

ARCHBISHOP WOOD

BASEBALL



PROGRAM GUIDE

2026

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I. Sportsmanship

All players in the Archbishop Wood Baseball Program are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and disciplined manner. It is important to remember the significance and responsibility of participating as a member of the baseball program. Each time you step onto the field, remember that you represent our school, our baseball program, your family and most importantly yourself.

II. Program Goals

- ✓ Develop student-athletes who are committed to achieving excellence in the classroom, on the field and in the community.
- ✓ Provide opportunities to learn, develop, and improve baseball skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Foster a culture of excellence, integrity and social responsibility.

III. Expectations/Accountability of Players

- ✓ Observe the rules and regulations as outlined in the Archbishop Wood student handbook.
- ✓ Remember your priorities:
 - 1) Academics
 - 2) Athletics
- ✓ The Archbishop Wood Baseball Program must be your first athletic priority when we are in-season. The high school baseball program is for those players who are fully committed to the game of baseball and our teams. The amount of time and effort it takes to be a part of this program is deep. We are looking for those who are committed to making themselves and the program the best possible.
- ✓ A player must prove that he is one of the best players whenever he is given the opportunity - practice counts! This should be something that every player thinks about each time he takes to the field.
- ✓ There are not enough games during the season to hope someone finally “comes around”. Be prepared when the season begins.
- ✓ Playing time/Position(s) will not be discussed with parents. The coaching staff will always discuss position(s) and playing time with one another and the player, but the final decision is the up to the head coach.
Game situations/line up, etc. will be determined based on what is in the best interest of the team.
- ✓ Work schedules, vacations, doctor's appointments, etc. should be scheduled around high school baseball games, practices and team events. We understand there could be times when extenuating circumstances occur.
- ✓ Anyone who pitches for the AWHs program is not to pitch for any other team (In-House, Travel, Tournament Team) until the high school season is over. This is for the safety of the players and in the best interest of the AWHs team.
- ✓ Know your role and understand it. If the player has a question, speak with the head coach at the appropriate time (after practice).
- ✓ Put the team ahead of personal goals. Encourage your teammates.

- ✓ Exercise the “Grandma Rule” for Instagram, Snapchat and other social media. Basically, anything they would not show to Grandma!
- ✓ Take responsibility for own actions.

PRACTICE & GAMES

- ✓ Be on time and attend all practices, games and other team events. Any player that has a valid reason to miss a practice, game or team event must personally contact his direct head coach.
- ✓ Be prepared with proper Wood Baseball attire and equipment that includes;
*****Practice: a Wood baseball black t-shirt, white baseball pants with black belt, Wood Baseball black or grey sweatshirt or pullover fleece, Wood Baseball hat, black socks, black-gold-white or grey colored spikes or turfs, a black-gold-grey-brown-tan colored glove, and protective gear.**
*****Game Day: a clean Wood Baseball uniform (jersey, baseball pants with belt, hat, socks, spikes or turfs, glove and protective gear). Standard AWHs apparel only or approved by the Head Varsity Baseball Coach.**
- ✓ All injuries should be reported to the head coach and trainer **immediately**.
- ✓ Be coachable; must be willing to listen and learn.
- ✓ Every player is responsible maintaining his own baseball equipment.
- ✓ Before, during and after all practices and games each player will be assigned a responsibility. Players are expected to carry out their responsibility to the best of their ability.

THE CLASSROOM

Strive for excellence. Do not be satisfied with “just getting by.” Poor grades may affect your athletic eligibility or your admittance into the college of your choice. Your classroom behavior reflects the type of student-athlete we keep in this program. Detentions and/or other related offenses can result in suspension and/or dismissal from the program at the discretion of the head coach.

IV. Selection Process

- ✓ An athlete must be eligible both academically and conduct/discipline-wise to tryout.
- ✓ An athlete must complete their Family ID (online) and have a current PIAA physical.
- ✓ Players may tryout at their primary position and secondary position.

Junior Varsity Baseball

The Junior Varsity Team will consist of freshman and sophomores. The total number of players may vary from season-to-season but, typically, will be no more than 14 positional players, plus PO's/specialty players deemed necessary by the head coach. This is based on positional need, performance, attitude, work ethic, commitment to the sport of baseball and our program, etc. A player's projected role will be communicated by the head coach prior to being rostered (I.E.; Pitcher, Catcher, Infielder, Outfielder, Specialty). The Junior Varsity Team requires a minimum of 5 days per week commitment.

Varsity Baseball

The Varsity Team will consist primarily of juniors and seniors. Based on the needs of the program the Varsity Team may include sophomores who demonstrate the ability to start or be a key contributor in the current year.

At this level, the best players on the team will play. This recognizes the realities of interscholastic competition and the rigor of high school baseball.

This is based on positional need, performance, attitude, work ethic, commitment to the sport of baseball and our program, etc. A player's projected role will be communicated by the head coach prior to being rostered (I.E.; Pitcher, Catcher, Infielder, Outfielder, Specialty). Varsity team members may not play with any other team while we are in-season. This is for the safety of the players and in the best interest of the AWHs team. The total number of players may vary from season-to-season but, typically, will be no more than 14 positional players, plus PO's/specialty players deemed necessary by the head coach. The Varsity Team requires a minimum of 6 days per week commitment.

Please note:

- ✓ No player is guaranteed a roster spot in the current year because he was a part of the program the previous year.
- ✓ No player is guaranteed a roster spot in the current year due to his voluntary participation in off-season workouts.

V. Communication Process

When a player or his parent/guardian have a question or concern regarding the program, it is important to keep in mind the following communication process that has been adopted by the baseball program.

- ✓ The player should contact his head coach to schedule an appropriate time and place to discuss questions or concerns in a positive, mature manner. Player □ Coach □
Player □ Parent
- ✓ All discussions should focus on **individual** questions or concerns. The performance and ability of another player will never be a subject of discussion. This is contrary to our team values of mutual respect and support.

VI. Expectations of Parents/Guardians

We understand that Parents/Guardians play a vital role in the development of student-athletes and the success of our program. Therefore, we put forth the following as positive expectations:

- ✓ Be a positive role model through their own actions to make sure their child and any other has the best athletic experience possible.
- ✓ Be a “team” fan, not just a “my kid” fan.
- ✓ Do not instruct their child or any other during practices or games. Coaches coach, Players play and Parents parent.
- ✓ Show respect to all players, coaches and umpires. Criticism can only do more harm than good.
- ✓ Refrain from making negative comments about players, coaches or umpires in any player’s presence. This will help avoid planting negative seeds in a player’s head that can negatively influence motivation and overall experience.
- ✓ If there is a concern, take the time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place. Questions the coaching staff will not answer: Why isn’t my son playing? Why is player “X” playing? Why is your lineup the way it is? etc. These are coaching staff decisions.
- ✓ Praise players in their attempt to improve as student-athletes.
- ✓ Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

VII. Expectations of Coaches

We understand that Coaches play a vital role in the development of student-athletes and the success of our program. Therefore, we put forth the following as positive expectations:

- ✓ Be honest with players, i.e. role on team, ability level, attitude, work ethic, etc.
- ✓ In regard to playing time, every player will be treated fairly, but fair does not mean equal. The best players in the program will play the most at every level.
- ✓ Establish a realistic team goal or vision and communicate that to players.
- ✓ Encourage and assist players to set goals to achieve their highest academic & athletic potential.
- ✓ Provide a safe and structured environment for practice and games.
- ✓ Promote the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
- ✓ Promote personal fitness.
- ✓ Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- ✓ Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques.

VIII. Keys to a Successful Program

If our program shows the ability to follow this philosophy, we will always be in a position to win. We may not win them all but we will have given ourselves the chance.

I. TEAM

- A. Play hard
- B. Practice hard
- C. Trust one another
- D. Believe in one another
- E. Play with confidence
- F. Pick each other up
- G. Execute
- H. Keep a positive attitude

II. PITCHERS

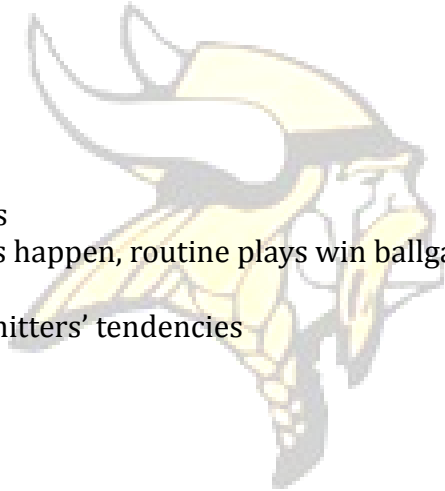
- A. Challenge hitters
- B. Throw strikes
- C. Work ahead of hitters
- E. FOCUS

III. DEFENSE

- A. Make the routine plays
- B. Remember, great plays happen, routine plays win ballgames
- C. Deny the big inning
- D. Take away individual hitters' tendencies
- E. Cover every base
- F. FOCUS

IV. OFFENSE

- A. Focus on one pitch at a time
- B. Swing at strikes
- C. Hit line drives to all fields
- D. Run the bases with the desire to always take an extra base
- E. Do not miss signs



IX. Tips for a Successful College Visit

Dress appropriately!

- ✓ **Give a firm handshake.** When meeting all coaches, secretaries, or athletic directors, or professors, you should always shake their hand with confidence as you look them in the eyes.
- ✓ **Be sure to give the coach your undivided attention.** Always look the coach in the eyes when you talk. Do not look away or gaze out the window.
- ✓ **Be prepared.** Take the time to find out about the institution that you are visiting. Check out their web site, read their team media guide, or find another publication that will provide you with some insight.
- ✓ **Be honest.** Always answer questions in a sincere and honest manner.
- ✓ **Speak for yourself.** While it is important for your parent or guardian to clarify any questions they may have, it is important that you do most of the talking. The coach wants to get a feeling of how you express yourself and who you are.
- ✓ **Show an interest in the school.** Explain why the school is a good fit for you both academically and athletically. Discuss what you can bring to the “whole” program.
- ✓ **Ask questions.** After answering any questions the coach may have, be sure to discuss any questions or concerns you have. Asking questions will show that you have a sincere interest in the program. *Bring one!
- ✓ **Shake hands before leaving the office.** When the visit is over, stand up and shake hands with the coach. Tell him that you enjoyed the visit and thank him for spending some time with you.
- ✓ **Send a Thank You Email.** Send an Email thanking the coach for taking the time to meet with you. This will also allow you to show a continued interest in his program as well as provide you the opportunity to send an updated schedule, video, or other valuable information.

2026 Program Guide Signature Form

Student-Athlete Name: _____

Coach DiGuiseppe, Jr. and/or members of the coaching staff have met with me to review my projected role, and the following:

The Archbishop Wood Baseball Program Guide contents. I understand that failure to comply can result in the suspension/dismissal of the student-athlete from the baseball program.

I am being rostered in Spring 2026 as a:

_____ (Primary Position)

_____ (Secondary Position) - if applicable

I am being rostered in Spring 2026 on the:

This is not an equal playing time team.

Signature below acknowledges the above information.

Head Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian by signing below you acknowledge that you have read the Archbishop Wood Baseball Program Guide contents, and discussed with your son his projected role, position(s) and roster opportunity.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

It is acceptable for my son to receive baseball related email and text messages from his coach.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN ONLY THE SIGNATURE PAGE TO THE HEAD COACH (PAGE 9) ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH