



2023-24 Valor Leander MS Basketball Info Letter

The 2023-24 Basketball season is here! We are excited for our inaugural season, as this will be the first building blocks for all future years. As coaches, we hope to foster teamwork, friendship, and joy in playing the game while promoting a culture of exemplary leadership and growth in the sport. We will encourage each player to pursue excellence in every area of life, including on the court and in the classroom. Before we get started on what is sure to be a successful basketball season, there are a few good and necessary “housekeeping” items that both parents and student athletes should attend to:

Fees and Physicals:

There is a \$350 fee for student athletes. Fees are discounted for families who apply and qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. Parents must complete the online registration. Please upload the athlete’s physical and provide payment before the date of first tryout. Please upload the physical and do not turn in a paper copy. Follow the link to register your athlete [here](#).

Equipment:

Every player needs court shoes, practice attire, and a filled water bottle. Basketballs are provided for practices and games, but players are welcome to bring additional basketballs to practice. For games, students will wear uniforms (shorts, jerseys), which will be provided at the beginning of the season. Uniforms must be returned (undamaged) at the end of the season.

Practice Schedule:

Practices are *usually* 2 times a week between Monday and Wednesday at Spike Frog in Cedar Park. Occasionally they will take place at Premier Athletic Complex in Leander.

Practices/Tryouts begin on **Thursday, Oct. 19** (Girls) and **Wednesday, Oct. 25** (Boys). Please arrive on time or early, dressed, and ready to practice. Only players that have completed registration will be able to practice.

Tryouts will be conducted over the first three practices. While we encourage all students with an interest in the game of basketball to continue to grow and develop as a player, due to the elevated level of interest in MS basketball, we must cap the team size to maintain consistent and meaningful playing time for the players demonstrating skill and proficiency in the sport. Each gender will have a Primary team and a Secondary team. Primary and Secondary will practice together, but play separate games.

Games: Our league schedule will start in November with playoffs during the beginning of February. As soon as we have exact game dates we will share. Please have your players dressed and on the court 30 minutes before each game.

Communication:

The primary means of communicating with parents this season will be through a weekly email and a user-friendly app, BAND.

Expectations of Parents:

- Review the Valor Athletic Handbook
- Ensure your child arrives on time to practice and early for games.
- Be the voice of encouragement and positivity for your student athlete at home.
- DO NOT yell negative comments at players, coaches, or referees.
- Address any concerns with the head coach first.
- Cheer for your child and the entire Griffins team!
- Consider volunteering at games when needed, especially home games. (Scoreboard, scorebook, ticket taking, etc.)

Expectations of Players:

- Review the Valor Athletic Handbook
- Stay on top of schoolwork and grades.
- Maintain a teachable spirit. Obey coaches' directions.
- Be responsible to bring your gear and equipment.
- Arrive on time to practice and 30 minutes early for games.
- Remember basketball is a team sport! Be encouraging to your fellow teammates.
- Display sportsmanship to your opponents and the officials.
- Work hard on and off the court; focus during practices and games; support your teammates!

Our coaches work hard to teach sportsmanship, basketball fundamentals, and team cooperation to our players and develop well-rounded athletes. The best thing you can do to help us reach these goals is to provide a solid, positive fan base for the team. Each student will be given an equal chance to prove their basketball skills and the role they can add to the team. We hope that you will trust in us and know that we will do our best to develop individual strengths and find the best fit for those strengths within the team dynamic.

We cannot wait to get started and hope you feel the same excitement. We count on your support as parents, and we look forward to seeing you at games as volunteers!

Sincerely,

Coach Visy
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