

## **Sportsmanship**

### **A reminder to sports fans and spectators:**

The lessons for our youngsters don't end with the final bell of the day if they're involved in co-curricular activities. In fact, the learning experience that comes from participation in drama, music, speech, athletics and the like, promote lifetime values that cannot always be learned in the classroom.

Integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principals of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of the competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

Working to that end, we support the PIAA and National Federation's sportsmanship program. This program is designed to positively change behavior in our schools and reinforce and reward the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

Your support in the sportsmanship ideals and of our programs in a positive manner is essential to our educational mission. Your ability to be good sport puts you in a leadership role in the home and community.

Fans, spectators and supporters of our programs should have goals for good sportsmanship. Those goals should include:

- Realizing that athletics are part of the education experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a contest;
- Encouraging our student-athletes to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances;
- Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the contest, the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers; and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth;
- Respecting our opponents as students, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best;
- Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances; and
- When at athletic events, urging our teams on with positive cheers; discouraging cheers that would redirect that focus and reprimanding those who engage in such unsportsmanlike behavior.

You can be a part of a message sent through our community that interscholastic athletics potentially have lifetime learning experience impact. Unlike sports events we see on television at the collegiate and professional level where entertainment is the mission and sportsmanship is not a primary objective, our goal is to have an educational affect. This message must be communicated if we are to continue to have success in this area.

We look forward to your continued support as we shape the lives of young people.