



MOUNTAIN VIEW BASEBALL 2024

Welcome to the 2024 season! As coaches, we are excited to start the new year. We hope that this packet and this meeting will ensure smooth communication between the staff and you as parents, and your sons.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Staff..... | 2 |
| Overall Philosophy | 4 |
| Expectations of Players | 4 |
| Expectations of Parents..... | 4 |
| Communications | 5 |
| Grades & Attendance | 5 |
| Playing Time | 6 |
| Game Day Routines..... | 8 |
| Practice / Game Attendance..... | 9 |
| Training Rules | 9 |
| Lettering | 9 |
| College Baseball..... | 9 |
| Web Sites / Social Media..... | 10 |
| Apparel..... | 10 |
| Fundraising | 10 |

Staff

Athletic Director
Ryan Walstrom
970-613-7826

Head Coach
Brian Smela
970-290-0791
brian.smela@tsd.org
Playing Career:
Loveland HS
Cloud County Community College (KS)

Varsity Assistant Coach
Richard Benedict
970-310-7443
Playing Career:
Loveland HS
Colorado Mesa University

Varsity Assistant Coach
Justin Clinton
970-215-0450
Playing career:
Mountain View HS
Midland College

Junior Varsity Head Coach
Randy Felton
970-310-5988
coachgato@gmail.com
Playing Career:
Thompson Valley HS
Trinidad Junior College
Colorado State University

Junior Varsity Assistant Coach
Travis Grace
(720) 841-3978
Playing Career:
Loveland HS
Neosho County Community College

Junior Varsity Assistant Coach
Lorenzo Lujan
970-593-8381
Playing Career:
Mountain View HS

Head C Team Coach
Jeff Walls
970-232-8099
ftcjeff@gmail.com

Playing Career:
Hattiesburg High School (MS)

Assistant C Team Coach
Greg Gilbert

Overall Philosophy

Our mission is to support our school's character development program through our efforts in baseball. More specifically, we will meet three specific goals:

To develop our players physically and mentally to play baseball at a high, competitive level

To be competitive in every game and to play with an undying will to win

To have an enjoyable experience that all involved feel makes our sacrifices worth our time

We want our players to strive to better themselves physically, academically, and in terms of their character. Win or lose, we will act with class and dignity.

Expectations of Players

Be on time and prepared to play and work each day.

Once on the field, to work as hard and as smart as possible, always with the goal in mind of improvement.

Be resilient under tough circumstances and humble in fortunate ones.

Expectations of Parents

Support your son; help him to be on time and prepared.

Support your son; make sure he knows his experience is valuable regardless of his role in the organization.

Support the organization; be involved as a fan in a positive, contributing manner.

Support the organization; assist us in your talents and/or financial gifts so your sons can have the best experience we can provide them.

Support the coaching staff; honor our communication requests.

Support the coaching staff; be positive and encouraging to your son in regard to their coach.

Communications

We, as a staff, are very open to communicating with you as parents. We understand you may have concerns and we want to address them. We do ask, though, that you honor some simple rules:

Communication Do's

Use the emails provided on the front page – these are much easier and timely than phone calls.

Calls during business hours. Please do not call coaches at home unless it's an emergency. Our coaches have families and that time should be honored.

Chain-of-command – The proper communication chain starts with your son's head coach. If your concern is not addressed, please advance to the head coach, the athletic director, and the school principal. For all concerned, please do not jump over a coach – this creates unnecessary problems.

Evaluation of your son – we will always be able to talk or email you about how your son is doing and what he needs to improve on.

Communication Don'ts

Approach a coach at practice or on game days. Coaches have many duties on these days and it's generally better to have a "cooling off" period for both parties and arrange communication through email or the phone.

Try to discuss with the coach their strategy. This is part of the coach's job and is not up for discussion.

Discussion about other parent's sons. We will talk to you about your son, but not anyone else's and we will not engage in comparisons between the two.

Playing time discussions. Playing time is another prerogative of the coach. We will not engage in a conversation about why your son is or isn't playing. This is a conversation for the coach and your son.

Day-to-day info can be found on Facebook at Mountain View HS Baseball and on Twitter at @mvhsbaseball14. Long term info is at our website: mvhsbaseball.org

Grades & Attendance

Our players have been told that they are students here at Mountain View first. That is their first responsibility and that they should manage their time so that baseball does not become an excuse for poor course work. Athletes make sacrifices to be in their sport and free time is one of them. Players need to become adept at juggling many balls in order to stay in good standing, academically. It is very rare that a player should miss baseball for school – if he's doing his job, he's found a way to get both done and done well.

For a student to be eligible, they must first be enrolled as a full-time student during their sport's season (5 classes). They must earn 2.5 academic credit units over the course of a semester. During their sports season, the school conducts weekly grade checks. A student must be passing at least 2 classes (failing no more than 1 class) when that weekly grade check occurs. Students

will be placed on a warning list if they are failing more than 1 class on Thursdays and will become ineligible if their grades have not improved by the following Tuesday. If a student is declared ineligible, they will be ineligible for 1 week.

Players are also expected to be in class and on time every day to every class. Unexcused absences are unacceptable. We will run an attendance report each week. If a player has an unexcused absence his first penalty will be field clean-up & maintenance after practice. Subsequent violations will range from more clean-up or suspension. This is also a coach's choice.

Players tardy to class will be assigned field and/or equipment duty for the following week. If the player continues to be on the tardy list, the penalty could escalate as far as suspension.

Playing Time

Playing time is something that is earned at all levels of our organization. Coaches do not 'give' playing time, players earn it. That being said, at the different levels, there are different emphases that drive how playing time is derived. This is listed below.

Varsity

The goal at this level is to win as many games as possible. This means the best nine or ten (with the DH) players will play, every game. Age and experience only come into play when two players are of equal ability and effort. In this case, the younger player may win the job because they have more time to grow and play for us. Our coaches have many, many years of experience in player evaluation and you should be comfortable that we make choices that are best for the team. This may not always seem the best for your son. That's how team sports work. The bottom line for us is that we do what's best for the team's success. We expect all players to work hard all of the time, but parents and players should understand that hard work doesn't equal playing time. The player must also be the best player at that position for the situation presented. We will also continue to develop our players by putting them into situations they may not be ready for but need to experience in order to get better at that particular skill or scenario. We must keep in mind that a baseball team cannot have only nine players – starters – we need reserve players for special situations too. If all the players on the roster are pulling in the same direction, we'll be as good as we can be.

Junior Varsity

Here, the emphasis changes, slightly. We still want to win each game and we'll approach games that way. The difference here is that we are also trying to cull out the best players to fill upcoming varsity spots vacated by seniors. This means there will usually be four to six players that play every day and four to six spots that rotate or are up for grabs. Players on the JV team should not go more than two games without seeing time on the field.

C Team

The emphasis changes dramatically here from the varsity. At the C level, we want to really see as much of the players as we can to evaluate them and develop them further. All players will see time on the field (not necessarily equal) and will be expected to improve themselves. It is a general expectation that C Team players will not go more than a game at a time without seeing time on the field during a game.

Things to think about regarding playing time (before a player/parent asks a coach):

Do you come early/stay late to run extra for conditioning more than once per week?

Do you come early/stay late to throw extra for arm strength more than once per week?

Do you come early/stay late to hit off the tee to improve your swing more than once per week?

Do you come early/stay late to take extra ground balls/fly balls/blocking to improve your defensive ability more than once per week?

Game Day Routines

Varsity

Batting Practice

Varsity game days will typically begin with pre-game batting practice. Players will be given an early release from school to attend this practice-before-the-game. It is the players' responsibility to find out what he is missing from class and to keep up with his course work. Batting practice is a privilege that can be revoked if players are irresponsible.

Dress

Varsity players should have their appropriate uniform on game days. During batting practice, players are expected to wear their full uniform or they may shed their jersey for their MV black T shirt. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done. Varsity players are expected to have their own batting helmets. If the helmet becomes damaged, broken, or lost, it is the player's responsibility to replace the helmet – they will not be allowed to use it by umpires.

Busses

When our team is on the road and using district busses, all players will ride the bus both directions. This is a safety issue and one of team unity. Bus rides are often a good time for coaches to talk to players about performance and it helps for the team to bond and be together. Players may never ride home without an adult. The only occasion we allow players to ride with their parents is when the parent/family is going the opposite direction from Loveland for some other family event, or a special circumstance previously communicated to the staff.

Sites

All varsity game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "Schedules". Each team's schedule's list the site of the game.

JV

Swift Field

The JV team will play the majority of their home games at Swift Field (1st & Taft) this year. The school district does not provide transportation to this site for games. Players/parents are responsible for getting the player to the game site on time each game day.

Dress

The Junior Varsity has one set of uniforms. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done.

Busses

The same bus rules apply to the JV team. Most of the time, the JV team will travel with the varsity. Parents be prepared for your son to have to wait for the varsity game to finish before they can return home.

Road Sites

All JV game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "Schedules". Each team's schedule's list the site of the game.

C Team

MVHS

Most C Team home games will be played at MVHS on the multi-purpose field directly south of the varsity baseball field.

There may be some home games at Centennial Park as well.

The district has not, traditionally, supplied busses to our home games. This has been the responsibility of parents to get their kids to the complex (or players that can legally drive themselves).

Dress

The C Team players are issued one set of uniforms. If uniform items become damaged because of games, the team's head coach must be notified immediately to have repairs done.

Busses

When our team is on the road and using district busses, all players will ride the bus both directions. This is a safety issue and one of team unity. Bus rides are often a good time for coaches to talk to players about performance and it helps for the team to bond and be together. Players may never ride home without an adult. The only occasion we allow players to ride with their parents is when the parent/family is going the opposite direction from Loveland for some other family event, or a special circumstance previously communicated to the staff.

Road Sites

All C Team game sites are listed on the team's website under the main banner link "Schedules". Each team's schedule's list the site of the game.

Practice / Game Attendance

Players are expected to be at every game and practice at the time the coach has set. When players are absent, they are not learning or getting better and playing time can be lost because of this. If a player is unexcused from a game or practice, they will be suspended for one game. A second violation can mean a longer suspension or termination from the organization. This will be up to the staff and the situation.

Training Rules

When your son was cleared to play baseball, you and he agreed to abide by the district's training rules on alcohol, tobacco, drugs & lawful behavior. If a player is in violation, the district's rules will be enforced. A second offense may result in termination for that player. In either case, players will need to be reinstated to the organization. This reinstatement process will be made known to the player if a violation should occur.

Lettering

The criteria for lettering are as follows: Play in 25% of the varsity innings played that season, make an appearance in a playoff game, or coach's prerogative. Coach's also reserve the right to deny a letter based on poor attitude, behavior, or attendance.

College Baseball

If you would like to explore the possibilities of college baseball, please communicate that with Coach Smela and let us know what we can do to help. Finding a place to play is a process that

must be motivated by the player, not the coach. Our coaches will do everything we can to help a player find a school, but the player must drive the process.

Web Sites / Social Media

Our team's website is mvhsbaseball.org. This site has everything from our schedule/results, statistics, photos, game day directions, contact info, and links to other web sites. When up-to-date information is needed, please go to our Facebook site. Facebook allows us to make last minute schedule announcements which can happen often in the spring. Our Facebook page is found at Mountain View HS Baseball. Our Instagram can be found at mountain_view_baseball. Finally, you can follow us on Twitter @MVHSbaseball14. Much of the same information from Facebook can be found here.

Apparel

Each player has been issued the necessary apparel for this season. In addition to the standard field uniform, we expect each player to purchase the program hooded sweatshirt & practice t-shirt. We've partnered with Gojo Sports of Fort Collins to create an online store & handle the logistics of ordering & purchase. This pop-up store will be available in March, 2022.

Fundraising

This year we have contracted an outside agency to help with our fundraising efforts. Our need is \$200 per player. If we can raise that money, we will be able to continue to offer the program that we have now. Parents have two options to meet this goal:

Write a check for \$200 to cover your player

Players will be completing an email-based fundraiser this year. Each player will be expected to bring in \$200 in money raised. We'll have details on this in our first week of practice after tryouts.