Dear Aquinas Middle School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and getting back into the swing of things with the new school year!

My name is Deke Stanek, and along with being the 7th grade Life Science teacher, I am also the head Middle School football coach. I love coaching football and am passionate about player development both on and off the field. As a staff, we use the sport of football to teach life lessons in teamwork, dedication, work ethic and integrity.

Our main goal for middle school football is that the kids have a fun and meaningful experience in the sport. We believe that if we are able to give them that, then they are going to be more likely to continue with the sport throughout middle and high school. We don’t discuss success in terms of wins and losses with the boys, instead we talk about their attitude, effort and hustle daily at practice. If we can get their best effort and attitude each practice and game, then we consider that a success.

All the players will get significant, although not necessarily equal playing time. Most playing time is determined each week based on several different factors, the biggest being the effort being put forth by each individual. We also take into consideration attendance at practice as well as conduct at school and in the classroom.

With everything going on with Covid this year, football games and practices are going to look a bit different. We promise to do everything within our powers to keep your kids safe, and will follow the requirements laid out by Mr. Matt Schneider (Athletic Director) in the attached email. Also, because of Covid, our schedule has changed dramatically. Please be patient as we finalize our schedule. I anticipate having 3-4 games and a five to six week season once we get started. Although it’s not what we had in the past in terms of length and number of games, I’m grateful that we’re getting the opportunity to play this fall, as many other kids and schools are not.

Once we start practices on September 8th, your boys are going to come home sore, tired and maybe a little frustrated. Stay positive with them and we’ll do the same on our end! Once we get past those first few weeks, they’ll start feeling better physically and practice will become easier for them once they understand what our expectations are.

Our practices are generally from 3:20 PM (depart on the bus) to 5:45 PM (arrive back at Aquinas) each day we don’t have a game. If there will be a change in practice or game schedule, I will communicate that with you via email at least a day in advance.

We will be handing out equipment on Thursday, September 3rd, immediately after school. The 8th grade will go first, followed by the 7th grade. The whole process takes about 90 minutes, so please plan accordingly with your son. We will provide helmet, jersey, pants and shoulder pads. The player will be responsible for their mouth guard and cleats.

If you have any questions I may not have answered with this letter, please don’t hesitate to email me.

Thanks and take care,

Deke Stanek

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2020 Aquinas Middle School Football Schedule

9/8 – 1st Practice

9/29 – Game 4:30 vs Viroqua – Location TBD

10/6 – Game 4:30 vs Prairie du Chien @ Prairie du Chien High School

Picture Day: September 23rd

Practices will be held Monday - Friday from 3:30-5:30 @ Holy Cross Seminary Field except on the following dates:

No practice: 9/25, 10/5, 10/7, 10/12

Last day of practice is TBD. The season will not extend beyond October 23rd. How long it extends will be dependent on the game schedule.