

March 26, 2020

Dear Wizards Parents, Coaches, Athletic, Families, and Friends

I'd like to provide an update with regard to the current situation as it applies to the Wizards program, basketball in general, and all of us.

Being a previous collegiate athlete myself, a coach that works closely with children and young adults, and a social worker, I can say with certainty that our Wizards participants have tremendous qualities. These qualities will help them get through this difficult time. With the crisis that exists today, please continue to remind your participant that their health is a priority, both physical health and mental health. They can take this time to work on their basketball skills, but individually, in a safe environment.

BASKETBALL WILL BE BACK

This period of time is loaded with teachable moments. I do know the big question is when will we return? We don't know, but my response is when it's safe. We're anticipating extending the spring session once all is deemed clear to return to basketball training and competition. We also have alternative plans for our Wizards basketball summer and fall sessions for grades 3rd thru High School.

In the meantime, let's keep the kids busy and stay in conversation about how to respond when facing adversity....through perseverance! This is a quality I demand in the huddle on the basketball court when it's the fourth quarter, down four points, no ball possession, and twenty seconds remain. And I'm telling the players the focus is... stay together to win together.

From a very young age, our kids learn valuable life lessons from youth sports, I know I did. These lessons shape their character, give them self-confidence, teach them leadership skills, enable them to cope with failure, and work together to overcome challenges. An opponent is coming at us at this very moment. They're definitely in our way to victory.

We need to knock down this pandemic and move past it....and we will!

A wise man once told me, "Tough times don't last forever, but tough people do".

Please stay healthy, stay ready, and thank you for staying with the Wizards basketball program.

Regards,

Duncan Ward (Coach Dunc)
Wizards Basketball Director