



Dear Blanchet Mid High Families,

August 2026

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer!

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I wanted to share important information about Blanchet Middle School Athletics for the 2026–27 school year. This communication includes details about the upcoming fall sports season, along with winter and spring sports information to help families plan ahead. You'll also find information regarding our in-season commitment standard, team placement, roster management, registration and eligibility requirements, middle school sports contacts, and general schedule information.

We will officially kick off the middle school athletic year with our **Fall Player/Parent Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m.** We encourage all middle school student-athletes and at least one parent or guardian to attend.

Last year, nearly 80 percent of our 6th-8th graders participated in at least one school sport. We are excited about these enhancements and believe they will create an even stronger athletic experience for our students while continuing to welcome as many Cavaliers as possible into our programs.

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, we look forward to welcoming both our returning and new student-athletes to another exciting season of Cavalier athletics. For many, this will be their first opportunity to compete as a Cavalier, and we are excited to welcome them into our athletic community.

In-Season Commitment to Team Blanchet

School athletics are a unique part of the Blanchet experience, a *once-in-a-lifetime* opportunity to compete alongside classmates, represent your school, and build friendships and memories that will last long after the final whistle. Being part of Team Blanchet means making a commitment to something bigger than yourself.

The true value of school athletics isn't found only in games and competitions. It is built on the day-to-day experiences students share together, in the classroom, the hallways, practices, team bus rides, school events, and the countless moments in between. These shared experiences create the clarity, trust, friendships, and sense of belonging that define a school community.

We recognize that many of our student-athletes also participate in club sports, and we value the opportunities those programs provide. We also understand the time and financial commitment families

make to both Blanchet & those other teams. School athletics and club athletics each serve an important role, but *they are not the same experience*.

A Blanchet mid-high season is a relatively short chapter in a student's athletic journey, while club sports often extend across multiple seasons or even throughout the entire year. Because the opportunity to compete alongside classmates is so brief and unique, **we ask that student-athletes make their Blanchet team their first athletic priority during its season by attending practices and competitions consistently, and, whenever possible, placing school commitments ahead of off-season or non-school team activities.**

One of the most important lessons athletics can teach is that there is often time for everything, *but not everything can come all the time*. Choosing to prioritize your school team during its season is a clear sign, an act of commitment and sacrifice for your classmates, teammates, and school community. It demonstrates respect for your coaches, honors the trust your teammates place in you, and strengthens the culture that helps make Blanchet special.

Great teams and great school communities are built when individuals consistently choose to show up for one another...even when it's inconvenient or hard. It is through these shared commitments that students learn selflessness, develop lasting friendships, strengthen their faith and character, and experience what it truly means to be part of the Blanchet family.

Team Placement

To provide the best possible experience for our student-athletes and ensure meaningful opportunities for growth, competition, and development, we have implemented the following standards in our middle school athletic program:

Commitment to Team Blanchet

As members of **Team Blanchet**, student-athletes are expected to make a strong commitment to their teammates by attending practices and competitions, consistently, throughout the season. While many students also participate in club athletics, we ask that, during a Blanchet season, school practices and competitions take priority over off-season or non-school team activities whenever possible. **We ask, if students are not able to commit to practices and contests for the entire season, that they consider not participating so as to clear roster space for those students that are able to do that.**

These expectations are about far more than evaluations or roster limits. They reflect our belief that athletics are an extension of our educational mission, The Cav Way. By honoring commitments, making sacrifices for one another, and representing Blanchet with **respect, integrity, responsibility, citizenship, and grit**, our students help build stronger teams, lasting friendships, and a stronger Blanchet community.

Skill-Based	Team	Placement
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For sports with the highest participation, students will participate in coach-led evaluations at the beginning of the season and be *placed on teams based on their current skill level rather than grade level*. Students in

grades 6–8 are eligible for placement on any team, allowing athletes to compete at the level that best supports their development while creating balanced, competitive teams. **This year, we are developing a new strategy for our Mid-High, with the introduction of a Developmental Team in selected programs. The Developmental Team is composed of younger and/or less experienced players. They will have a modified practice & competition schedule with more focus on skill development.**

Roster

Management

In recent years, participation in some sports has grown beyond what allows us to effectively serve every student-athlete. Carefully managing roster sizes helps create an environment where players can continue to learn, improve, and make meaningful contributions to their team. **Although we will do our best to provide participation opportunities for all students, some student-athletes may not be selected for certain sports.** Roster sizes may be limited to ensure meaningful skill development, individualized coaching, appropriate playing time, and a positive team experience.

For participation in Fall Sports, please use the links below to register your children. Thank you for your continued support of Blanchet Athletics. Looking forward to an outstanding year of competition, teamwork, and school spirit!

By Courage & Faith,

Todd Moore

Registration & [Eligibility](#)

Students, to be eligible to play a sport, need to receive clearance from the Athletic Department. Please complete the following steps:

STEP 1: [Complete Online Registration \(Physical Examination Form will be requested here.\)](#)

STEP 2: [Pay an athletic fee](#)

Other Athletic Requirements for Mid-High:

[ImPACT Concussion Permission Form \(Done at school\)](#)

2026-27 Middle School Sports Contact & General Schedule Information

Fall Mid-High Head Coach & General Athletic Contact Information

MH CROSS COUNTRY edspinney@blanchetcatholicschool.com

MH SOCCER mattburill@blanchetcatholicschool.com

MH FOOTBALL mattandreas@blanchetcatholicschool.com

MH VOLLEYBALL TBD

MH ATHLETIC DIRECTOR toddmoore@blanchetcatholicschool.com

ATHLETIC DEPT ASSISTANT melissastanley@blanchetcatholicschool.com

MH VICE PRINCIPAL corinamoore@blanchetcatholicschool.com

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL robinsmith@blanchetcatholicschool.com

Fall Sports: (Co-ed Cross Country, Football, Co-ed Soccer, and Volleyball)

*****Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30pm: Middle School Fall Player/Parent Meeting in LSC*****

Cross Country: *Optional Practices Begin: Saturday, August 8th, 9:00 a.m.(See below)*

Practice Officially Begins: Monday, August 31 | 4:00 p.m. at Bush Park (bottom of Derby Hill). Fall Contests begin week of 9/7

No participation cap is anticipated.

Beginning Saturday, August 8th you are welcome to join coach Spinney's summer conditioning program at the Carousel at Riverfront Park in Salem (101 Front St. N.E.). Training sessions will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and will last for one hour. The workouts will consist of mobility work, approximately 30 minutes of running, and finish with some stretching. This is an optional summer program conducted by Coach Spinney and is not a school event. There will be no penalty for anyone who is unable or unwilling to attend these meetings.

Practices will officially begin on Monday, August 31st. The meeting point will change to Bush Park at the base of Derby Hill (approximately 890 Mission St. SE) and the time will change to 4:00 p.m., and will last until 5:00 p.m. sharp. Once school starts, there will be a school bus that transports the runners from Blanchet to Bush Park. There is no return bus, so parents will need to arrange for pickup at the park. Pickup must be by a parent or by another person authorized in writing to provide transportation.

Competitions: The first meet this year will be on Saturday, September 5th, three days before school starts. The meet is in Tillamook beginning at 9:00 a.m. and features a course that crosses a river twice and runs through a mud pit. It has been a team favorite for years. There will be approximately one race per week after that, ending on October 26th.

Football: ***Optional Camp is August 10-13th (see below) and *Optional Practices Begin: Monday, August 24th, 3:30–5:30 p.m. (**All football players MUST have 10 practice to be eligible to play in a game, camp will count toward those days)*

*****Practice Officially Begins: Monday, August 31 | 3:30–5:30 p.m. Fall Contests begin week of 9/7***

*****Football Participation Requirement: All football participants must complete 10 practice sessions before they are eligible to participate in their first contest. Because of this requirement, students who wait until the official start of football practice to begin attending may not be eligible to play in the first game of the season. Students interested in playing football are strongly encouraged to attend as many summer camp and optional preseason practice sessions as possible to help meet the eligibility requirement and prepare for the season.***

One team with no anticipated participation limits. Because we had several first-time and younger players last season, and expect even more this year, we plan to offer additional opportunities beyond our regular game schedule. We will be looking to schedule several "B" level games specifically for players who are new to football, allowing them to gain valuable game experience and continue developing their skills in a supportive environment.

*****Summer Football Camp—Middle School*****

\$100 August 10-13 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Registration Deadline: August 9, 2025

For students in grades 6–8, Located on the back field

Coach: Matt Andreas

This camp is designed for students who intend to play football at Blanchet in the 2026-27 season.

Co-ed Soccer: *Optional Practices Begin: Monday, August 24th, 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

Practice Officially Begins: Monday, August 31 | 4:00–5:30 p.m. Fall Contests begin week of 9/7

*Due to limited field availability, this is one of the programs that may require roster cuts. **Two coed teams (Blue/White) will be formed based on player evaluations, with space for approximately 30–35 participants.** Evaluations will be conducted at the beginning of the season to ensure balanced teams and provide the best possible experience for all student-athletes. Depending on registration numbers, roster limits may be necessary to maintain appropriate team sizes and maximize player development and participation opportunities.*

Coed Soccer Camp—Elem/Middle School

\$100 August 24-27 9:00 a.m.–10:30 p.m.
Registration Deadline: August 23, 2026
For boys & girls entering grades 5–8 in Fall of 2026
Coach: Tina Pearson

Volleyball - *Optional Practices Begin: Monday, August 24 | 3:30–5:30 p.m.*

Practice Officially Begins: Monday, August 31 | 3:30–5:30 p.m. Fall Contests begin week of 9/7

Two teams (Blue/White) and a Developmental Team (Grey) will be formed based on evaluations. ***To create the best experience for all student-athletes, evaluations will take place at the beginning of the season, and roster limits will be placed on the A & B Teams. No limit will be placed on the Developmental Team***

Coed Volleyball Team & Skills Camp—Elem/Middle School

\$100 August 10-13 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Registration Deadline: August 9, 2026
For girls entering grades 5–8 in Fall of 2026
Coach: Brogan Olsen
Learning skills, fundamentals and having fun!

Winter Sports: Girls Basketball, Co-ed Swimming, and Boys Basketball

Swimming: *Optional Practices Begin: Monday, October 13th, Times TBD.*

Practice Officially Begins: Monday, October 26th | Practice TBD. Contests begin the week of 11/9.

No participation cap is anticipated.

Girls Basketball: *Optional Practices (Open Gym) can start on 10/13; Time TBD*

Evaluations/Practices begin on 10/26; from 3:30-5:30pm. Contests begin the week of 11/9.

Just like Volleyball, Two teams (Blue, White) and a Developmental Team (Grey) will be formed based on evaluations. ***To create the best experience for all student-athletes, evaluations will take place at the beginning of the season, and roster limits will be placed on the A & B Teams. No limit will be placed on the Developmental Team.***

Girl Basketball Regular Season ends with the Play-off on 12/14; Extended Season for A Team members attending the Annual St. Paul Tournament, includes additional practices,

games TBD. The season concludes for the A Team at the Annual St. Paul Tournament on February 12/13.

Coed Swimming: Open/Optional Swims start on 10/13; Times TBD

Practices begin on 10/26; Time TBD. Contests begin week of 11/9;

Final event TBA (usually in mid-December). *Those that qualify will be able to participate in selected events in January/February.*

Boys Basketball: Optional Practices (Open Gym) can start on 11/2; Time TBD

Pre-Season Game/Tournaments for A Team includes additional practices, games in November/December.

Evaluations/Practices begin on January 4th. Contests begin the week of 1/19. The school season ends on 3/1 with the Boys Basketball Play-off on 3/1.

Just like Girls Basketball, Two teams (Blue, White) and a Developmental Team (Grey) will be formed based on evaluations. *To create the best experience for all student-athletes, evaluations will take place at the beginning of the season, and roster limits will be placed on the A & B Teams. No limit will be placed on the Developmental Team. For the A team, the Annual St. Paul Tournament on February 12/13 is included.*

Spring Sports: (Baseball, Softball, Co-ed Track, and Club Golf)

Baseball: Optional Open Field/Batting Practices can start on 2/15; Time TBD

Evaluations/Practices begin on March 1st. Contests begin the week of 3/15 (before Spring Break). Baseball Play-off week of 5/13

Two teams (A & B) with an anticipated roster of 20-22 players.

Softball: Optional Open Field/Batting Practices can start on 2/15; Time TBD

Evaluations/Practices begin on March 1st. Contests begin the week of 3/15 (before Spring Break). Baseball Play-off week of 5/13

Two teams (A & B) with an anticipated roster of 20-22 players.

Co-ed Track & Field: Optional Workouts can start on 2/15; Time TBD

Practices officially begin on March 1st. Contests begin the week of 3/15 (before Spring Break). Final Meet in mid-May TBA.

No participation cap is anticipated.