

To Parents and Students:

Welcome to the 2009/10 soccer season. We are anticipating that many students will participate this year and we want to begin as soon as possible. During our first week we will analyze how many teams are necessary at each level.

The large tournament (7 on 7), with all the other five International Schools of China (ISC) schools, will be hosted in Qingdao on April 9-10. This gives us a full season to prepare for our competition. Our first practices will start January 26. This will give us 2 weeks of some conditioning before the Chinese New Year holiday.

We will try to have four teams this year: middle school boys and girls and high school boys and girls. We have also opened the season up to our 5th grade boys. Everyone will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:10-4:40. We will be able to use the soccer fields at Kai Fa Qu #1 High School (behind WYIS) and Jiang Han University Fields. If you do not want your child to travel to Jiang Han University for any reason, please let Jeff Kingma know.

We are also scheduling several games against local competition. These games will be held on Thursdays or Fridays after school. Due to the system our competition plays under, we cannot know exact details until close to the date. We will provide game days ahead of time and specific details about where and when the week before the matches.

It is our goal to send several teams to the tournament, but we cannot confirm this until we know how many students wish to participate. If your child is asked to go to the tournament, there will be a 700RMB charge to assist in travel costs (which is approximately 30-40% of total costs).

We are attempting to practice and prepare teams at the middle and high school levels. We will take teams of about 8-10 to Qingdao which means it is possible that all students will not be able to attend the tournament. Students will be selected based on their dedication to practices, effort, grades (C or better), and on their ability to fit into the team. This will be communicated clearly at the beginning of the season to all participants.

In addition, we require all athletes to maintain a "C" average in all of their classes in order to participate in practice and the tournament. Students who do not maintain this average will be required to go to after school study assistance and may be required to miss practices/games.

Soccer players will also have several expectations this year. (1) Attend all practices and games (unless excused by coach), (2) Attend practices and games dressed in appropriate athletic clothes and shoes (does not have to be school uniform), (3) Try their best every day, (4) Respect their coach(es) and teammates, (5) Bring water bottle(s) to practice and games and (6) Have fun!!

Finally, as it is with all after school activities this year, students who participate will be required to pay a 100RMB fee to assist in equipment and resources for the season. Please place the money in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it and return it to their coach by the end of the first week.

The coaching staff is as follows (up for change depending on amount of students):

Middle School Boys = Joel Masson

Middle School Girls = Becky Mohrlang, Suzy Xu

High School Boys = John Gronseth (father of Stephen -10th grade and Joey - 8th grade), Herb Mittler

High School Girls = Karen Miller

Thanks, and we look forward to a great season. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kingma
Athletic Director