



**Unity Christian High School Athletics**  
5900 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hudsonville, MI 49426

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4/15/2024

Jeff Engbers, Athletic Director

OK Conference, Blue Division

To: Parents of Prospective Youth Football Players  
From: Jeff Engbers, Athletic Director  
Date: April 15, 2024  
Re: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football

Unity Christian looks forward to offering football to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades again this fall. Teams will be separated according to grade level for students entering the following grades in the fall of 2024: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, a 7<sup>th</sup>, and an 8<sup>th</sup> grade team. The Unity Christian football program is excited to see the many new and returning players join us this fall!

The youth program is organized through Unity Christian with Mark TeSlaa serving as the point person. Our goal is to have each player experience the excitement of playing football. We believe that Christian values are an important part of sports and we will coach from a Christian perspective. We also will do our best to keep each team at a minimum number of players to maximize a quality experience for everyone.

### **Evaluations**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade football players will be evaluated at Unity's youth football camp (registration for this camp is found on Unity's Athletic website: <http://www.unitychristianathletics.org/main/campsclinics> during the week of July 22. Youth football coaches will also evaluate players during the first week of practice. Following the evaluations at the camp and the first week of practice, players will be organized equally between teams by separating individuals based on size, skill, and athletic ability. (All requests to play on certain teams must be directed to and approved by the youth football director.)

### **Schedule**

Practices and home games will be held at Unity's 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue campus. Games for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade programs will take place on Saturday mornings while the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade games will be on Wednesday nights. All practices for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday nights. The first practice for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades will be Monday, August 12, and the first practice for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades will be on Monday, April 19. The first three practices for all levels will be no pad practices. In other words, your son only needs cleats, athletic clothes, and a helmet. On August 12 there will be a parent meeting starting at 6:15 p.m. on the bleachers of the stadium field for **all levels, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

### **Equipment**

All players are responsible for their own football equipment. Only helmets and cleats are needed for the first week of practice. Game jerseys are provided by Unity and are available for purchase for \$25 for

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and \$30 for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>8er</sup>'s. If you purchased a jersey last year, it could be used again this year. **Please note that players should have white helmets and wear navy pants for games.**

### **Physicals -- For 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only**

A sports physical is required each year for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football players before the first day of practice. The sports physical needs to be dated after April 15, 2024. Sports physical forms are available in Unity's office or can be printed from Unity's website at this [link](#). *Please note that all signatures are required on the sports physical form.* **Students playing 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade football can also attend Unity Christian's upcoming Sports Physical Night on Tuesday, April 30 from 6 – 8 p.m.** Physicals will be performed by local providers, and the cost for a physical is \$15. Students should come to the event with the parent/student portions of the sports physical form completed including all signatures.

### **Coaches**

All coaches for these teams will be organized through Unity Christian. Coaches are volunteers, approved by the football program, and follow guidelines set by Unity Christian. All youth coaches will be trained by the Unity Christian football staff. If you have a desire to coach, please contact the Athletic Office at [athletics@unitychristian.org](mailto:athletics@unitychristian.org).

### **Registration**

**We would like to have youth football registrations complete by June 1 so we can plan for the appropriate number of teams and coaches.** Click on this [link](#) to register for youth football. The cost for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade football is \$105 and 7<sup>8ers</sup> football is \$125. You can pay at the time of registration by credit card or via check mailed to Unity Christian High School, 5900 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426.

We are excited about the start of another football season and invite you to join us! If you have any questions or concerns, Mark TeSlaa at 616-970-3154/email [markteslaa@gmail.com](mailto:markteslaa@gmail.com) or the Athletic Office at (616) 669-1820/email [athletics@unitychristian.org](mailto:athletics@unitychristian.org).

Thank you!