

October, 2009

Dear Student Athlete and Parent(s),

My name is Mike Morrow and I am Woodland's varsity baseball head coach. Jay McCulley and Tommy Phillips are my JV and assistant coaches.

I would like to take this opportunity to share information regarding this year's upcoming fall baseball tryouts. Tryouts will be conducted this year during the week of October 26-30. A detailed tryout schedule will be posted on the WMS baseball web page when it is finalized; but please understand that **all dates, times and durations of tryouts are subject to change** due to inclement weather, field conditions and/or availability of the gymnasium. Baseball tryouts will conclude daily at 5:00 PM unless otherwise specified.

A spring supplemental tryout will be held **only** for student athletes who enroll at Woodland after completion of these fall tryouts or for those student athletes who are medically excused. A doctor's excuse is required for any student to miss these fall tryouts and who still wishes to be eligible to participate in the spring supplemental tryout. Any student athlete, who participates in and is cut during the fall tryout, will not be permitted to try out again in the spring supplemental tryout.

Please note that I use the term "student athlete" throughout this letter. I expect my players to be model students in the classroom first; as well as competitive athletes on the diamond.

**FIRST AND FOREMOST: AS STATED IN THE SPORTS SECTION OF WOODLAND'S STUDENT ORGANIZER:**

**"STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRY OUT FOR ANY SPORT AT WOODLAND WITHOUT AN ATHLETIC PHYSICAL ON FILE PRIOR TO THE FIRST TRYOUT."**

**We also respectfully request that parents not attend the tryouts.**

**Your attendance may add to the anxiety level of not only your child, but to other children as well.**

There will be approximately 100 student athletes trying out for a limited number of spots on the varsity and JV baseball teams. The Varsity and JV squads will practice together but play an independent schedule of games. As you might well imagine, this is a formidable task of selecting teams from approximately 100 student athletes. Throwing velocity/technique/strength/accuracy, batting/bunting skills, size, speed and attitude will all be considered to the greatest degree possible, depending upon the weather and remaining time frame for tryouts. Just so that you know, a **JUGS** pitching machine will be used during tryouts to achieve equality in batting/fielding evaluations and **less than drop three (-3) bats are required**. The varsity roster will be made up of 8<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders and the JV team will consist of 7<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 8<sup>th</sup> graders are not permitted to make the JV team.

For tryouts, every student athlete will be given a laminated number that will be pinned on the back of their shirt. This number will be used throughout the tryout to assist coaches in identification and to minimize any perceived bias on the part of coaches due to name or team jersey recognition—intended or unintended. Student athletes are encouraged to start/continue throwing now on a regular basis and to wear long sleeves anytime they are throwing to minimize the risk of injuring arms.

The players that are selected for the teams will be required to attend practice every weekday until 5:00. Rides will be expected to be here promptly at 5:00. Woodland baseball takes priority over travel team practices and/or games and conflicts will not be tolerated. The varsity and JV players will also be expected to purchase their hats, pullovers and undershirt.

Our goal is to win the County championship. To achieve this goal we will need help from you at different times in the season. Beginning in March, we will be asking many of you to help drive the players to the away games and to help keep the book and scoreboard at the home games. Thanks in advance for your time.

Coach Morrow  
Coach McCulley  
Coach Phillips