

Dear Parents and Student- Athletes,

The 2010 softball season is rapidly approaching, and with that in mind I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Brant Jensen; I graduated from Hopewell in 2004. I participated in football, baseball, and wrestling while attending high school. After high school I attended school at North Carolina State University, where I earned my bachelors degree in History in May 2009. After graduating I realized I wanted to become a teacher/ coach, I am now taking additional classes to become eligible to be a Social Studies teacher. As of now I work one on one with students in the EC department at Hopewell High School.

As far as the team and this season, I cannot begin to express how excited I am to take over as the head coach. It is a great relief to know that Hopewell's Administration and Athletics Department has the confidence in me to take over the reins of a program that has such a rich winning tradition. This is a great opportunity for myself and the softball program to grow while setting new goals and expectations, and I hope that you the parents and athletes will have the same trust in me that the administration has.

We have put together a great coaching staff this year for the athletes. The softball coaching staff is made up of Abbey Looper who graduated from Hopewell High School in 2003. Coach Looper won two State Championships while at Hopewell; she then went on and played at Gardner-Webb where she was a stand out player. She is now teaching kindergarten in Charlotte. Many of you know Coach Chandonnet who will be the head JV coach as well as assisting the varsity team. Coach Chandonnet has spent the last couple of seasons on the Titan softball coaching staff, and is a Spanish teacher here at Hopewell. The final piece of our coaching staff is Coach Burwell who will be assisting the team at both levels, while also working as our pitching coach. I do not believe we could have put together a better staff; we have a great blend of youth and experience that should prove very helpful as the season moves along.

I want to remind parents and athletes that the eligibility information and medical exam is due on February 2nd. This year CMS is requiring two forms of documentation to prove your residency. You can find the required information and forms on the Hopewell Athletics website, <http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/hopewellathletics/forms.html>. Have your students bring the completed forms and documentation to myself (room 700) or Coach Chandonnete (F-2 trailer). The first day of try-outs will be February 16th and continue through February 17th. I am looking forward to working with your student athletes as well as working along side you parents. It will take a hand from everyone involved to get the Hopewell softball team to where we want to be. I expect nothing but great things from the program this year as we work our way to a State Championship!

Coach Jensen

As for my expectations of the athletes,

In School:

1. You are first and foremost a student, and then an athlete. We will follow Hopewell school policies as far as attendance standards are concerned.

2. Any player who receives detention, or other in-school sanction, will be disciplined by the softball coaching staff as well-this may include suspension if the infraction is viewed as serious.

3. Student- Athletes will be expected to keep their grades above average. Players may be kept out of practice for academic reasons at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Out of School:

1. Since we consider you to be, at all times, a representative of this school and this program, your conduct outside of school is extremely important to us. Any behaviors which require the intervention of school officials (from this school district or any other) or law enforcement agents will be taken seriously. We as coaches reserve the right to sanction players whose behaviors we determine to be detrimental to this school or program.

2. We will abide ALL CMS and Hopewell policies regarding the use and abuse of chemicals. We as a coaching staff also reserve the right to act in a way that protects and serves the best interests of our TEAM—this may include further penalties or suspensions we deem appropriate.

Finally:

The coaching staff will always act in the best interest of our TEAMS. Our decision will be based on what is good for all, not what is good for a single player at the expense of others. We reserve the right to ask you, the individual, at any time, to accept sanctions, punishments, or an invitation to leave the team in order to protect the integrity of the whole team. We reserve the right to make additions to team rules as we find it necessary, and to modify those which do not meet the needs of the program.

Hopewell Titan Softball

Program Overview

I. PHILOSOPHY

- a. Make each player the best she can be
- b. Ability and work ethic dictates where she will play
- c. Competing in interscholastic athletics is a “privilege,” not a right!
- d. Successful teams have a closeness and closeness creates happiness
- e. Fair play is taught
- f. Winning is more fun than losing

II. WHERE IT STARTS

- a. Being coachable/Playing in the position that helps the team!!
- b. Dedication
- c. Willing to get better

III. COACH THE KIDS AND DO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT

IV. ESTABLISH GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH OUR ATHLETES, PARENTS, AND ADMINISTRATION

V. WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

- a. Use the talent we have to the fullest
- b. Allow younger players the opportunity to compete at the highest level they can handle.
- c. Having players be used in situations where they have the best chance to succeed and/or help the team.
- d. We take responsibility for physical errors. YOU take responsibility for mental errors!
- e. You will always get out of what you put into something!!

VI. OUR EXPECTATIONS OF TEAM MEMBERS

- a. Dependability – be at practice every day
- b. Responsibility – communicate if you won't be at practice (see me by noon if possible)
- c. Accountability – hold yourself and teammates accountable
- d. Teamwork – everything you do has a (+) or (-) effect
- e. Positive Attitude – your attitude affects your actions
- f. HAVE FUN! Every day you should laugh and smile at practice...it's not a job!

Attention Players: Make it your priority to work hard from the first day of practice to the final out of the season. If we all do that, then our team will succeed.

Keep in Mind: “Everyone wants to succeed, but it is those who are the most prepared that do succeed! Get It Done!!!

Team Expectations

1. Work hard and have fun!
2. Respect your coaches, teammates, and school officials.
3. Respect our field, and equipment.
4. Be on time for every team practice or team function.
6. Be chemical free! NO alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substance!
7. No swearing or throwing objects, such as bats, helmets, and gloves.
8. Wear the proper practice attire! The weather can change at any time so be prepared!!

Team Goals

- 1. Beat North Meck**
- 2. Win Conference Championship**
- 3. Win Regionals**
- 4. Win the State Championship**
- 5. Have as much fun as possible!**