



OWEN J. ROBERTS HIGH SCHOOL

981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

To Parents of 9th Grade Football Participants:

Thank you for allowing your child to play Football this year. As their 9th grade coach, we are excited about coaching your child and helping them develop their skills, understanding of the game, and physical fitness. We also believe it is important to develop an early understanding of sportsmanship and teamwork.

We hope you find the following information helpful:

Academics: student first and athlete second. Student-athletes are highly encouraged to maintain a passing grade in all but two classes to remain academically eligible.

1st Week of ineligibility – Practice is allowed. Participation in a game is not allowed.

2nd Week of ineligibility – Practice and playing are not allowed. This time is for academics.

3rd Week of ineligibility – The player is removed from the team.

If a student is struggling with a class they should make arrangements with their teacher to receive extra help. **Students should also notify their coach.**

- Practices are held after school 2:45PM-5:00PM. Players will have off every Friday due to our coaching staff preparing for the high school game. Please make arrangements to have your child picked-up outside the high school gym **no later than 5:15PM**. Students shall wait on the red benches in the hallway outside of the trainer's room or outside on the outdoor benches. There are no weekend or holiday practices. In the event of a practice schedule change, every effort will be made to give advanced notice. Please know weather developments and wet field conditions could impact the practice schedule. Please monitor the website and email.
- Calendars/Schedules are available at www.owenjrobertsfootball.com. Schedules are subject to change. Please stay current. Changes to the schedule will be announced at school, practices, and displayed on the website. Please contact the athletic office at (610) 469-5712 for additional information.
- Lockers to store personal effects are available in each school locker room. A combination lock or padlock is required to safeguard possessions. Do not leave items unlocked or unattended. If absent a lock, students are advised to bring personal effects with them to practice and games. The coaching staff and school district are not responsible for items stolen from a locker room that were not safely locked away.
- Athletes are to ride the team bus to and from all contests. We compete as a team and win or lose as a team. We travel as a team. Exceptions can be made if warranted; however these exceptions should be minimized. Parents are required to sign out their child on the coach's roster in order to

permit players to ride home with a guardian. In addition, prior to departing, the athlete and their parent/guardian must approach the coach to notify the coach of the departure. Athletes may only ride home with their own parent/guardian. Athletes under no circumstances are to ride home from an away game with anyone other than their legal parent or guardian.

- Any and all school rules apply to athletics. Poor behavior and choices in school will have negative consequences. If assigned an office detention or suspension, athletes may not attend practices or games at coach's discretion. The missed time will impact playing time. Repeated school and or team discipline action will result in dismissal from the team. **Each practice missed will result in a suspension of a game decided by the coaching staff.**
- Playing time. There are no hard, fast rules mandating every athlete will play in any scheduled contest. Playing time is determined by the coaching staff. A player's past performances in practices, drills and games, along with their attitude, and the number of players on a team will all be assessed to determine playing time. If a player has a question about playing time, he/she is to talk to the coach privately, **in-person** to discuss what they can do to get more playing time.
- We insist that each child is respectful to their coaches, fellow players, opponents, and game officials. We hope parents will embrace this philosophy and will emphasize these concepts with their child throughout the season. Any behavior issue will be handled accordingly by the coaching staff and may result in dismissal of the team.
- It is recommended your child bring a water bottle or jug to practices and games. Although each team has a water cooler, having a personal water bottle is important.
- We respectfully request that parents/guardians refrain from giving instructions during practices and games. Please realize the coaching staff will be instructing the athletes, so please don't compete with the coaches for the athlete's attention. Please be encouraging and cheer for all teams, but don't yell instructions. In addition, please keep a respectful distance when attending practices. Please steer clear of bench areas, playing fields and immediate sideline areas. Thank you!

Coaches Information: Head Coach: Mr. Ryan Ayres (OJRHS) rayres@ojrsd.com

Assistant Coach: Mr. Mark DeFusco (OJRHS) mdefusco@ojrsd.com

If you have a concern, please contact me first via e-mail or phone at rayres@ojrsd.com Otherwise; please contact the Athletic Office. (610) 469-5712

We are looking forward to a great season. Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to work with your child.

Sincerely,

Coach Ryan Ayres

Coach Mark DeFusco

