

Frequently Asked Questions

What league is OAKS participating in?

We are a member of the Christian Fellowship Athletic Association. Besides OAKS, there are five other schools that are playing in the league this year: Standifer Gap SDA School (Chattanooga, TN); Learning Tree Elementary (Dalton, GA); Coble Elementary School (Calhoun, GA); Berry College Middle School (Rome, GA), and the HABBA homeschool group. For cross country, we participate in meets that are not part of CFAA.

How many games will be played per sport?

Each school will play the other schools in a home-away partnership. Some schools only play basketball and do not have soccer or volleyball teams.

When will games be played?

All games will be held outside of school hours. Most game nights will begin at 5:00 p.m.

How will students be transported to away games?

Each parent will be responsible to arrange their own child's transportation to/from all games. Parents may choose to carpool with other families, if desired.

Exception: Transportation will be provided for the basketball away game in Rome, Georgia.

What does the sport activity fee cover?

The required activity fee will cover officiating costs, a stipend for our head coach, and loaned use of an OAKS Mustangs jersey and shorts. Additional fees will be charged to student accounts to replaced damaged or lost jerseys.

When can students leave school for away games?

Students are expected to attend school until 3:00 on Game Day, the regular dismissal time. Any exceptions to this guideline must be approved by the Athletic Director or OAKS Principal.



OAKS

Athletics

Program Philosophy

OAKS Mission Statement

OAKS is a Christian organization that seeks to inspire its students to think deeply, live fully, serve unselfishly, and love God completely.

Goal of Athletics

Our goal as a school is to provide a setting where students can learn to compete in athletics while developing a Christ-like character as they participate.

Philosophy

We believe that participation in extracurricular activities provides opportunities for our students to grow in important character traits while finding enjoyment in athletic endeavors. Athletics is a real-world experience, under proper mentorship, where students are given the opportunity to develop character and physical giftedness.

Christ-like Character Traits for Potential Student Growth

- **Commitment** - We believe in the importance of loyalty to a program or community through all of the peaks and valleys until a term of commitment is completed.
- **Positivity** - We believe your attitude can shape the direction of your life. It is vital to learn to stay positive despite your circumstances.
- **Response to Failure** - We believe that you will fail sometimes and not always get what you want. Responding correctly is an important part of maturity.
- **Response to Victory** - We believe that you will win sometimes and get exactly what you want. Learning to handle success with grace is close to godliness.
- **Intentionality** - We believe it takes intentionality to improve and succeed. Being required to invest time and effort toward development of skills is a healthy way to grow in resilience.
- **Self-Awareness** - We believe that facing our own reality is part of what helps us grapple with who we are and who God can help us become.
- **Fun** - We believe that athletics is a God-given gift that should be fun and provide lifelong enjoyment. It is our goal to instill this important value in our students.

Sports Available



CO-ED SOCCER

Grades: 5th-8th

Season Dates: August-October

Fee - \$50

Required Items: Shin guards, black soccer socks



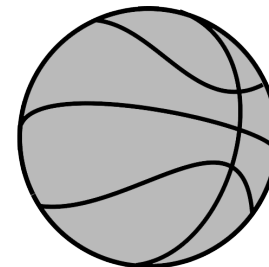
BOYS/GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Grades: 5th-8th

Season Dates: August-September

Fee - \$50

Required Items: Running shoes



BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grades: 5th-8th

Season Dates: November-January

Fee - \$75



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Grades: 5th-8th

Season Dates: February-April

Fee - \$50

Required Items: Knee pads

Program Basics

Age of Players

OAKS Mustangs teams are for 5th-8th grade players only. Maintaining this rule is for the safety of children as they develop. While most students start to mature and fill out during these years, students grow and mature at different rates. That means that sometimes in some sports and scenarios it becomes dangerous to put a large 8th grader against a small 5th grader. Coaches will take care to not only care about a student's desire to play, but also their safety.

Tryouts

No position is guaranteed. We don't want to foster an attitude of entitlement or that a student or parent doesn't want to take the program seriously. Having said that, if a student tries out and wants to participate, there is a strong chance that they will be given that opportunity. Reasons a person may make a team and/or may get play time:

- Having a positive attitude
- Giving high effort
- Maintaining a laser focus
- Being loyal to the coach, program, and team

At try-outs, coaches will evaluate each student on a sheet of paper and meet with parents before the season to share that evaluation with the parent and student. The goal of this is:

- To provide tangible ways a student can improve outside of their time in the program.
- To make the expectations clear to the parents and students about the coach's initial plan for playing time and growth.
- To offer transparency about where the coach believes the student is and where they can progress.
- We highly encourage students to invest extra time and effort in areas that they wish to excel in.

Player Improvement & Growth

Our goal is to help all students athletically improve over the course of their entire time at OAKS. We want to invest in them in such a way that they grow from 5th grade to 8th grade in character, talent, spirituality, and maturity.

Program Basics

Starters

Students tend to have different talent levels and improve at different rates. Coaches have the right to start the most talented students or whoever who they believe will give them the best chance to win a game regardless of grade level.

Playing Time

- In general because of developmental realities, it will probably be most frequent that an 8th grader will get more playing time than a 7th grader, who will get more playing time than a 6th grader, who will get more playing time than a 5th grader. This is not a rule and should not be treated like someone "deserves" something because of their grade level. All players, regardless of playing time should be very supportive of the team. It is likely that they will one day be the ones in the increased role and will value that same support that they were willing to give. Another valuable Christ-like character lesson learned here is that even when we aren't the ones in the spotlight, we can be supportive.
- All students will receive playing time over the course of a "season". There will be games where a student may play very little or not at all. Other games they may play more. Much of this will depend on the level of competition, a student's talent and grade level, their grades, their attitude, match-ups, etc. This will be left to the coaches discretion, and will be discussed before the season with parents after try-outs.

Character

We highly value character development in our program. Students should try to attend and be supportive of all players while on the court and off the court. If starters are on the bench at the end of a game, they should give the same enthusiasm to the active players that they would want to receive. If a student is being negative, rude, maintaining bad ethical behavior, the coaches may bench that player. It is imperative for parents to be supportive in these situations so that a student's character can grow.

Input = Output

Part of the value of being on a team even if you don't receive much playing time is that it allows you to develop and grow. Practicing with those who are better than you and playing against the more mature and talented students speeds up a younger student's development. A 5th grader who invests time and effort into a team over 4 years will grow tremendously. On the contrary, if little effort or time is invested in improving, the results will also be inevitable. This is a valuable life lesson: what you put into something, you will reap the results whether positive or negative.

Player Expectations

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Student-athletes must be a full-time student at OAKS or approved homeschool students (if roster space is available).
- Student-athletes must be on Honor Roll or Principal's List (All A's and B's).
- Grades will be checked by the Athletic Director (AD) on Game Day to determine eligibility.
- Student-athletes must attend school on Game Day to be able to play.

STUDENT-ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Since interscholastic sports should foster Christian character and personal growth, student-athletes will be given the opportunity to develop these areas as they represent OAKS with honor and integrity.

- Exhibit positive sportsmanship (never refuse to shake hands or recognize opponents for outstanding performances).
- Respect God, others, and yourself (no performing undermining cheers, blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or teammates).
- Exercise self-control in all circumstances (no taunting, name calling, or profanity).
- Live and compete honorably.
- Meet commitments to practice and games.
- Treat other players the way you want to be treated.
- Help promote a team spirit (team's goals, welfare and success before individual).
- Learn and observe the spirit and the letter of rules.
- Display humility in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Demonstrate Christian behavior in all aspects of the game.

The OAKS Handbook continues to apply to all extracurricular athletic events.

Athletic Leadership Expectations

At OAKS, all coaches will be selected by Athletic Director.

- Coach must be a Seventh-day Adventist church member in good standing
- Follow all directions and expectations of the Athletic Director
- Model Christian ethics at all times
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle
- Encourage an atmosphere of camaraderie and team play
- Model respect for all people and teams (do not run up scores, help up opponents who have fallen, etc.)
- Promote loyalty to school and team
- Use positive coaching methods to improve the self-esteem of student-athletes
- Place the spiritual, intellectual, and physical well-being of student-athletes above the desire to win
- Insist that student-athletes observe the letter and spirit of the rules
- Communicate and enforce codes of conduct
- Be willing and able to provide spiritual growth and direction

How to Sign Up?

- Students must sign the **Student Contract**
- Parents must sign the **Parent Contract**
- All fees must be paid at the beginning of the season
- Sign up documents are also available in the OAKS
- We expect our OAKS family to lead in a positive manner as we come in contact with visiting fans as this may be their first interaction with a Christian/Adventist group.