

Dear Parents,

Two years ago, the athletic association began an affiliation with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) and has since sponsored PCA leadership, coach and parent workshops in an effort to improve our athletic programs. These workshops are designed to help all of us provide our student-athletes with valuable life lessons through athletics, regardless of the sports they play or the teams they play on. It is the philosophy of the PCA that youth sports can be competitive and challenging and, at the same time, reject the win-at-all-costs philosophy that diminishes the many positive aspects of team competition and causes children to stop playing sports at a young age.

After monitoring this program for two years it is the opinion of the parish and school leadership, the school board and the athletic association, that continuing with the PCA program will help us teach the moral and ethical lessons that good sportsmanship can provide, without detracting from the competitive nature of our games or our teams. Accordingly, the school board voted this past May to make attendance at a PCA workshop mandatory for parents who have children participating in our athletic program.

The specifics of the program are in the attached memorandum. You will have sufficient time and several opportunities to comply with this requirement and it will cost you only a few hours of time. The athletic association has agreed to fund this program on its own. The association will also work with PCA to provide a variety of workshops – some parent-focused and some coach-focused – to match your involvement in the program. Also, note that your attendance at a previous workshop will count toward your satisfaction of this requirement.

These workshops will give you insight into how your children view sports, how you can help them learn positive life lessons from their athletic experiences, and how we can all keep a proper perspective when it comes to athletics. In short, we are seeking to improve the culture of our sports program – one we already consider very positive and productive.

Please review the attached memorandum, which should answer any questions you may have. As the school year progresses, you will hear more from the athletic association on this topic. Thank you for your support of our athletic program.

**The next PCA -- Parent workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 in Zuker Hall from 7pm to 9pm.**