

Gilbert Paterson Basketball 2019-20

As the season approaches, we know that many students are looking forward to the opportunity to play basketball Paterson. Our school is unique in that we could have over 250 boys and girls who want to play some form of basketball. As administrators and coaches, we are trying to create a program for all of our students that will:

- Give meaningful opportunities for all to play at appropriate levels for participation, development and competition for middle school students
- Be sustainable, realistic and workable in terms of gym time, coaches and referees
- Ensure that we are preparing a minimum number of students to move on to high school in a competitive structure each year as we are the sole feeder school to LCI
- Work within the structure of the Lethbridge Schools Athletic Association (LSAA) of which we are a member and work with other schools to provide interschool athletic opportunities.

In the past, we have held open tryouts for all of our grade 6-8 students to be part of our Rep Team (1st tier) or Development Team (2nd tier) that are part of the LSAA structure. All students who have not made these teams have been invited to play “Club” basketball afterschool which has been a drop-in opportunity to play games and work on skills. We invariably end up with over 100 grade 6 students trying out for teams that they have little chance of making and then having some of them continue with club on an inconsistent basis. We think there is a better way for all students.

Our Rep and Developmental teams will consist of only grade 7 and 8 athletes. We want to ensure that this age group has the chance to play at this level. We are part of LSAA and the league structure provides opportunities for these 2 school teams to compete.

This year we are going to have all grade 6 students who want to come out to play basketball attend a boys and girls’ ID camp. All grade 6 students who sign up and commit will be part of our grade six “Tiger 3 on 3” program. This format of this basketball is ideal for students that are 11/12 years old to continue to build on their skills and get lots of touches. We will have a “competitive” and “Instructional” group and each player will get a reversible jersey, a schedule and placed on a team. They will get a minimum of 1 gym time per week (2 when possible) of 75 minutes that will consist of 25 minutes of skills and warmups and 50 minutes of 3 on 3 games with breaks. If opportunities arise to play other schools, we will pursue them. At the end of the day, our goal is to have as many grade sixes play as possible.

We will include any grade 7/8 students that want to play “3 on 3” as well. When we have the numbers of students who want to play, we will decide if they will be part of the grade 6 program or if there will be a separate program for them.

The days for club basketball will be finalized once we have firm numbers of how many students from all three grades want to participate.

Darryl Christiansen - Principal