



Arizona Lutheran Academy

6036 South 27th Avenue • Phoenix, Arizona 85041 • 602-268-8686 • ALAcoyotes.org

Coyotes,

The school year is fast approaching and so is the start for our Coyote athletic teams. There is no way to know what challenges and blessings will come our way during our sports seasons. I also can't predict what kind of on-the-field success our teams will have. But I know that our athletic program will be successful if we live out Arizona Lutheran's core values of *Faith, Family, and Future*.

Faith is seen and heard when it is put into practice on the playing fields and courts, in the school hallways, in the locker room, and in our sportsmanship. Coyotes, how can you put your faith into action?

Family is created when we build and strengthen our relationships while loving and respecting each other. Genuine relationships matter and our student body is blessed with student-athletes of many backgrounds and athletic abilities. Family means that we embrace, celebrate, and support each other and our different blessings.

Future is about having perspective. There is no guarantee that hard work in all aspects of athletics will result in a championship. Our Christian faith reminds us that our worth is not based on winning or losing; but, on the fact that Jesus loves us so much that he died on the cross for our sins.

ALA's coaching staff looks forward to working with our parents and student-athletes as we all strive to serve and honor God as part of the athletic program! I pray that our coaches, fans, and athletes live out these core values!

I am sharing some information of note as we kick off our fall sports seasons. Please contact me or Mrs. Solofra (solofra@alacoyotes.org) with any questions or concerns.

God's blessings,

DAVID PETER, MCAA, CAA
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR | HEAD FOOTBALL COACH | INSTRUCTOR

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1. Athletic Attendance Policy Change

- a. **There were no major changes made, it was rewritten to provide more clarity.**
- b. Attendance at school is a prerequisite to representing ALA in extra-curricular events. Therefore:
 - i. To be eligible to participate in an extra-curricular activity (practice or competition), a student shall attend all classes prior to any early release for a scheduled extra-curricular event.
 - ii. Regardless of the time required to participate in a scheduled extracurricular event, a student shall attend all classes the following school day.
 - iii. Failure to attend classes cited above can be excused based upon a medical/dental visit evidenced by a note. Doctor/dental appointments and applicable notes should be provided to the ALA office.

2. Coyote Captain's Council

- a. Each season (fall, winter, spring), I will periodically meet with the captains from all that season's teams. I want to help our captains develop their leadership skills so they can best serve their team and our school and athletic community at large.

3. Partnership with BSN

- a. Through a partnership with BSN, the athletic program will offer an apparel and gear store year-round.
- b. In addition, each team will have a team store with sport-specific gear and apparel. Each team store will be open for a short time prior to that team's season.
- c. Information and links will be shared by coaches and through our parent blog.

4. Athletic Fees, Athletic Sponsorships, & Thrivent

- a. ALA will not be assessing any athletic participation fees for any sports starting in the fall of 2023.
 - i. Please consider donating to team meals and individual athletic programs.
- b. If you own a business or know of someone who does, would you consider partnering with us and being an athletic sponsor?
 - i. Different ways to support Coyote athletics can be found at this link: [Athletic Sponsorship](#)
- c. Are you a Thrivent member?
 - i. "Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money. Your team provides the passion that brings your project to life" (www.thrivent.com).
 - ii. Your Thrivent Action grant could be used to help in a variety of ways (team meals, team banquets, team snacks, campus clean-up etc...)

5. Character Development:

- a. We believe that "*One coach of character can transform a kid; One athlete of character can change a team; One team of character can impact a school; One school of character can improve a community*" (Wade Salem, Character Matters)
- b. The theme for this year's Character Matters Program is "Conquer Within". This program provides tools for our coaches to help build the culture of their program as part of this school. Each season has character qualities that will be focused on in each sport at the same time and each program will award a competitor of the week.
- c. At the end of each athletic season, head coaches will select a Coyote Character award winner from their teams. The athlete selected best exemplifies Christian character, servant-leadership, dedication to academic work, commitment to his/her faith, and commitment to the team.
- d. At the end of each athletic season, the varsity head coaches will nominate one of their players to be considered for that season's Competitor of the Season. Each season's winner will be determined by the varsity head coaches.

6. Communication

- a. ALA's extra-curricular handbook is a wonderful reference tool for all our athletic policies. Our website and calendar are updated regularly to reflect any schedule changes. Coaches will regularly communicate each week with any important reminders.

7. Athletic Registration

- a. All athletes need to complete all the necessary steps prior to participating in official practices. The athletic page of our website provides step-by-step instructions for this and a link to our registration site, www.familyid.com.

8. Athletic Trainer

- a. Many of you know our certified head athletic trainer, Mike McKenney. He is a professor at GCU and a dad to an ALA student. Mike and I work together, and he is willing to help diagnose a student's injury before you go to the doctor. Your student-athlete should speak with me so I can make the necessary arrangements.

9. Team Parents

- a. We are looking for a "team parent" to help each team with planning home game meals, the season-end banquet, flowers for Senior Night, and coordination of the season-end coach recognition. This will not cost you anything—except time! Please contact your team's head coach if you're interested.