

THUNDERBOLT

TEAM COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE,
SERVICE, PURPOSE, FAITH, INTEGRITY
AND CHARITY

P_x

PARENT MANUAL

FOOTBALL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LINCOLN PIUS X VISION STATEMENT

CORE VALUES

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **Family Information**

PLAYER AND TEAM INFORMATION

- **Practice**
- **Participation in Other Sports/Activities and Part-Time Jobs**
 - **In-season**
 - **Out-of-season**
 - **Part-time jobs**
- **College Recruiting**
- **Violation of School Policy or Rules**
 - **Hazing**
 - **Social media**

PARENT INFORMATION

- **Parent Role**
 - **Parent-Player, Parent-Coach, Parent-Parent**

LINCOLN PIUS X VISION STATEMENT

To graduate men and women who will experience the joy of an authentic, Christ-centered life of service, in which they will use their gifts to help others know and love God.

LINCOLN PIUS X CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE

Fulfilling our greatest potential

- **Foster an understanding and an expectation of the individuals accountability to self and team, and through that accountability we are capable of achieving more than our perceived physical, mental, and emotional limits**

SERVICE

Desiring to humbly help others

- **Embracing the realization that we are not always the center of attention and that many times our job is not glamorous but performing it to the best of our abilities is vital for the achievement of a group working towards a common goal**

PURPOSE

Using our God-given talents well

- **Dedicating ourselves to self-improvement of talents through hard work, training, and study and offering up those efforts to God with the understanding that all we are and all we have is given to us by Him to glorify Him**

FAITH

Believing and trusting in Jesus and His Church

- **Remembering that our salvation is not by our doing but through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and we should demonstrate that faith through prayer and our own personal sacrifice**

INTEGRITY

Doing what is right

- **Learning about how the values we have guide the decisions we make and form the people we will be, and these choices have a lasting effect on our teammates, coaches, families, and friends**

CHARITY

Loving God above all things

- **Knowing that God and all he has created deserves our complete love and respect**



PERSONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ **The youngest of four, born in Lincoln, NE to James and Irene Kearney**
- ❖ **Raised as a member of Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish**
- ❖ **Graduate of Lincoln Pius X High School (1998)**
- ❖ **Graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2004)**
- ❖ **Married to my wife Cathy on August 11th, 2007 at Saint Peters Church Lincoln, NE. (two days before football practice began)**
- ❖ **Blessed with the birth of our daughter Willa Rose on January 28th, 2009. Blessed a second time with the birth of our daughter Mae Lillian on August 9th, 2011**
- ❖ **Current members of Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish**

PLAYER AND TEAM INFORMATION

The Pius X football team is an extension of the vision statement and core values established within the walls of Pius X High School. A commitment to the Pius X Football team affords young men a unique opportunity to experience and develop this vision and core values on and off the field. The coaching staff will be an example of these core values, and will work to establish and develop them when instructing, educating, and motivating student athletes to achieve through the vehicle of football.

Practice

Daily commitment to individual and team improvement is the cornerstone of any successful program. Lasting success is not built on big leaps, it is built on daily improvement of fundamentals and execution within a defined role. This is a fundamental life lesson, showing up to school, work, or life in general, and giving your best will create an opportunity for success. The opposite, inconsistency, creates a likelihood of long-term failure. The only acceptable reasons to miss practice is classroom help, illness, or family emergency. If a student athlete does miss practice due to one of these reasons he will be expected to make up each missed practice by completing extra work before or after practice when he returns. This policy does not indicate “punishment” for missing but allows the student athlete to demonstrate his commitment to his teammates and his commitment to the team by completing some of the work he missed. Absences for any other reason will also include completing extra work before or after practice, but will also include a reduction in playing time, inability to suit up for competition, or (repeated offenses) possible removal from team.

Participation in other Sports/Activities and Part-Time Jobs

In-Season

Once practice starts, the commitment to the Lincoln Pius X Football team must be a total commitment. It is a hindrance to be fully involved with another sporting team during the football season. The risk of injury, fatigue, or absence from your commitment to your teammates and performance of your role on the team cannot afford to be jeopardized. If participation, on a *very* limited basis, for another sport is desired that must be discussed with Coach Kearney prior to the football season beginning. Any participation not discussed with Coach Kearney will be a violation of team rules and lead to suspension or possible dismissal from the team.

Out-of-Season

All student athletes that participate on the Lincoln Pius X Football team should pursue opportunities, outside of the football season, to participate and compete on other athletic teams or within other activities at Lincoln Pius X. Participation in other sports or activities provides an opportunity to see and apply the “core values” in different ways. It also provides an opportunity to compete and build on other important character qualities such as hard work, dedication, and teamwork. A well rounded high school experience prevents “burnout” or “overuse” and promotes multifaceted development.

Part-Time Jobs

Part-time jobs are an important part of the high school experience. Many jobs help to teach students how to better manage time, resources, and school work. All are qualities of the next stage in life needed to be successful. All these qualities are part of the student athlete's life, and participation in football will demand the development of these qualities. If a part-time job is necessary during the football season, it should be such that it will not interfere with the student athlete's commitment to the Pius X Football team.

College Recruiting

Many student athletes have the desire to play football after their time at Lincoln Pius X High School. It is part of my job to help them achieve this goal. I am committed to help them organize and complete any paperwork that is necessary for participation, understand the differences in collegiate levels and set realistic goals, contact college coaches, and set up meetings with recruiters for the purpose of playing collegiately. Furthermore I will have a meeting, as a group, with interested student athletes the summer before their junior year to discuss recruiting, options and resources available, and expectations of recruiters.

Violation of School Policy or Rules

Participation on the Lincoln Pius X Football team has the ability to greatly enrich the growth and development of a student athlete into the man that God wants him to be. It is an absolute privilege to be a part of the Pius X football team and because of that privilege members will be held to a higher standard. Since the team is an extension of the school setting all school policies and rules will apply to the football team. Any violation of school policies or rules and subsequent punishment will take precedent over any activity associated with the football team. Additionally due to the nature of football being a team sport in which trust is developed between teammates and between player and coach, breaking of that trust may result in additional steps to be taken by the student athlete to regain lost trust. Those steps may including but are not limited to, team apology, sacrifice of playing time, and added work before or after practice. In some cases a player may need to be removed from the team to better serve him and his ability to deal with any issues. Pages 38-40 of the *Student Handbook* defines and outlines the consequences a student is subject to if a violation of policy or rules occurs.

Hazing...

(Ch. 28 Sec. 311.06: Nebraska State Law on Hazing)...any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any organization...

The Pius X Football program and all entities within will have no tolerance for hazing. A student athlete earns his privileged status to be a part of the Pius X Football program by his commitment to acquiring and developing the core values discussed previously. Any belief in a system of embarrassment, punishment, or harm as a way to show commitment or gain privilege is contrary to the message of Jesus and to the goal of participation in football. *This is subject to the "Violation of School Policy or Rules" paragraph above.*

Social Media...

Your presence on social media is a big part of who you are as a person and as a teammate representing the Pius X football team. Negative comments towards teammates, coaches, opponents, etc. are not in line with the mission and core values of Pius X High School. If you

have a concern or problem with someone or something associated with the football team you should deal with it appropriately by talking directly to them or a coach about the concern or problem. It should also be noted that recruiters, and future bosses are looking at your presence on social media to help them determine whether you are someone they want to be a part of their teams or businesses. *This is subject to the "Violation of School Policy or Rules" paragraph above.*

PARENT INFORMATION

Unquestionably one of the main factors in the success of students, student athletes, coaches, and teams at Pius X High School is the support and sacrifice of parents. That support and sacrifice allows student athletes and teams to focus on the process of learning and becoming the young men and women that the vision statement and core values strive for them to be. That same support and sacrifice is extended to the coaches that are entrusted with using their sport or activity to further deepen the growth of the core values and ultimately the attainment of the vision statement for all students. The parents are without question one of the first reasons given when asked “Why do you teach and coach at Pius X High School?” or “What makes Pius X High School so great?”. I will work closely with the “Parent Group” to organize the meals, get together, and other activities that are such a great part of the Lincoln Pius X Football program. I have also taken the opportunity to define the “Parent-Player”, “Parent-Coach”, and “Parent-Parent” relationships that are part of a successful program.

Parent role

Parent-Player

The sport of football presents daily experiences and circumstances, successes and failures. Away from the field the “Parent-Player” relationship is vital to the student athlete in understanding and using these experiences and circumstances, successes and failures to grow. The parent helps the student athlete by showing support and focusing on growth within the core values. The parent is also able to reinforce the importance and value of being part of a team, similar to a family, or the body of Christ, trying to achieve something greater than the individual would ever be able to on their own. By fostering a positive “Parent-Player” relationship the parent has the opportunity to use football to grow themselves, and to strengthen the bond between them and the student athlete.

Parent-Coach

Both parent and coach are dedicated to service and sacrifice to help the student athlete achieve success. The “Parent-Coach” relationship is cooperative in nature using their setting to educate. The coach focuses on the student athlete’s success through daily growth and improvement in understanding of the core values via the vehicle of football always with an emphasis on the importance of team success being a sign of the individual’s success. Similarly the parent focuses on the student athlete’s success through daily improvement or understanding of the core values via the home setting and within the family.

The “Parent-Coach” relationship is not cooperative in nature when it is focused on less meaningful measurements of growth such as winning and losing, individual success or failure, and playing time. These more superficial measurements of success can be contrary to, and become a barrier to growth within the core values. These topics will not be a part of, or discussed within the “Parent-Coach” relationship. Just as the parent must make decisions that are best for the entire family’s success, so to the coach must make decisions that are best for the team’s success. If a student athlete feels the need to discuss his performance then the parent should encourage their son to meet with his position coach and/or the head coach.

Parent-Parent

Often overlooked is the relationship from one parent to another or from the parent(s) of one student athlete to the parent(s) of another student athlete. This relationship in many ways parallels the team dynamic that the student athletes share. The "Parent-Parent" relationship has the opportunity to be a powerful example of cooperation, service, and sacrifice that goes to the heart of the core values that are being learned and developed by the student athlete. To a degree, the "Parent-Parent" relationship gives parents the opportunity to live the same experience as the student athlete. It can also present the opportunity for a parent to grow within the core values deepening the relationship formed between the parent, student athlete, coach, and Lincoln Pius X High School community. This relationship, if embraced, only serves to make the overall learning experience of football greater for the student athletes.