

Dr. Terry Ward
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Elizabeth Kupiec
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Julie Criss
Committee on Special Education Chairperson

September 11, 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we enter another exciting season of school athletics, I want to take a moment to emphasize a critical aspect of our commitment to creating a positive and respectful environment for everyone involved at school events.

In recent years, we have witnessed instances of inappropriate fan behavior at our school athletic events that have detracted from the sportsmanship, camaraderie, and overall enjoyment of the experience. Such incidents not only reflect poorly on our school district but also have the potential to harm the emotional well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, and officials.

I want to make it abundantly clear that inappropriate fan behavior will not be tolerated at any school athletic event, whether it be a home or away contest. The Cato-Meridian Central School District values the principles of sportsmanship, respect, and fair play, and we expect our spectators to uphold these principles.

Here are some key expectations for all those attending our athletic events:

Respect for All: Treat all athletes, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators with courtesy and respect. Remember that everyone is here to enjoy the game.

Positive Support: Cheer for your team and applaud good plays, but avoid using negative language or derogatory comments towards anyone.

Stay in Designated Areas: Spectators must remain in designated seating areas and refrain from entering the playing field or court without permission.

No Offensive Materials: Do not display offensive signs, banners, or clothing that may be considered disrespectful or inappropriate.

Obey Officials: Accept the decisions of game officials, even if you disagree. Disputes should be addressed through proper channels, not from the stands.

Be Mindful of Noise: While enthusiasm is encouraged, please be mindful of excessive noise-making that may disrupt the game.

Report Issues: If you witness inappropriate fan behavior, please report it to event staff or administrators immediately.

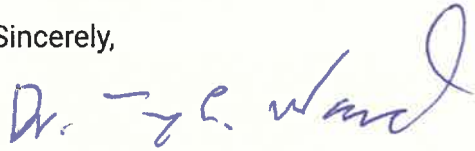
If these rules cannot be followed, you leave us no choice but to ask you to leave the event. Furthermore, this may result in banning you from future sporting events. Lastly, if warranted we will be filing charges with law enforcement.

We believe that school athletics should be a source of pride, unity, and character development for our students. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our athletic events exemplify the values we hold dear.

We appreciate your continued support of our student-athletes and our school district. Let us work together to make every athletic event a positive and memorable experience for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Terry L. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dr. Terry L. Ward
Superintendent of Schools