

Dear Parents and Athletes,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Basehor-Linwood Baseball Program. It is our hope that this will be a year filled with successes at all levels of our program. The coaching staff is dedicated to providing a quality program in which your son can learn the mechanics, fundamentals, and strategies of baseball along with attitudes and habits that will benefit him in all aspects of his life. Our staff coaching staff coaches because we love the game and enjoy being around your sons. Your support in our program is greatly appreciated. Please read the following pages to get familiar with our program. If additional information is needed, please let us know.

Sincerely,
The Basehor-Linwood Baseball Coaching Staff

Philosophy

- This coaching staff believes in providing a program in which each athlete has an opportunity to grow as an individual while understanding the meaning of a team concept. We believe athletics has the ability to provide us another opportunity to teach young men habits and life skills that will lead to success beyond the field. We believe the use of competition is a good thing and learning how to be steadfast in competition can be a necessary step to reaching each athlete's potential as men.
- We believe that the whole of is much greater than the sum of its parts. This program will strive to insure the aspect of a whole team rather than a collection of talented people. Individual athletes will be asked to understand, perform, and complete a role that will be essential to the idea of our one goal for the team. Sharing a singular goal for the team can ultimately bring out the greatest attitudes and motivations for each athlete.
- We expect everyone involved with Basehor-Linwood High School Baseball program to act and communicate in a positive manner regarding players, parents, coaches, opponents, and game officials.
- This program will follow all disciplinary guidelines that USD 458 and Basehor-Linwood High School has set. This an educational environment, and we are a high school baseball team. This program's priorities will fall in line to what is the most beneficial for each individual student-athlete. These things will stay constant no matter the individual. We are governed by school board policies, KSHSAA's policies, and finally by this program's policies.
- High school baseball is a tool to help players grow into men, accept failure and success, understand their ability to control mental and emotional aspects of their life, and continue to strive for what they believe can be their potential as men.

Basehor-Linwood Baseball Program Standards

- 1) *Commitment comes first.*
- 2) *Academics come second.*
- 3) *Winning is important, but not winning at all costs.*
- 4) *Discipline is not the enemy of enthusiasm.*
- 5) *Off field success motivates on field excellence.*
- 6) *Positive team and individual expectations shall influence program wholeness.*
- 7) *Teaching and self-confidence in the whole baseball player.*
- 8) *Culture of persistence.*
- 9) *All players are on the same level whether they are a senior or a freshman.*
- 10) *Playing time is earned, not given.*

Basehor-Linwood Baseball Player Expectations:

- Every player will always run on and off the field.
- Every player will hustle to and from the bullpen.

- Any player that scores will be met by all teammates standing and congratulating them.
 - Every ball will be handed to the umpire.
 - Coaches will never have to tell players to retrieve a ball that is out of play.
 - No player will throw equipment.
 - No player will miss a sign.
 - Every batter that is in the hole will retrieve pass balls.
 - Every player will always know all game situations (ie. balls, strikes, outs).
 - Seniors will always be the first to serve and the last to be served.
 - No player will use profanity at practice or on game field.
 - Every player will wear their uniform in the proper manner.
 - No player will ever hang their head.
- o *Any player not meeting one of these expectations will be disciplined. This may take place during the game or during practice. Disciplinary measures are up to the discretion of the coaching staff.*

USD 458 Academic Expectations for Extra-curricular Activities Participation

- The Kansas State High School Activities Association requires that all students must pass at least five (5) new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight, or its equivalency, the previous semester or the last semester of attendance AND be enrolled in and attending a minimum of five (5) new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight, or its equivalency, during the present semester
- The local requirements of Basehor-Linwood High School are as follows: No student will be allowed to participate in any activities including: athletics, field trips, and Co-curricular activities not required for a grade. Out of State approved trips will follow KSHSAA regulations. This process will begin at progress report time of the first nine weeks (4 1/2 weeks into the grading period). Each student will then be put on an individual eligibility plan monitored each week throughout the semester. A student with a failing grade at that time will be put on probation for one week. If the student fails to improve on that failing grade at the end of the probationary period they will be ineligible to participate in an activity for one week. If they have failed to improve their grade they will continue to be ineligible. During the probationary period and/or ineligible period students are still required to practice with the team. Each student will only be allowed one probationary week. Each proceeding week a student will be on the failing list. Grade checks are due at 8am every Monday

On Field Behavior

- All Basehor-Linwood baseball players are held to a higher standard for their actions on the field.
- We believe mannerisms displayed on the field are a direct reflection of our community, our school, and our program.
- Whenever you wear a Basehor-Linwood baseball uniform you will wear it the way it is intended to be worn. This means hats are worn facing forward, and shirts are tucked in.
- Umpiring is something we cannot control and umpires do not play the game. Players play, Coaches coach and Umpires umpire.
- "Control what you can control".

Team Structure and Emphasis

- At each level of the program, there is a unique focus and degrees of emphasis placed on winning, certain skill-sets, and team environment. Naturally, as players continue through our program we will expect progression in all areas of the game.

- **Junior Varsity Team**
 - Approximately 14-18 players, freshman, sophomores or juniors, earn spots on this team. The coaches feel that these players have demonstrated a definite potential to play varsity in the future, but they still need to refine their skills and further their maturity physically and/or mentally.
 - With this team comes greater emphasis on competition. The coaches have higher expectations for these athletes to perform up to their capabilities and to begin to develop consistency. Playing time is never guaranteed. There is always an opportunity to move up to the varsity level if the coaches feel that the individual can contribute to the varsity program. It may also be the case that a varsity player could be moved down to the junior varsity team if that individual is not getting the playing time that was expected. The coaches expect a positive response from all players in situations of this type.
- **Varsity Team**
 - There are usually 14-18 players who make up this team. The primary emphasis at this level is winning baseball games. Playing time is never guaranteed. Those athletes selected are expected to perform at the highest level within the program on a consistent basis. These athletes' possess the qualities that the coaches consider essential to produce a competitive team at the varsity level. Participation is based on each individual's ability, attitude, and contributions made to the team. Players who have the privilege of earning a spot on the varsity team are expected to understand and embrace whatever role (*starting position player, pitcher only, courtesy runner, etc.*) the coaching staff has determined is best for the overall success of the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program.

Practices

- Practice sessions are extremely valuable to a successful season. We will develop practices that are purposeful and structured. We will focus on developing baseball fundamentals and team strategies necessary to provide us with an optimal chance for success. We feel that winning is nothing more than an outcome of good preparation. We understand that you cannot always control winning, but you can control the preparation to win.
- Practice will begin at 3:15pm. Players are expected to be at field by 3:05pm. Practices will conclude at 5:45pm.
- Practice will be outside unless that temperature is 29° or below. Players will protect their throwing arm at all times unless the temperature is 75° or higher.
- Players are expected to attend all practice sessions. Players are expected to be on time to all practices and meetings. Any situations that dictate a player will not be able to make practice or a meeting will need to be informed to coach as soon as possible.
- Players are expected to dress like baseball players while at practice. Players will need either white or gray practice pants. Pitchers should always wear long sleeve shirts and have heavier apparel as well during practice. You should always bring two pair of shoes to practice, a pair of baseball shoes for the field and a pair of turf shoes to wear in the batting cages. A Basehor-Linwood baseball hat will be worn at all times, if they player does not have a Basehor-Linwood baseball hat then any appropriate baseball hat will work. A baseball hat will never be worn backwards for any reason.

Game Day/Practice Clothes and Equipment

- We need to utilize our practice time as best as we can. With Kansas weather, you will need clothes for both indoor and outdoor practices. Bring whatever clothes you think you will need. Cleats, gym shoes, long sleeves, t-shirts, baseball pants, baseball glove, batting gloves, baseball hat, athletic

supporter with a protective cup are required for each practice. Players will always protect their throwing arm unless the coaching staff has informed that sleeves are not necessary.

- Each player will be given a hat, jersey, belt, socks and dri-fit shirt. A fee of \$45.00 will be need to be paid no later than Friday, March 10th 2017.
- We will provide each player with a game uniform that is to be turned back in at the conclusion of the season. Please wash and take care of your game uniforms. Uniforms are an expensive part of the financial picture and replacing a uniform can be extremely costly.
- Any athlete who arrives to a game with an unclean uniform is subject to decrease in playing time or suspension.
- All sleeves or undershirts for game day will be the color black, no other color or designs will be acceptable.

Spring Break Practices

- The baseball staff understands that Spring Break is a time for families to be together. At the same time, it is essential that players understand that coaches use practice time over the break to determine starting roles and playing time. The coaching staff does expect that if players are going on vacation over Spring Break that they do not miss practice.
- Spring Break practices will be held Wednesday-Friday during the week of March 20th. Time of practice will be announced before hand. As usual, all practice times are subject to change due to adverse weather conditions.

Attendance

- Attendance at all team functions is mandatory and attendance records will be kept. Players who miss a team function are required to notify the head coach with as much advanced notice as possible. It is up to the head coach to determine whether an absence is excused. If a player misses school and is excused with the attendance office, he will most likely be excused with the baseball program as well. Any absence may be changed to an excused absence if an emergency has caused an absence. In all cases, notification of the absence should be made as soon as possible. Be on time for all team functions. There will be makeup activities for every missed practice. Please take care of academic issues during advisory and before school.

Consequences for Tardies and Absences

- Any player that has late or has an unexcused absence for a team function or practice will be subject to consequences to be determined by the coaching staff.
- A second offense will result in issued consequences and suspension from one playing date and a meeting with the coaching staff.
- A third unexcused absence will result in issued consequences, suspension from a determined amount of playing dates, and a meeting with parents and coaching staff. Player removal from team may be result.
 - *Missing functions or practice due to academic reasons is not considered to be an excused absence. Please take care of these things before school, during advisory, or make other arrangements. If poor academic performance becomes an issue we may ask a player to temporarily forfeit their position within the program to get their academic affairs in order.*

Playing Time and Game Day Protocol

- Playing time and team placement rest solely on the shoulders of the coaching staff. During the season this will not be discussed at any time. Please respect this. The coaching staff will field the team that they feel gives the team the best opportunity to be successful on a given day. No player is guaranteed any amount of playing time in our program. This can be especially difficult if a player has come from a previous team philosophy that encourages equal playing time. Please respect the

coaches on game day and allow them to coach your son. Before and after games, players will be able to leave the dugout to visit parents, grandparents, fans, etc. Parents are not allowed on the field, in the dugout, or around the dugout area during games. Athletes will be provided appropriate means of hydration during all games. Transfer of any beverages or food should be done prior to the start of each game and away from dugout.

Varsity Lettering Policy

- Requirements for a Varsity Letter
 - The student athlete must make a significant impact on the team (33% of innings).
 - All varsity letter decisions will be made by coaching staff.
 - ✓ If a senior player has contributed to the varsity program, but has not met the requirements, the varsity coach may award a letter to that player for his senior year.
 - ✓ The varsity coach reserves the right to award a letter or provisional letter to a player who does not meet all the requirements.
 - ✓ All players will receive letters, bars, and pins after turning in their uniforms.

Post Season Play

- Per *KSHSAA* regulations, only 18 players can be placed on a Regional/State roster. Varsity team placement for most of or the entire regular season does not always guarantee that a player will earn a spot on that Regional/State roster. Sometimes other players may need to be placed on the roster in order to ensure us the best chances of success in the postseason. With this being said, ALL seniors will have the opportunity to dress for postseason play. It is up to the player to decide whether he would like to do so.

Coach/Player/Parent Relationship

- We feel that our coaching staff is extremely qualified to run a successful program. Our staff has many years of experience including work at both the high school and college levels.
- We recognize that a parent's job is the toughest and most important job in life. We understand that parents love their kids and want nothing but the best for them. We try to make our decisions based on what is best for the program and not any one individual. It is improbable that all players and their parents in our program will be happy with every decision we make in a season. If a player isn't happy with or doesn't understand his role, we ask that he discuss it with his coach first. We believe it is important for our players to develop communication skills and the ability to be a self-advocate. If this doesn't help the situation, then communication with the parents may be necessary.
- We truly want this experience to be positive for the coaches, players, and parents. We do promise to work hard, run an ethical program, and give the players an opportunity to mature both physically and mentally.

Expectations of Parents

- Support your kid. Situations are not always going to be easy. Baseball can be tough.
- Don't put undue pressure on your kid. These are 14 to 18 years old kids, that have a lot going on outside of baseball. Please take that into consideration. This is a game and they are kids.
- Let coaches coach. We ask that while they are on the field with us you let us do our job.
- Enjoy the experience. It will go fast.

Lines of Communication

- First and foremost please know that coaches try the best they can to communicate and let players know where they stand. Naturally, communication is essential to success on and off the field. However, if a player has a question or concern the player needs to first and foremost see his coach.

If there is still an issue then the Basehor-Linwood Baseball Program will utilize its communication ladder.

- Failing to follow the proper lines of communication will lead to disciplinary actions by coaching staff.
 - The ladder is as follows if a player has a question.
 1. Player needs to discuss the situation thoroughly with parents
 2. Player talks to Coach/Head Coach
 3. Player and Parent talk to Coach/Head Coach
 4. Player and Parent talks with Athletic Director and Head Coach
 5. Player and Parent talks with Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coach

Communication During Season

- Communication will be done via email, *Twitter*, program website, and direct communication with players. We will do our best to communicate in a timely manner. In certain situations please understand that plans can change quickly and more than once. I suggest that each player and parent follow our Basehor-Linwood Baseball *Twitter* account.

Fundraising

- We all want to continually improve our program. Our list of improvements is long and expensive. Our basic necessities each year can be expensive. Items such as baseballs, nets, and uniforms far exceed our school budget for the baseball program.
- In an effort to enhance personal responsibility, as well as, build team character, the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program will engage in fundraising activities. Each activity is important in that it provides our program with extra opportunities to purchase equipment and supplies beyond the money budgeted by the district.
- Never will the opinions or contributions of parents enter into our decisions concerning our teams. All decisions will be based on performance and what we as a coaching staff determine is best the program. Any and all parental support of our program is greatly appreciated but must be made with the understanding that you are supporting the program as a whole and will have no influence on decisions concerning your son.

Substance Abuse Policy

- The baseball program will follow the school policy and our program's policies for which each individual athlete has read and signed. We understand that young men make mistakes from time to time. We also believe that learning lessons sometimes involves consequences. We are committed to working with our athletes to help them mature and make good decisions when it comes to their choices about drugs and alcohol. However, they must understand that making bad decisions often comes with an unfavorable consequence. We ask that you support us in applying the policies that are in place.

Social/Electronic Media Policy

- Playing and competing for the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program is a privilege. Student-athletes that represent our program are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models for the school and community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole program. Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity, and are used by the majority of student-athletes at Basehor-Linwood in one form or another.
- Student-athletes should be aware that third parties - including the media, faculty, and community members could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all

pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate and offensive material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, Basehor-Linwood High School and more specifically, the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program and will be met with disciplinary action.

- o Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following: · Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses, bottles, etc. · Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material. · Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use or promotion of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. · Content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program, Basehor-Linwood High School, taunting comments aimed at a Basehor-Linwood students or staff, coach or other teams or another institution, and derogatory comments against race and/or gender. No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Disciplinary Policy Regarding Social Media: If there is a violation of social media policy there will be a meeting with Coach See and all necessary administrative presence to determine disciplinary measures which may include possible suspension or dismissal from program.

Miscellaneous

- In the event that a situation that is not covered in the Basehor-Linwood baseball manual, the coaching staff will investigate the problem in a timely manner and determine the consequence as quickly as possible. School policy, program policy, and *KSHSAA* policy will be considered in the coaching staff's decision. Keep in mind the coaching staff has the final say in all disciplinary matters.

Player Contract

As a player, I understand that I must follow these rules/standards within the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program. I understand this contract is applicable during the baseball season and also during the off season. If I choose not to sign this contract I will forfeit my eligibility to participate in any capacity within the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program.

1. At all times make every effort to develop my own abilities, in terms of skill, technique, and stamina.
2. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
3. Always have regard for the best interests of the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program. This includes publicly expressing an opinion on any aspect of the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program.
4. Make every effort consistent with fair play and within the rules of the game.
5. No use of inappropriate language.
6. Do not conduct oneself in any way that might be seen as detrimental to or bring into question one's commitment to the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program.
7. Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat.
8. Abide by all instructions of any coach.
9. Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
10. Be courteous and respectful to all of the opposing team's players, coaches, and spectators.
11. Always put forth an appropriate effort and display appropriate conduct (to be determined by the coaching staff) in all academic classes.
12. Always display and use appropriate behavior during the school day and during any extracurricular activity.
13. Not use, possess, buy, sell, transfer, or be under the influence of any tobacco products anywhere at any time.
14. Not use, possess, buy, sell, transfer, or be under the influence of any alcoholic or cereal malt beverages (beer) anywhere at any time.
15. Not use, possess, buy, sell, transfer, or be under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined by law, anywhere at any time.
16. Remove myself from any parties involving alcoholic or cereal malt beverages (beer) or any controlled substance, as defined by law, anywhere at any time.
17. Not use, possess, buy, sell, transfer or be under the influence of non-prescription substances used to mask or enhance performance in any way.

Violation of any of the above standards will result in disciplinary action by the Basehor-Linwood Baseball coaching staff. **By signing the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program's Player Contract I understand that the disciplinary action will be determined solely by the coaching staff and may include extra conditioning activities, removal from practice, games, or permanent removal from the Basehor-Linwood Baseball program.** By signing this contract I understand and accept all of the above rules and standards that have been described.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____