



August 2010

Dear Upper School Families,

Welcome to a new year of Brooklyn Friends Athletics and Physical Education. This letter will inform you of our fall sports offerings and important physical education and athletic departments' policies. Please make yourself familiar with these as they will help guide your family through the upcoming school year..

Athletics is an important part of Upper School life at Brooklyn Friends. The program serves to meet the physical abilities and develops leadership and cooperative skills of each student. Our coaches, teachers, and student body strongly support our athletes. I invite each parent to come to an athletic event to add to the experience of our students. Our fall season consists of the following teams: Boys Varsity Soccer and Boys Varsity Cross Country, Girls Varsity Soccer, Girls Varsity Cross Country, Girls Varsity Volleyball, and Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball. The winter season consists of: Boys Varsity and Boys Junior Varsity Basketball, and Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball. The spring season consists of: Boys Varsity Baseball and Boys Varsity Track, and Girls Varsity Softball and Girls Varsity Track.

The teams will meet four to five times per week for practices and games. BFS Coaches will distribute important informational packets with information such as, practice and game schedules at the first meeting. **The first meeting and practice for fall sports will be held on Monday, Aug. 23rd. The times can be found on the websites. Students are asked to check the school's website or www.highschoolsports.net for meeting/practice times. Students who are on vacation and are interested in playing fall sports are asked to send me an email at dgardella@brooklynfriends.org, indicating their interest in participating in fall sports and the date they will be available to practice, prior to the start of school. However, student athletes will not be allowed to participate in any preseason practices or begin the season without a health form on file in the nurse's office. Student athletes are required to meet practice requirements before participation in game play can take place.**

During the school year, practices will be finished at approximately 5:30 p.m. and home games are usually over by 6:00 p.m. We anticipate that the teams will arrive back at school around 6:30 p.m. from away games. All students must return to Pearl Street after games unless they are picked up at the game by a parent or a letter is presented to the coach giving permission for the student to be dismissed from the game site.

You can view our team schedules on the internet by logging onto www.highschoolsports.net Once on the website select "New York" and then select "Brooklyn Friends School". You will then be able to view our athletic schedules for each sport in their entirety.

It is important for you and your child to understand the various policies that relate to the athletic and physical education departments. **Although these policies appear in the US Student Handbook, I have added them to the end of this letter. I ask that you and your child review them together.**

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about athletics. I can be reached at ext. 234 or at dgardella@brooklynfriends.org

I hope you have an enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at athletic events this school year.

In friendship,
David Gardella, Athletic Director

Policy for after-school dismissal:

Students participating in after-school sports must bring their books, coats, etc. to the locker rooms at Pearl Street. They will not be able to return to Willoughby Street after practices and games. **IT IS VERY IMPORANT THAT STUDENTS LOCK THEIR LOCKERS.** After games or practices, students are expected to leave the building and depart for home immediately. All students should return to school with their teams and coaches, unless they leave with a parent or have given written permission from their parent to the coach prior to departing for the game.

Uniform Policy:

A uniform is loaned to the student for the season in which he or she is a participant. **A \$100 DEPOSIT for each student who joins a team is required.** Please make checks payable to “Brooklyn Friends School”. PLEASE DO NOT DATE THE CHECK, so it can be used for additional athletic seasons, if your child plays more than one sport. It is the responsibility of each student to take care of the uniform and return it at the end of the season. Parents can help by encouraging their child to bring the uniform home from time to time to be laundered and by seeing that it is returned at the end of the season.

Medical forms:

Every student must have a medical form on file with the school nurse in order to practice or participate on an athletic team. Student athletes will also receive an “Upper School Athletic Packet”. Please read this information carefully , sign the appropriate forms, and have your child return the forms to his/her coach.

Locker Policy:

All students are assigned lockers and given locks during their physical education classes. They should use these lockers during the year at any time they have PE classes and/or athletics. It is the student’s responsibility to keep all clothes and valuables **locked** in their locker. Families will be billed \$5 for lost or unreturned locks.

Attendance Policy for Athletics:

While we respect that our students participate in many extracurricular activities and respect their willingness to do so, it is important for students to realize the importance of maintaining the commitment made to our athletic teams. Keep in mind that 11th and 12th grade students earn Physical Education credit for being on an athletic team, and that Physical Education is a required class in all four years of Upper School.

- Daily attendance will be taken by coaches. Absences, excused or unexcused, will be reported to the US Office. If students know that they are unable to attend the practice/game because of a valid excuse (doctor’s appointment, school or family commitment, etc.) they should let the coach know at least 24 hours in advance.
- After three unexcused absences, the student’s advisor or the US Dean will contact home. The student will be asked to attend PE class, but also keep their commitment to the team by continuing their participation. After five unexcused absences, the student will be removed from the sports team and continue to attend PE class.