

AMS FOOTBALL 2016 (7th and 8th Grade)

IMPORTANT DATES/PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

Monday, August 15	6:30-8:30 PM	(Helmets only)
Tuesday, August 16	6:30-8:30 PM	(Helmets only)
Wednesday, August 17	6:30-8:30 PM	(Helmets/Shoulder Pads)
Thursday, August 18	6:30-8:30 PM	(Helmets/Shoulder Pads)
Friday, August 19	6:30-8:30 PM	(Full Pads)
August 22-26	3:30-5:30 PM	(Full Pads)
Saturday, August 27	8:00–9:00 AM 8th	9:00-10:00 AM 7th (Scrimmage)
August 29-31	3:30-5:30	(Regular Practice)
September 1	@Chapman	4:30 7th 6:15 8th

****TIMES** are subject to change. We like to practice right after school, but also want to protect the athletes. If the heat index is too hot, we will practice in the evenings.

PHYSICALS/CONCUSSION FORMS/CONSENT/VIDEO:

"Players must have a current physical, concussion form, *viewed the Concussion in Sports & Heat Illness Prevention video*, and consent form on file to participate in practice."

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COACHES:

Mark Willey: Head 8th Grade Coach (mwilley@abileneschools.org)

Casey Callis: Head 7th Grade Coach (ccallis@abileneschools.org)

Dan Willey: 8th Grade Assistant

Michael Willey: 8th Grade Assistant

Trent Sanchez: 7th Grade Assistant

Josh Peterson, 7th Grade Assistant

PHILOSOPHY:

It is our goal to teach the **fundamentals** of playing football with the concept of **teamwork** and good **sportsmanship**. We consider every player invaluable to our team and will treat them as such, with the understanding that not every player is going to play as much as he wants or where he wants. This will be a coaching decision. Safety will be a high priority. We will teach the athletes safe ways of doing things but as with all sports, we are never guaranteed injury free experiences. We will spend a lot of time on form tackling, appropriate stretching, and receiving plenty of water breaks.

HOT WEATHER:

We will continue to look at the forecast and adjust times when needed. We will be giving the players many water breaks. It is also important that the players are eating well and drinking plenty of water at home. Also, please make sure your son reports any injuries to the coaching staff so we can properly deal with the situation.

COMMUNICATION:

Please have your son come to us with any questions or concerns. If he doesn't understand our response or you still have some questions, feel free to e-mail us or call the head coaches at school.

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PLAYING TIME:

It will be the goal of the staff to find a place for every player, however there are some important items to remember. Not every player will receive equal playing time. There are always circumstances that dictate more or less playing time. The biggest factors that will determine playing time are aggressiveness, effort, attitude, and knowledge. If your son is unwilling to tackle or attack, or does not know the plays, it is unsafe for himself and his teammates to play.

ATTENDANCE:

Practice attendance is crucial. If your son is ever going to be late or has to miss for any reason, we need to know. If absences become an issue, this will inevitably effect the playing time of your son.

SCHOOL WORK:

We want school work to be a top priority for your son. We will accept your son being late occasionally because he is receiving extra help from his teachers but emphasize to your son, as we will, that he needs to stay on top of his school work.

RIDES HOME:

Please make arrangements to pick up your son at the appropriate times!

We understand that we can in no way cover every detail in this letter. We will constantly be giving information to your son at practice and historically, kids this age have a tendency to forget. Please communicate with them about practice times, upcoming games, and extenuating circumstances.