

Parents,

Welcome to the 2023 St. Aloysius Lions football team. Our coaches are very excited about the upcoming season. I am sure we will have another successful season but understand some of our teams will play against older teams. However, success is not just the final score on the board but also the relationships made and the commitment/hard work put into the season.

Please make sure you have submitted your [medical history form](#) and registration which can both be found on the [athletics website](#). I will host a voluntary parent question and answer meeting on **Sunday August 6th at 2pm in the old gym.**

The most important issue to discuss is player safety. This starts at home by making sure the players remain hydrated. If a player complains to you about any medical related issues that may impact his ability to participate in practices or games, please convey these concerns to your Coach immediately. They cannot make decisions in the best interests of your player if they do not have information. Some soreness over the first 2-3 weeks is normal given the conditioning and the introduction of contact when they can use full pads. Finally, rest is an important component of keeping your son healthy this season. We understand that boys should enjoy being a kid, but please limit late nights immediately prior to games. This is a team, and we want to teach the boys what it means to be accountable to their teammates.

I understand there will be times throughout the season when you have concerns, and I want to make sure everyone understands the proper way to address them. If there is a matter of player safety, please address it immediately with a coach. In other sports such as basketball the league has a mandatory play requirement but this does not exist for football. I have instructed our coaches to try their best to play all of our players, but please be aware there may be times when your player may not play in the game. If there are concerns due to playing time you should address the issue with the coaching staff first. If you feel your concern is not addressed properly, please contact me at athletics@alloysius.org instead of the school directly.

As a reminder, last year we started the free Touchdown Club which is open to all parents/grandparents, etc. of participating athletes. The goal of this club is to aid at games such as chefs, concession/gate workers, chain crew, etc. Another important role of the club is to brainstorm with the other parents for items/ideas to better support our athletes. An example is the newly created fan store and a bake sale for the purchase of break away banners. I want to thank Allison Hoffpauir, Renee Skinner and Elizabeth Murphy for their help with the online store which I suspect to be a huge hit with our fans. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to any of the ladies above or myself directly. I really do want to know your input as we all want to improve the enjoyment and experience of our athletes.

See below for a tentative schedule of upcoming items/dates:

- Next week or two -Fan Store is ready and will be sent out in a letter from the school
- Week of 8/7 - Football practice begins
- Week of 9/4 - Possible jamborees
- Week of 9/11 - Regular season begins
- Week of 10/30 - Regular season ends

GO LIONS!

Eric Burton
Athletic Director