our Mission

Provide an opportunity for female athletes of Tartan High School to grow and improve their skills in the game of softball. We challenge ourselves to meet the needs of each player and promote the development of both HARD and Soft skills.

Our Vision

The Tartan Softball Program is striving for excellence both in the classroom and on the field. Our athletes will become teammates, competitors and leaders. They will demonstrate accountability, determination, authenticity, and empathy, as we create a positive sports culture at Tartan High School.

Our Values

- High achievers academically, athletically, and socially
- Preparation at the highest level both mentally and physically
- Focus on the small details
- Demonstrate perseverance on our path to success

Contact Information

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Communication

The Tartan Softball Program will use several methods to communicate information to the Softball parents, players, and community throughout the year. Some of these methods include: emails, updates to the Tartan Softball website, text messages using REMIND, announcements within the school(s), Softball Booster Club Meetings, and phone calls. We hope to clearly communicate information to all involved parties in a timely manner, especially in regards to schedules changes.

TARTAN SOFTBALL WEBSITE: the website will be the most comprehensive place to find any information you are looking for. <https://www.isd622.org/Domain/1080>

REMIND: This is a free service that lets athletes and parents know information via text message or email. The service allows coaches to send a text message, email or both to whoever signs up for the Tartan Softball “class”. The service is free and anonymous.

To sign up, text @tartansof to 81010 or visit <https://www.remind.com/join/tartansof>

METRO EAST CONFERENCE: This site shows game schedules for all softball teams in the conference. Any changes to games will be updated on this site. <http://www.metroeastconference.org/>

FACEBOOK: There is a Tartan High School Softball page on Facebook. You can like, join, or follow the page to see updates about the season.

Search: @tartantitanssoftball

SHUTTERFLY: Photos from games and events will be shared on the Tartan Softball Shutterfly page. Photos will be used for the purpose of sharing with the team(s) and parents, and for the end of season banquet. <https://tartantitanssoftball.shutterfly.com/>

Registration and Tryouts

Registration

ALL FORMS AND FEES MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO PRACTICE. All activities at Tartan will be registered for online. Please visit <https://isd622.feepay.com/> to find the registration information.

All registration questions can be answered in the Activities Office.

Contacts for the Activities Office are listed below.

Activities Director Bryan Munter bmunter@isd622.org (651)702-8620

Activities Assistant Patty Troendle ptroendle@isd622.org (651)702-8621

Tryouts and team selection

Any girl who tries out will be given an **opportunity** to be a member on a team at their level of readiness. All players are eligible to make the Varsity team.

The entire coaching staff will participate in team selection and the placement of players.

Players will be given an equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills, evaluations will be as fair and objective as possible.

Players will be evaluated in the following areas:

- HARD skills (fielding, throwing, base running, hitting, bunting, etc)
- Game Knowledge (understanding offensive and defensive situations)
- Soft Skills (attitude, leadership, teamwork, coach-ability, etc)

TEAM EXPECTATIONS & DESCRIPTIONS

C-team/9th Grade

- The focus at this level is on developing and improving fundamental skills, as well as learning Tartan Titan team strategies and philosophies.
- At this level girls are expected to be able to: Make consistent contact with the ball, sacrifice bunt, catch a fly ball, throw accurately, field a ball cleanly and understand basic strategies.
- Players are expected to attend practices and work hard everyday
- The most important thing we would like for our student athletes to gain from playing softball on this team is to have fun and build relationships while playing a team sport.
- In high school, softball playing time will not necessarily be equal.

B-squad/ JV

- This level is designed to balance participation and competitiveness. Each participant is expected to participate in practice with the objective of improving performance and gaining an opportunity to participate in games.
- The major focus at this level is on developing deeper fundamental and positional skills and to increase knowledge and execution of strategies.
- At this level there will be an increase in competitiveness so that the athlete might be better prepared for the possibility of participating in varsity level athletics.
- In high school, softball playing time will not necessarily be equal.

Varsity

- The Varsity team focuses on the skills and team work needed to compete and be successful in the Metro East Conference and 4A section play.
- Varsity participation puts greater emphasis on competitiveness. The expectation will be higher, practices more intense, and there will be more emphasis on winning.
- Emphasis will be put on intermediate and advanced skills and strategies, along with team building and team chemistry.
- Student athletes playing time on the varsity level will be determined by physical skills, work ethic and leadership. Playing time is not guaranteed.
- Participation at the varsity level requires a much larger commitment to the team and the program.

Player and Parent Expectations

PLAYER Expectations

- Players will be respectful to all students, players, coaches, umpires, school staff and parents.
- Players will exemplify good behavior. You are a representative of Tartan Softball. Your behaviors reflect on all those involved.
- As student-athletes, players will strive to do their academic best; we will not settle for “good enough”
- Support and back-up your teammates on and off the field.
- Have a growth mindset: be open to feedback, be a student of the game, watch, listen to, and learn from others.
- Be on time and be prepared for all Softball activities.
- Players will communicate directly with their coach on any issues they may have

PARENT Expectations

- Insist on academic excellence.
- Be Loyal to the program.
- Support all the players in the program, not just your player.
- Model good sportsmanship, you too are a representative of Tartan High School Softball.
- Communicate with your player and ask that your player communicate with the coach on issues first.
- Let the players play, let the coaches coach.
- Allow coaches to handle any umpire situations.

Team Policies

MSHSL Violations

Students must not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. They also must not violate the racial/religious/sexual harassment/violence/and hazing bylaws of the MSHSL.

1st Violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or *two weeks, 14 calendar days*, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater

2nd Violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the next *six consecutive interscholastic contests or six weeks*, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.

3rd Violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the next *calendar year*.

Any student in violation of the MSHSL bylaws regarding student eligibility (chemical, sexual, religious, or racial harassment) will be ineligible for captaincy for 1 calendar year. Also, an athlete CANNOT be named to an All-Conference team if she misses any part of the season due to a suspension for violation of MSHSL by laws.

In addition to the MSHSL consequences Tartan Softball has the following in place

1. Parent/Student Conference held with appropriate school personnel
2. Student will NOT be eligible for any school awards for the seasons which the consequence is served: All Conference, MVP, Most Improved.
3. For the duration of student's high school career, the student will not be eligible to be a Captain or hold a leadership position in Softball.

Social Media

The Tartan High School Softball will not tolerate any reference on social media regarding RACIAL/RELIGIOUS/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE/AND/OR HAZING. Any behavior on social media that violates this rule will be governed by the RACIAL/RELIGIOUS/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE/AND/OR HAZING rule referenced above and is punishable by the same methods.

Academic

Softball is considered a co-curricular activity. Softball participants are considered to be students first and athletes second. Softball is not an excuse for poor academic performance. The Minnesota State High School League policy states that to be eligible for participation in MSHSL activities, one must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation. If a student is not making adequate progress towards graduation, they will be asked to complete a series of interventions. If the student does not complete the intervention program or show adequate progress they will not be allowed to participate in athletic competition. Coaches will support the academic progress of all students through grade checks and study halls, if needed. More details on the academic expectations can be found on the Tartan Softball Website <https://www.isd622.org/Page/12550>

Attendance

Players are required to be in attendance at school the **entire** day of a game or practice unless properly excused. An unexcused absence or tardy will result in the inability to participate for that day.

Excused absences include but are not limited to the following:

- Doctors appointment
- Funeral
- College visits

All absences need to be cleared through the main office.

Players are expected to attend and be on time for all practices and games.

* Players must inform a coach(s) if they will not be in attendance. This includes missing practice or arriving late for academic reasons.

* A missed practice or game will result in loss of playing time.

Lettering

The following guidelines will determine the awarding of a Varsity Letter for Tartan softball:

1. The player participates in half (50%) of the Varsity games AND finishes the season on the Varsity roster will earn her letter. Participation includes: active lineup, designated runners, charting, keeping the book, etc.
2. The player is in good academic standing. The player has not had an academic probation period.
3. The player has completed two (2) acts of community service, this would include team service events.
4. The player has not missed playing time due to a **MSHSL** violation.

The following circumstances would also result in a Varsity Letter:

- A senior who has participated in four (4) consecutive years of softball will earn her letter, regardless of her roster status. A season lost due to an injury would not count against a player.
- A team manager/statistician who is with the Varsity team for the season **AND** finishes the season with Varsity will earn her/his letter.
- An injured player may receive a letter if in the opinion of the coaching staff she would have participated enough if she had not been injured, AND she also served the team in some capacity while injured.

Injury management

If your athlete sustains an injury or illness which can affect their participation in softball, the following measures will ensure that she receives the best possible care.

1. The athlete must report all injuries/illnesses to the athletic trainer. Contact will then be made to the parent regarding proper treatment.
2. If the athlete is seen by a physician for any reason that could affect their participation during the season she will be required to obtain and present a clearance note from the physician. The note should be given to the trainer.
3. Treatment/rehabilitation decisions will be made by the athletic trainer who works with the provided plan from the appropriate physicians.
4. If an athlete exhibits any signs and symptoms of a concussion as determined by the athletic trainer or attending physician, the athlete will be removed from participation and will not be allowed to return until the "RETURN to PLAY" protocol has been met

Transportation

Buses are provided for all players to and from away games. Players are required to ride the bus with their teammates to and from the away game location.

If there are extenuating circumstances and a parent or guardian needs to drive an athlete to or from a game please fill out the bus release form. The form can be found on the Softball website. Have your player give the form to their head coach 24hours in advance.

<https://www.isd622.org/Page/12550>

Captain Selection

Any Varsity player is eligible to be named a captain for the following season. There will be a 3-part process for selecting Captains for the softball team.

1. Application: team members interested in being a captain will submit an application online.
2. Interview: applicants will have an in-person interview with the coaching staff.
3. Voting: any player that was on the section roster will cast their votes for captains from a list of people that applied.

At the culmination of this 3-step process the Coaches will review the applications, votes, and have the final say in determining which players will be named team captains.

Conflict Resolution

If at any point during the course of the season you and your athlete have concerns about the experience you are having with Tartan Softball please communicate with the coaching staff. We ask that you follow the protocol listed below, this is to ensure that all voices are heard in an equitable manner.

1. Tartan player talks with her head coach
2. If an understanding is not found: Tartan player & parent talk with player's head coach
3. If an understanding is not found: Tartan player & parent talk with player's head coach and Coach Dooley.
4. If an understanding is not found: Tartan player & parent talk with player's head coach, Coach Dooley, and Activities Director Munter.

The coaching staff requests that you, as a parent, adhere to the following **grievance** guidelines:

- **24 HOUR – NO CONTACT PERIOD WITH A COACH TO DISCUSS A GRIEVANCE.** This includes phone calls, social media referencing your grievance, text messages and email communications.
- Coaches request that email be the initial form of communication between parents and coaches.
- Please do not approach any coach at the field at any time. At the field, coaches are focused on softball and coaching responsibilities. Coaches will not handle questions and concerns before, during, or after a game or practice.
- Please do not try to contact any coach at home. Coaches have families and time at home is dedicated to being a part of that family. Softball conversations and issues should not interrupt this valuable family time.
- During discussions with parents, coaches will not talk about lineups, game strategy, other players, or coaching decisions. Thank you for your understanding.

Booster club & Fundraising

Fundraising has become a necessary part of High School athletics/activities. We rely heavily on fundraising to assist with: uniform costs, equipment, field renovations, ability to hire assistant coaches, etc.

All players are strongly encouraged to volunteer their time and efforts to our fundraising opportunities. All fundraising efforts go directly to the Tartan Softball. We will be participating in a variety of fundraisers every year. The Booster Club will handle all the fundraising and money made from the fundraising event. Your willingness to help the program is greatly appreciated.

The booster club was designed to help create a positive experience for Tartan Softball players.

In addition to managing fundraising efforts (as mentioned above) the booster club coordinates many team events and activities. The booster club is responsible for: Senior Night, community participation events at games, the end of season banquet, and many other tasks that often go unnoticed. These events and activities help to create a positive team climate and provide the athlete with memories they will cherish for many years beyond high school.

With so many tasks to accomplish the booster club is always looking for people to help plan and execute. Any time you have to give is appreciated by the Booster Club, Coaches, and most importantly the Athletes.

If you have any questions, or are interested in helping out, please send an email to:
tartansoftballbc@gmail.com

