



2024-2025 WARREN COUNTY YMCA 2nd-3rd Grade CO-ED Basketball Parent's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the 2nd-3rd Grade CO-ED Basketball Program at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you for having your youth in our program! First things first, our YMCA basketball programs and leagues are all about the kids. It's all about teaching them the "fun"amentals of the great sport of Basketball. We thank you for the opportunity to help lead your kids!

For our 2nd-3rd Grade group, we will meet over the next 3 Mondays (December 7, 14 & 21). We will meet following the Kindergarten-1st Grade Rookies Basketball games end (Roughly around 11:40am). Today, the kids will go through our season opening clinic working on basic basketball skills focusing on dribbling, passing, basic rebounding and shooting. We may need a few volunteers if you are interested! Some of the kids may already know these skills, but it is important that we go over them as a group as some of the kids in the program may have never touched a basketball before. This also gives me and my staff the opportunity to better see each kids' abilities and skills so I can better pair them up to make as even of teams as possible. The following 2 weeks, the kids will work with their teams and coaches prior to the holiday break. We will begin games each week following the holidays.

The CO-ED Basketball program's schedule is as follows:

December 7th – Intro Skills Clinic – 11:40-1:00pm

December 14th – Practice #1 with Teams. Skill Stations

December 21st – Practice #2 with Teams. Go Over Rules

December 28th – No basketball (Holiday Break)

January 4th – Picture Day & First Game Day

Games – All Games will take place on Saturdays. We will have 6 games on the following dates – Jan. 4, Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 & Feb. 8. We will offer up to 2 make-up game dates that will be used if needed due to cancellations. Games on the 4th & 11th will start closer to 11:30am due to the K-1st Rookies games still going on. My hope is that they will end on time, and our games will move up to start as early as 8:30am starting on Jan. 18 (Week 3).

Picture Day – As stated above, we will have team pictures taken prior to our 1st games starting on January 4th. When you arrive, I will give out team shirts. All kids will have shirts for pictures. We will begin games immediately following pictures.

Make-up Days/Cancellations – There will be 2 make up day options at the end of the session as stated above (Feb. 15 & Feb. 22). These dates will be used only IF we have to cancel one of the above dates. Cancellations will be made ONLY if the winter weather is deemed too dangerous for traveling in for games or there is an

issue with the building (example = power outage). If I feel like we won't be able to have the program, I will cancel, but I will wait until the last possible minute before doing so to ensure it is the right call for the program. If you live out of town, and don't think you can make it, but I have not cancelled, it is on you to decide if you want to come or not. I will wait as long as I can before making the call. I will send everyone automatic message from our computer system and will text coaches who will also let you know. Please avoid bombarding the Y with calls if you have not heard from me yet.

Communication – I am asking that you PLEASE “opt in” to receive messages from the YMCA via Daxko Engage. To do so, simply text WCYMCA to 54539. If you choose not to do so, that's fine, however it is on you if you do not receive all communication throughout the season. You can stop receiving messages from the Y at any time.

Volunteer Coaches – This program is one of several throughout the year that we need help from volunteers to help as team coaches. My staff and I will be focused on refereeing and running game clocks so the more help we have with leading the kids, the better! If we do not have enough coaches, my staff and I will run the games like we do for the Rookies Basketball program where we coach and ref at the same time. This is much trickier with this older group, and it would require extra help from my staff, if available. With all of that said, any help you can provide is extremely important and welcome! I will host a coaches' meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11th @5:30pm in the AP Room. If you want to coach, but can't make it to the meeting, please let me know. We will go over program info, rules and I will give you your team roster. Unlike our other sports, you will not be required to run additional practices outside of the 2 weeks of practices in December.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child's team, the cost for the basketball season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of your child's team shirts as well as on the game schedule. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork sent to me by the end of week 2 prior to when I order shirts and make game schedules. As an extra thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence during all Spring, Summer and Fall sports in 2025.

Thank you so much for reading this letter. I hope you and your child enjoy our program! If you have any questions, call me at the Y at 309-734-3183, or email me at ben@warrencountyyymca.org.

**Thank You,
Ben Davis**

Youth Development Director

The Y: We're for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility