Philosophy

The Woodward Academy Boys Basketball Program is committed to providing student-athletes with the opportunity to learn, develop and use basketball skills in an attempt to achieve an enriching basketball experience. Participants will receive the daily, detailed instruction needed to produce the most prepared, experienced and competitive group of basketball players possible. We acknowledge the rigorous demands of the Academy’s academic requirements and strive to evoke similar requirements in athletics thereby creating the complete student-athlete.

Structure

The Woodward Academy Boys Basketball Program consists of three (4) sections; Lower (grades 4-6), Middle (grades 7-9) and Upper (grades 9-12). The program’s “Upper” division is further divided; Sub-Varsity (9th, Junior Varsity) and Varsity.

Lower

- Students in the Lower School program will be introduced to the Woodward Academy basketball program through our intramural program.
- Lower School students are divided into comparable groups and experience various exercises and drills similar to those drills and exercises used in Varsity practices.
- Coaches and players from all program levels give daily instruction during intramurals in effort to promote consistency throughout.

Middle

- Students begin the “try-out” process in order to compete for a place on the grade level basketball team.
- Each team (7th and 8th) participates in a season schedule complete with a year-end tournament.

Upper- (Sub-Varsity)

- All players entering the Upper School are eligible for Varsity and Sub-Varsity competition. Though the number of teams may vary, the Sub-Varsity program consists of 9th grade and Junior Varsity teams.
- Only 9th grade students are eligible to participate on the 9th grade basketball team.
- Sub-Varsity teams will play a season schedule similar to the Varsity and may or may not participate in a year-end tournament.
Varsity

- All high school students are eligible to participate in Varsity competition.
- The Varsity team will compete under the Georgia High School Association and within the school’s assigned region placement.
- Varsity will compete in invitational, region, state and national tournaments if warranted and where applicable.

Policies & Procedures

Attendance

- Players and managers will attend all scheduled practices and games. This includes region tournament and state tournament games.
- The varsity head coach may excuse players from practices or games under the following circumstances:
  - Player notifies coach before the end of day of illness or injury.
  - Head coach is notified by parents of illness of player or unforeseen circumstances that prevent the player or manager from attending a practice or a game.
  - Any issue which, under the discretion of the Boys Head Coach, an absence from practices or games is acceptable.
- The winter sports season runs from late fall (October) to early spring (March). Parents are reminded to note the time of the season when scheduling appointments as the following circumstances are considered unacceptable reasons to miss a practice or a game:
  - Scheduled appointment with a physician, dentist, counselor, tutors, teachers or school administrators. Schedule appointments on off days and after practice.
  - Driver license examinations and haircuts
  - Personal or family vacations or reunions.
  - College visitations:
    - Practice with an organization not sponsored by Woodward Academy.
- Players or managers who are absent without approval of the Boys Head Coach more than once are subject to having all letter privileges revoked.
- Players must provide reasonable notice to the Boys Head Coach of a pending scheduling conflict.
- A player or manager who is absent without approval twice will be subject to dismissal from the team.

**Try-out Procedures**

- All interested basketball players with an updated physical on file with the Upper School and in good standing academically are eligible to try-out for a place on a Woodward basketball team.

- Students in middle school will try-out for their corresponding grade level team (unless an upward promotion is requested by the Boys Head Coach).

- All Upper School students may try out for the Varsity team; however, only freshman players may try-out and participate on the 9th grade basketball team.

- The Boys coaching staff will determine team placement based on several factors including but not limited to athletic ability and the ability to apply practice instruction to game situations.

**Practice/Pre-Season**

- Pre-Season workouts will begin during the early fall period (August/September). Workout schedules and times are compiled once the coaching staff determines the number of participants in pre-season conditions.

  - **Exceptions**: students participating in fall sports are not to participate in any pre-season workout until after the fall sports’ season conclusion.

  - Lower and Middle school students are not expected to participate in pre-season conditioning.

- In-Season practice will be held Monday – Friday (3:45 – 5:45) each week until the seasons’ conclusion:

  - **Exceptions**: the coaching staff may require students to attend Saturday practices and any holiday practices the coaches feel are a necessity in improving team development.
Attendance to all practices is mandatory according to the Attendance Policy set forth above.

**Discipline Procedures**

- All student-athletes are expected to maintain the level of discipline outlined in the Academy Student Handbook both on and off campus.

- The Varsity Boys Head Coach, with the assistance of the Coaches and Assistant Coaches at each level will handle team and individual internal discipline procedures on a case by case basis.

- The coaching staff will communicate team and program rules and regulations to all players at the start of each season. The coaching staff reserves the right to add additional guidelines if those guidelines are deemed effective in team development.

- General Program rules include but are not limited to the following:
  - Players will be on time.
  - Players will respect teammates and coaches.
  - Players, when capable, will compete to their highest ability at all times.
  - Players will exhibit appropriate behavior (including language and dress)
  - Players will not bring discredit to the team or the school as a member of a Woodward basketball team.

**Travel Policy**

- Players are expected to uphold school and team guidelines when traveling to and from visiting game sites.

- Players are to arrive at the designated time (as determined by immediate coach) with the proper equipment/clothing.

- Any incident off campus during an away game will be handled according to team discipline procedures and/or Academy discipline procedures if warranted.

- Each immediate coach has discretion to add any travel regulation the coach feels proper to ensure the safety of the players and/or to further team development.
Summer Camp

- All student-athletes are afforded an opportunity to improve through the program’s summer activities including Fundamental Camp, Team Camp and “Open-Gym”.

- While Summer Camp is not a try-out, it is strongly encouraged for those players with a serious interest in playing Varsity basketball.

- All scheduling conflicts shall be discussed with the Varsity Boys Head Coach.

- Lower and Middle School students are encouraged to attend the Woodward Academy Fundamental Camp each summer while Upper School students are encouraged to attend Team Camp during the summer months.

Letter Policy/Participation

- Players participating on the Varsity basketball team have the opportunity to receive a “Varsity Letter” for participation according to the following,

- Players must play in sixteen quarters to receive a varsity letter.
  - Exceptions: a varsity player who attends all pre-season conditioning, all practices and all games will be awarded a letter.

- Junior Varsity Players who are brought up at the end of the season to practice for the region tournament and state tournament will receive a letter if they meet the following criteria:
  - Practiced with varsity at least ½ half of the year.
  - Participated in sixteen varsity quarters.

Player Expectation

Lower

- Begin learning the basic fundamentals (shooting, passing, dribbling).
- Apply basic fundamentals in simulated game situations
Middle

- Begin to master basic fundamentals with slight variations
- Apply fundamentals in live game situations
- Master the concept of team, hard work and competitiveness
- Basic knowledge of the Woodward playbook

Upper (Sub-Varsity)

- Master basic fundamentals with multiple variations
- Solid knowledge of the Woodward playbook
- Able to execute team game plans
- Able to positively affect team play
- Improved physical development (strength, conditioning)

Upper (Varsity)

- Master basic fundamentals and complex variations
- Master the Woodward playbook
- Able to execute team game plans in live game situations
- Maximum physical development (strength, conditioning)

Playing Time

Immediate Coaches will be responsible for calculating and awarding playing time to team members. Playing time will be awarded based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

- Ability to meet player expectations
- Attitude
- Ability to follow all procedures and policies
- Ability to apply all schemes and concepts positively in game situations

Parent/Player Grievance

The policies and procedures set forth in this document have been reviewed and accepted by the coaching staff, the Woodward athletic department and school administration. Should a parent or student have an issue with the policies and procedures as stated the following steps should be taken:

A. Parent/Student addresses the matter with his immediate coach
B. Parent/Student and immediate coach meet with the Varsity Boys Head Coach.
C. Parent/Student, immediate coach and Varsity Boys Head Coach meet with the Athletic Director.

Coaching staff decisions will be made with the best interest of the team and its players in mind. Respect and appropriateness will control in all matters. The coaching staff reserves the right to add any guidelines the staff feels will aid in overall team development.