

## FEEDER PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Feeder Program Philosophy – the 5 basic principles:

- 1) The kids should be given every opportunity to have fun.
- 2) Junior Vikings are the little brothers of the Varsity Vikings, and both groups will be treated as one family.
- 3) The Junior Vikings will have great coaches and volunteers who are dedicated to fundamentals.
- 4) Varsity coaches are encouraged to be involved. As Varsity demands permit, they will make every effort to attend games and practices.
- 5) Fundamentals, technique, and effort are points of emphasis. Beginning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the high school's offensive and defensive schemes will be incorporated. Grades 3 through 7 should be focused on developing fundamentally sound football players. It is this basic teaching and knowledge of the game that is critical before entering the Varsity program.

Football is a fun game. Our primary goal at the middle school level is to show players just how fun it can be. They will be given the opportunity to meet new friends, maintain active lifestyles, and learn a great deal about football.

The Junior Vikings are part of the Viking family, and we have a positive and open line of communication between the Junior Viking coaching staff and the Varsity coaching staff. All Vikings are encouraged to positively represent our schools and community through various events during the year.

Our Junior Vikings coaches are volunteers eager to teach kids the game of football. Through meetings and clinics with our Varsity staff, they should be well versed in what is going on at the high school level.

The Varsity coaches are involved with the youth program and understand that the Junior Vikings admire and respect the Vikings, just as the Vikings admire and respect the Junior Vikings. Along with Varsity coaches being involved with the Junior Vikings, the Varsity players will be involved as well by helping run camps and clinics. We encourage all high school coaches and players to attend the Junior Vikings games on Saturday afternoons. The high school coaching staff meets at 6am every Saturday following a Varsity game to evaluate film. Following film, the Freshmen, JV, and Varsity teams all have practice. At the conclusion of practice, all coaches again meet to prepare for the upcoming opponent. We make every attempt to break at noon, in order to travel to the Junior Viking game.

The Junior Vikings will run the same offense, defense and special teams as the Varsity Vikings, but all phases will be scaled down to teach concepts and fundamentals. Fundamentals must be the main concentration. If we can get the kids to understand the basics of tackling, protecting the football, and effort - offense, defense and special teams can be taught later. A player entering high school with knowledge of the game is far more prepared to learn schemes, plays, etc. Additionally, this helps our coaches focus on winning games instead of teaching the basics of the game.