



An open letter to Blue Streak Fans:

Fall, 2012

Greetings Blue Streak Family:

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year! Once again we are very proud of the tremendous effort and sacrifices made by our student athletes and coaches as they pursue excellence in athletics and academics. The Blue Streaks succeeded on the courts, fields, mats, courses and in the classroom in 2011-12. Fifteen of our graduating seniors received the Federal League's "Scholar-Athlete Award" (3.8 accumulative GPA) and 23 of our 34 high school squads had accumulative team GPAs of over 3.0. Our overall high school athletes' GPA was an accumulative 3.15 compared to the overall high school GPA (1,194 students) of 2.89. It is clear that our coaches and parents have walked the talk about our participants truly becoming STUDENT-athletes!

Lake High School athletics also can be proud that five individual students were named their respective sport's "Athlete of the Year" and five individual coaches were selected as their sport's "Coach of the Year" in 2011-2012. As competitors in arguably the toughest interscholastic public school league in Ohio (The Federal League), these honors have extra special meaning.

We also are very proud of our coaching staff and appreciate the commitment, passion, energy and desire they bring to each athlete every day. Their commitment to professional development and growth as teacher-coaches is very evident: 100% of Lake Local coaches (head, assistant and volunteer coaches) have completed the NFHS' "Fundamentals of Coaching" course and have valid Pupil Activity Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education. Additionally, we currently have eight of our Blue Streak coaches who have earned the national "Accredited Interscholastic Coach" (AIC) certification.

We are very proud of our athletic facilities and our athletic heritage. Blue Streak athletes and teams have been well-represented on campuses and college teams across Ohio and other parts of our country. More importantly, many of these young men and women have returned to have an impact upon their community by utilizing many of the skill sets they learned as athletes and from competition against some of the best programs in the state.

A big part of the Blue Streak success story has always been the devoted fan base of our students, parents and community in following Lake teams over the years. Despite some of the current economic climate, our Blue Streak fans continue to support their events in record-setting fashion. This is at a time when many of our area schools have seen a decline in ticket sales.

The mission and purpose of our Lake athletic teams has been and remains focused upon developing high quality graduates who will take their Blue Streak athletic experience and put those lessons into real-life action. Our ability to provide this type of safe learning “laboratory” through athletics is directly impacted by the support our community provides our school district

If you are one of the many Blue Streak community members who enjoy coming out to watch and support our students, we encourage you to purchase one of the many discounted ticket packages for athletic events. You can learn of these options here on our website or simply by contacting our Lake athletic office at 330-877-4288.

We also encourage you to become involved with **“The Team behind our TEAMS”**, the **Lake Athletic Booster Club**. The LABC provides supplemental funding for our athletic program each year. They meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Lake HS Commons. The Booster Club works to support our athletic program through fund raising and provides the resources needed by our student athletes to become their best. In many, many respects, our LABC is the “dream-maker” for our young people! Learn more about the LABC at their website: <http://lakeathleticboosterclub.com/>

Regularly utilize our team and school calendar found on the Tandem Calendar link: <http://lakelocal.tandemcal.com/>. You will also find our sport team photos and team information on the various team links on our athletic web pages. Check out our new online “Blue Streak Spirit Store” at <http://www.rokkitwear.com/school/1819-uniontown-lake-high-school>. This site provides great online Lake Blue Streak gear AND allows our athletic department to receive a portion of all sales.

When attending contests, please remember how important it is to our student-athletes that you model poise and Blue Streak respect. Let’s be supportive of our teams, coaches, officials, cheerleaders, fans, and always be respectful of our opponents. Our Blue Streak teams have earned the prestigious “Sportsmanship Award” from our Federal League in four of the last five years, in part due to the intentional efforts by our coaches, students and fans to model appropriate behavior.

In tough times, many things become scrutinized and “under the microscope”. There might be some who would argue that athletics and other extra-curricular activities are not “necessary” in our schools. However, data-driven research is very clear about the by-product of student involvement in extra-curriculars: there may be no safer environment for preparing and honing the life skills developed by instantaneous decisions and critical thinking skills that come from these activities! And it is only here where today’s problem solving and decision making moments provide *immediate* feedback, advancing students down the path of leadership.

Always show your Blue Streak pride. Welcome to **TRUEBLUENATION**.

Bruce Brown, CMAA
Athletic Director
Lake Local School