



Dear Episcopal Collegiate School Community,

As many of you know, we have already started our basketball season. The intimate settings of basketball games afford our fans a unique opportunity to cheer on their teams. For our student athletes, nothing is more exciting than thunderous crowd support. As a result, I encourage you to get out and support actively our teams.

Because of the close confines of a basketball game, we have to be particularly careful, however, about the nature of our vocal support. Quite frankly, there is no place in lower, middle or high school athletics for poor sportsmanship. There is no place in lower, middle or high school athletics for negative yelling towards coaches, officials, players, scorekeepers or the other team's fans. The idea that this type of poor sportsmanship is part of the game or somehow acceptable is just plain wrong. Our school was founded as a place where things would be done differently, where we would strive to do the right thing as much as possible. It is important that as a community we seek to model for our young people our school's motto of Respect, Reverence and Responsibility whenever we can, including during our athletic contests.

I would also ask our parent fans to refrain from trying to coach their children from the stands. Having coached and had three children play middle and high school basketball, I know this can be difficult when you are watching your child play. Unfortunately, this is distracting for both the child and his or her teammates. If you have coaching insights to share, please communicate those at a more appropriate time. Let us all keep in mind that participation in athletics is designed for the enjoyment and development of our young people.

Nothing can be more enjoyable than supporting your favorite athletic team. I urge us to do so by positively displaying the type of sportsmanship that will make our community and young people proud.

Go Wildcats!

Steve Hickman
Head of School

