

# Higley High School Baseball Program

## Mission Statement

Our mission for the Higley High School Baseball program is to provide development and teach life skills through baseball. We not only want to produce successful baseball players through the teaching and training of specific fundamentals but we want to provide a vehicle by which to teach kids life lessons and develop characteristics that will allow them to be successful throughout their lives both on and off the field.

Our baseball philosophy is one of long term development. We believe that if we train the individual skills and fundamental of the game that winning will take care of itself. We do not spend a great deal of time preparing to win a game or practicing plays that will improve our win/loss record. Far too often in the modern landscape of youth baseball winning becomes the ultimate goal while the individual players' development takes a back seat. All too frequently the best players get overused and suffer burnout and injury while the lesser players get banished to left field or waste away on the bench. We are very cognizant of this trend and our mission is to prove that there is a better way to approach youth baseball development. We believe in training as opposed to practicing. We know that kids learn by doing and by being engaged in activity rather than standing around listening to coaches tell them what to do. We want to teach players how to play as opposed tell them what to do. We want fundamentally sound, energetic and intelligent players.

At the heart of our philosophy is the belief that to truly get the most out of any endeavor, kids have to have a deep rooted and inherent love for the activity. By focusing on the actions of the game, keeping them active and engaged in the process and submersing them in a positive and conscientious environment, their love of the game will grow strong and their performances will reflect their passion. Our focus is on the individual processes of the game and not on the outcome or the numbers on the scoreboard. We want our kids to enjoy playing the game for the sake of the game itself and not for any exterior motives. We believe that kids will get the most out of any activity if they are doing it for the pure enjoyment of the activity in and of itself and that success or failure is not tied to any results.

We know for a fact that the game has a lot to give every player regardless of their ability. It gives them exercise and activity after school. It provides a large support group and network of friends who have like-minded goals and aspirations. It gives them reason to go to school and perform academically and act responsibly and develops a sense of pride in themselves and their school.

We believe that the fundamental characteristics necessary to become a good baseball player are the same ones required to be a good father, employee, spouse or general member of society. Regardless of the extent of a player's baseball career, they still need to have a strong work ethic, they need to learn how to communicate with people, to support people, to lead and to follow. Successful people are present and punctual in what they are doing and they have a sense of unity and a connection to something greater than themselves. We strongly believe that these values and qualities transcend the

baseball field and that by teaching and reinforcing them that we will develop excellent baseball players and even better human beings to send off into the world.

We determine our success by how we carry ourselves every day. Our success is not subject to any result or to anyone other than ourselves. We have a specific set of process oriented goals that allow us to be successful regardless of how many games we win or how many trophies we raise. We judge ourselves on the amount of development that takes place in our young men from the time they show up until the time they leave.