



Beach Middle School  
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Dear Parents:

This letter contains important information for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who plan to play middle school football this fall. For the eleventh straight year, **WE WILL HAVE TWO TEAMS (blue and gold) for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.** This will allow for players to learn an offensive and a defensive position and experience more playing time during games. Teams will be divided as evenly as possible, and there are 2 coaches per team. One of the positive aspects of middle school football is that it is a “no cut” sport. Everyone who is on the team plays in every game. With that said, it is extremely important that all players attend practice on a daily basis. If a student is going to miss a practice, a signed note must be sent from a parent excusing him. Playing time will be affected for those players who miss practices. During practices, the teams will spend a lot of time together working with the coaches at developing their skills at the various positions. They will then spend time working together with their team to prepare for game days.

**Again this year, we will be issuing equipment before school begins and for the first time we will have conditioning practices prior to the beginning of school. All players must practice without pads for three days before they can practice in gear. Equipment hand out and our first practice will take place on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be issued equipment and practice from 4-5:30 PM and incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be issued equipment and practice from 5:30-7 PM. This will take place at Beach Middle School. Students can also bring in copies of their physicals to me on that night, along with money for practice jerseys and mouth guards (if needed). I will also have emergency forms and code of conducts on hand that can be filled out and left with me. If a player cannot attend, they will be issued equipment on the first day of school and will have to practice three days without pads. Should you have any questions about this night, please feel free to e-mail me. Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams will also practice on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 at Beach.**

One of the great traditions that has been ongoing in the program over the years is “Future Bulldog Night”, where we allow the players to experience what it will be like to play in high school by attending a home varsity game. On this night, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team eats a pre-game meal with the varsity players and both teams are invited down to the sidelines to watch the players warm-up before the game. One exciting change is that our middle school football players will run out onto the field with the varsity team before the game!! Future Bulldog Night this year will be on **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that this is the first week of school this year. More info on this event will be sent out during the first week of school.

Regular season practices will begin on the first day of school, which is **September 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will practice after school, other than game days from 3:30 to 5:15. Game days will be on Tuesdays, with the first game being on **September 18<sup>th</sup>** and the last game being on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. There will be one week this year (due to scheduling) that both the blue and gold teams will be combined and play together. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade games will begin at 4:15 P.M. with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade games to follow. **In order for your child to practice or play in a game, he must have a physical on file with our high school athletic trainer – NO EXCEPTIONS!** Again, copies of physicals can also be given to me at our equipment night or on the first day of school. Also, each player will receive an athletic code of conduct and emergency form for the 2012-13 school year to be filled out. These get returned to me. Also, there is a \$50 pay to participate due at the beginning of the season. **These fees can be turned in to me or to our high school athletic office.** If you have any financial issues regarding the new pay to participate, please contact me directly. All inquiries will remain confidential.

Each player must wear a mouth guard to practice and play in games. Mouth guards cost \$1. We will also have practice jerseys available for purchase. The cost for a practice jersey is \$27. Players keep their practice jersey. If your child purchased a practice jersey as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader last year, they do not need to buy a new one! Checks can be made out to Chelsea Football and given to me at the equipment night or on the first day of practice.

#### **CHECKLIST FOR NEEDED MATERIAL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup>:**

- **Make sure physical is on file or with you on this date**
- **If your son doesn't have a practice jersey, bring a check for \$27, payable to CHELSEA FOOTBALL**
- **The pay to participate fee is \$50. Make a check out to CHELSEA ATHLETICS or pay online at [www.chelsea.k12.mi.us/athletics](http://www.chelsea.k12.mi.us/athletics) (click on “online payments – tickets, camps, season passes” at the top of page)**
- **Fill out athletic code of conduct and emergency form.**

As a part of the effort to have the four teams at the middle school, we have to raise a substantial amount of money to fund the extra middle school sports. We will again be asking all middle school football players to participate in our cookie dough fund raiser this year. Last year we were able to raise almost \$7,500, which is a large portion of the extra costs that go towards the two-team concept we have here in Chelsea. More information will be sent home regarding this after school begins.

Finally, we will need parent volunteers to help at home games with taking tickets and helping with the chains on the sidelines. There will be home games each week during the season. I will ask for volunteers at our parent meeting which will be held at a date to be determined after the beginning of the school year. Thank you and we look forward to another exciting season of middle school football!

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