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# Okemos Community Education



— Youth Basketball Program Information —  
2024-2025

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# Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a fun environment through the game of basketball by fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, character building, and positive social relationships. We strive to develop each player's skills, confidence, and character in a positive and inclusive environment. The game of basketball teaches commitment and social responsibility, and instills a feeling of community and togetherness. We hope to create lasting friendships and positive memories through the game of basketball.

# *PawPrint* - Our Code of Conduct

## 1. Teamwork

- Players will prioritize the success of the team over individual achievements.
- Players, coaches, and parents will support one another, recognizing that teamwork is essential to the growth and success of all participants.
- Everyone will contribute positively, encouraging collaboration and communication both on and off the court.

# *PawPrint* - Our Code of Conduct

## 2. Sportsmanship

- Players will demonstrate respect for all participants, including teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and spectators.
- Winning will be celebrated humbly, and losing will be accepted with grace and viewed as a learning experience.
- Any form of unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.
- Parents will let the coach coach.

# *PawPrint* - Our Code of Conduct

## 3. Character Building

- Players are expected to act with integrity, honesty, and fairness.
- The program will focus on building life skills such as discipline, perseverance, and responsibility.
- Everyone involved will be encouraged to set a positive example, striving to improve both as athletes and individuals.
- Life comes with disappointment, basketball is no different, we have to learn how to manage our emotions win or lose.

# *PawPrint* - Our Code of Conduct

## 4. A Good Role Model...

- Leads by example
- Upholds high standards
- Promotes positivity
- Respects everyone
- Shows integrity
- Communicates
- Inspires others
- Encourages others
- Seeks to understand
- Is patient and passionate

## ***PawPrint* - Our Code of Conduct**

By following the PawPrint, all players, coaches, parents, and spectators commit to upholding the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, character building, and respect. We understand that our actions reflect not only ourselves, but on our entire community, and we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner that brings honor to our team and program. Together, we will create a positive, supportive environment that fosters the development of young athletes and future responsible people, on and off the court.

# Which Basketball Program Is Right For You?

## Option #1: **Recreation**

- Grades 1st-6th
- No tryouts
- Non-competitive
- 1 practice per week
- Games on Saturdays in Okemos
- December - February
- Shirt is provided

## Option #2: **Competitive (Travel)**

- Grades 3rd-8th
- Tryouts
- Competitive
- 2 practices per week
- Games on Saturdays and Sundays  
(in Okemos and surrounding communities)
- Tryouts in September/October, games  
November - March
- Must purchase uniform
- If cut from team, automatically placed  
on Recreation team (grades 3rd-6th  
only)



# Which Basketball Program Is Right For You?

## Option #1: Recreation Basketball

Cost \$70

Registration opens 8/29/24

This is a **non-competitive** program for grades 1st-6th with *no tryouts*.

- Good for players who are just starting out in basketball and would like to learn the basics or continue in a non-competitive program
- Playing time is equal and there is no score
- Practice is 1 night during the week with all games held on Saturdays in Okemos
- Program begins in December and runs through the third week of February
- Shirt is provided

# Option #1: Recreation Basketball

When: Usually the first six Saturdays after winter break.

Who: Grades 1st-2nd , 3rd-4th, and 5th-6th. There are 3 combined grade leagues.

Where: This year games will be held at Kinawa and Chippewa Middle Schools

Description: We do not keep score, it is purely to have fun, and the kids always have a good time. The games are reffed by OHS basketball players. The coaches are all volunteers. You can make a friend request and/or coaching request. There is no tryout. Practices are 1 night per week, games are on Saturdays.

# Which Basketball Program Is Right For You?

## Option #2: Competitive Basketball (Red Cedar League)

Cost \$140

Registration opens 8/29/24

This is a **competitive** program for grades 3rd-8th that *has tryouts*.

- Good for players with basketball experience
- Playing time is not equal, but coaches strive to be fair
- Practice is 2 nights during the week with games held on Saturdays and Sundays
- Hosted by Okemos and surrounding communities
- Tryouts begin in September/October with practice and games running November to March
- Uniforms need to be purchased (Cost: \$52)
- Players who tryout for Red Cedar and are not placed on a team can be automatically registered for Recreational Basketball (with the exception of 7th and 8th graders)

## Option #2: Competitive Basketball (Red Cedar League)

When: Tryouts are in September/October for grades 3rd-8th girls and 3rd-6th boys, 7th-8th boys will tryout in December after their school season finishes. Games span from November to March.

Who: Grades 3rd-8th, boys and girls. Must attend Okemos Public Schools to play on a Red Cedar team.

Description: The Red Cedar League has 3 divisions (Bronze/Silver/Gold) with typically 2 teams per grade. To be fair to coaches and respect playing time, we limit teams to 10 players where we can. There are many communities that participate, you will have 4-5 away games. Not everyone is guaranteed a spot. However, if your child does not make a competitive team, they are automatically enrolled in our recreational league (1st-6th grade only) and receive a refund on the difference.

[Red Cedar Hoops Code of Conduct](#)

[Additional Information on Tryouts and Red Cedar](#)

# How Do Tryouts Work for Red Cedar?

## Preparation

Register through Okemos Community Education.

Every player will receive a tryout jersey with a number on the back. Evaluators will only know students by their numbers, not their names.

## Skills Assessment

Three to six evaluators per tryout session will assess the following skills:

- Ball Handling
- Shooting
- Defense
- Passing
- Team play / scrimmage

Evaluators will also make note of attitude and effort.

## Selection & Sorting

Evaluators and program coordinator will examine player evaluations, then, as a group, sort them into teams.

Depending on the number of participants, some players may not be placed on a team.

*We understand that the tryout process can be stressful and upsetting to some players. We do our best to place players in an unbiased and fair manner.*

# Evaluators

Brian Kushion - PE Teacher, Bennett Woods

Michelle Ott - Teacher, former college player

John Massey - Head of Officials

Marcos Johnson - OHS alumni, former player

Matt Isa - Sports writer, coach, former player

Don Childs - MHSAA official

# Competitive Basketball Coaches

Once teams are formed, a committee of OPS staff reviews the coaching applications.

- If you're interested in coaching, please complete [this application](#). You will also need to complete the district's Volunteer Conviction Disclosure form.
- Red Cedar League rules allow for only one coach, one assistant coach, and one team manager.
- We often receive more volunteers than there are spots to fill, so unfortunately volunteering does not guarantee that you will be placed with a team.

After team lists come out, coaches then communicate information regarding practice/games. They also attend a mandatory coaches meeting.

# Red Cedar League Divisions

**3rd Grade** - There is only a bronze league for this age group. If numbers allow, two equal teams will be created

**Gold/Silver/Bronze** - Coaches, along with coordinator, agree on what league would be appropriate given the roster of the current team. The goal is to place the team in the league with competition that is comparable. Some years we only have a few teams go for the gold division while most play silver and bronze.



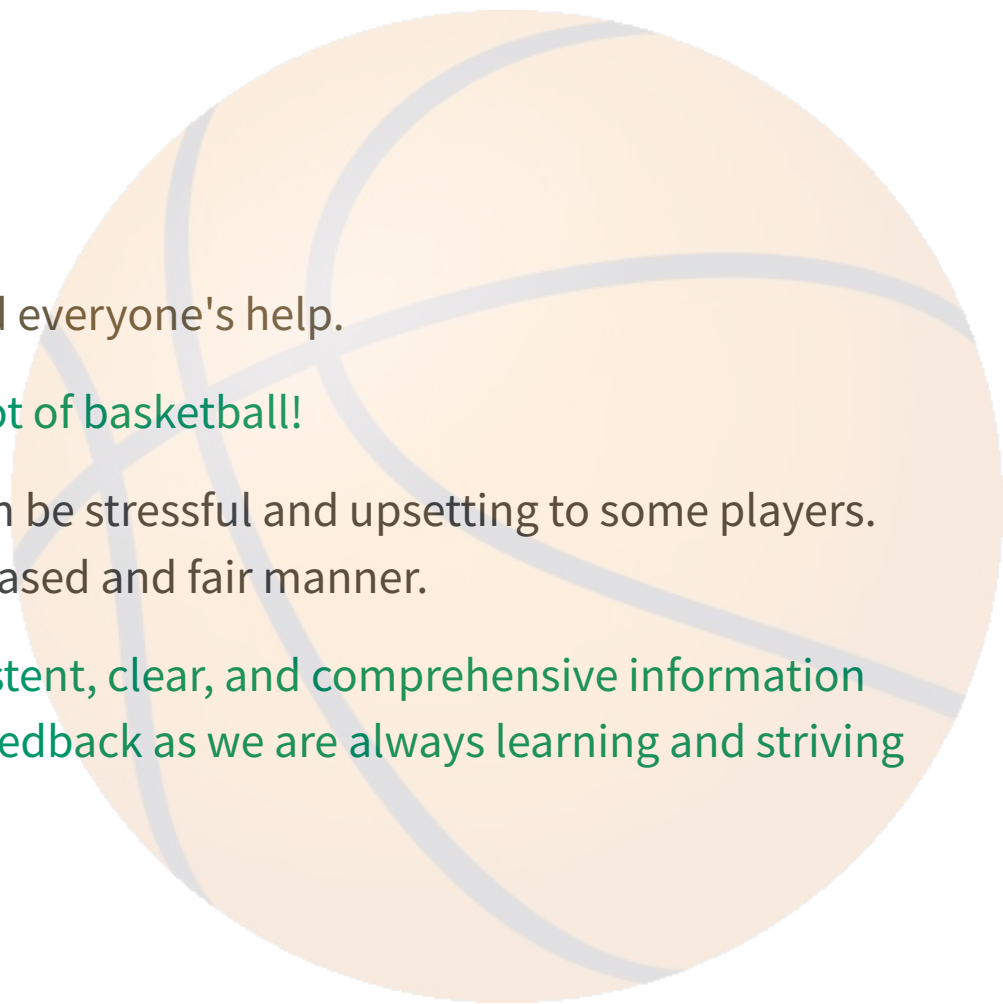
# Let's Have a Great Year

In order for this program to work, we need everyone's help.

Last year we had 68 total teams, that's a lot of basketball!

We understand that the tryout process can be stressful and upsetting to some players. We do our best to place players in an unbiased and fair manner.

OCE commits to providing you with consistent, clear, and comprehensive information about our programs. We welcome your feedback as we are always learning and striving to improve.



# Okemos Community Education Contacts

**Kelli Guthrie**, Registrar

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**Brian Kushion**, Youth Basketball Coordinator

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