

## **St. Clement's School Athletic Philosophy**

The St. Clement's Athletic Program is a graduating type of program in terms of emphasis on playing time for individual athletes and on competition.

- At the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, skill building, teamwork, the concept of competition, and the discipline required to be on an athletic team, are the primary focus. At the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade level participants are given the opportunity to play in all games. Playing time in actual games will vary for each athlete and from game to game. Fifth and sixth grades are the introductory years that allow students to decide if athletics is the direction they want to pursue in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade there may one or two teams maximum per gender. The number of teams is based on the number of interested athletes. The interested athletes will try-out and will be placed on the team that the coaches and athletic director deem to be most appropriate for each child. If the number of athletes trying out for a team exceeds what would be the most efficient number an elimination process based on skill, understanding of the game, and effort will be used.
- At the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level the emphasis will be on continued skill development, an understanding of each athlete's role as a team player, a higher level of competition, and the discipline required to participate on a junior high school team. Each 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team will operate as a competitive team which seeks to identify the best athletes for preparation and experience into high school athletics. All athletes at this level will be given the opportunity to participate in games as often as possible at the coach's discretion.

Our philosophy attempts to incorporate into our program a variety of skill levels for all students wishing to participate in our athletic curriculum and make the experience as enjoyable as it can be for everyone involved. However, we also have a responsibility to emerging athletes to prepare and cultivate their best ability and talent for their future athletic experience. We want to help our best athletes excel and be prepared to advance in high school, while giving interested students an opportunity to participate at various levels.