

A message to the Mansfield High School Football Parents:

The Mansfield High School football program's success can be directly attributed to the hard work and efforts of our players, coaches, and Gridiron Club. Your student will be part of a rich tradition that Coach Redding and Al DeSimone started over twenty years ago.

Some of the things you can expect from Coach Redding and Mansfield Football:

- ✓ Your student-athlete will be expected to perform at his very best in the classroom and his progress will be monitored by the football coaching staff.
- ✓ Your student-athlete will be expected to perform at his very best on the field and his progress will be monitored by the football coaching staff.
- ✓ There will be testing in the winter, spring and summer.
- ✓ Goals for performance will be set.
- ✓ Players will be expected to commit to an off-season conditioning program.
- ✓ Players will be held accountable for their actions, on and off the field.
- ✓ Players will be expected to be respectful and polite in the community, be good representatives of Mansfield football, and role models for the younger players.
- ✓ Seniors will be expected to assume leadership roles on the field, in the classroom and in the community.
- ✓ Mansfield will play a very tough football schedule against some of the best teams available. Teams we have played and are from San Diego CA, Cleveland OH, Brooklyn NY, Rochester NY, Syracuse NY and Norwich CT.
- ✓ Coach Redding will do all he can for your student-athlete if your senior chooses to pursue football at the college level.

While players are expected to work hard on the field and in the classroom, they are also expected to participate in fundraising and community volunteer activities coordinated by the Gridiron Club. The Mansfield High School football program is committed to building student-athletes who are not only productive on the field, but also productive as part of our football family. Working together on the field results in team success, and working together with the Gridiron Club results in opportunities for our student-athletes which would otherwise not be available.

Everything the Mansfield High School football program and Gridiron Club does is geared toward preparing and supporting players at all levels, driving to a successful conclusion with their senior year. This takes time, dedication and hard work.

Some of the things the Gridiron Club of Mansfield does to support Mansfield High School football are as follows:

- ✓ Provide funds for out of state team travel costs.
- ✓ Provide funds for meals for the players during out of state travel.
- ✓ Provide funds for a portion of camp for upperclassmen every summer.
- ✓ Provide funds for the team to purchase the best equipment.

- Upgraded concussion-proof helmets
- New UnderArmour game pants
- Game jerseys
- ✓ Host the year end banquet for 400+ people attended by all our players and their families every December, and invite all players as guests.
- ✓ Provide drinks and snacks to players after games and scrimmages.
- ✓ Provide funding for end of season awards, plaques, and Super Bowl rings for the players.
- ✓ Purchase helmet stickers for the players.
- ✓ Pay for additional coaches not carried in the MHS athletic budget.
- ✓ Award two scholarships annually, and in 2011 a third has been added in the name of Alfred F. DeSimone.
- ✓ Host two pizza parties, one for the freshman players and one for the JV/Varsity players the eve of their Thanksgiving games.
- ✓ Organize the annual Parent –Player workshop for approximately 150 players as a pre-season informational event.
- ✓ Coordinate 6 Player of the Week prizes every week.
- ✓ Help fund uniforms for the Mansfield Cheer Squad.
- ✓ Provide funding for state of the art equipment in our weight room.
- ✓ Provide funding for caricaturist artist at the senior dinner.
- ✓ Provide funding for coaching equipment.
- ✓ Provide funding for Hudl.

Some of the fundraisers and events coordinated by the Gridiron to support the football program are:

- ✓ The annual **Spring & Fall Raffles** are coordinated by a staff of parent volunteers. All players are scheduled to participate and parents are asked to help during their son's shift.
- ✓ The annual **Gridiron Club Car Wash** in May. In 2011 it was coordinated by a sophomore parent. It's always staffed in shifts by freshmen, sophomores and juniors (the only event where seniors have a "bye") with parent volunteers.
- ✓ The annual **Bake Sale** in November is being coordinated this year by a senior parent and all parents will be asked to volunteer and bake.
- ✓ The first ever **Gridiron Club of Mansfield Football Program** was published this August and was coordinated and produced by senior parents. Volunteers at all levels help with Program sales.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club of Mansfield organizes and sells **Apparel** for the players every year. This year, a senior parent volunteer has coordinated everything for our players.
- ✓ The **Yankee Candle** fundraiser kicks off every August. This year, it is coordinated by a sophomore parent.
- ✓ The **Gridiron Club Membership** is an ongoing key fundraiser, coordinated by a team of volunteers.
- ✓ The annual **Budgie Campbell Open Golf Tournament & Auction** which draws in the neighborhood of 140 golfers, and takes months to organize, was coordinated by a group of senior, junior and sophomore parents.

- ✓ **Vintage MHS Yearbook Sales** are ongoing and coordinated by senior parent.

Some of the community events the Mansfield High School football program and Gridiron Club are involved with are:

- ✓ The Mansfield High School football team and Gridiron Club volunteers every fall to **Rake Leaves for the Elderly**.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club of Mansfield volunteers and coordinates our players every June to help unload vehicles at the **Mansfield Relay for Life**.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club of Mansfield coordinates a **Pasta Dinner** family night for all players to kick off the football season where senior parents serve, junior parents set up, sophomore parents clean up and freshmen parents bring desserts.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club helps the Athletic Department staff the **Football Game Night Gates** with freshman parent volunteers. Gate proceeds go to the Athletic Department which supports all MHS athletes.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club of Mansfield has a presence at **Family Fun Night**.
- ✓ In the spring, the Gridiron Club of Mansfield coordinates the **Awards Night** for the football players.
- ✓ The Gridiron Club is working on a **Mansfield Football History** project.

To accomplish all of this, and provide your student-athletes with the best experience possible, the football program, in concert with the Gridiron Club, needs the enthusiastic support of the football parents. Whether you can simply help for two hours at a gate, or four months coordinating the golf tournament, it all adds up to make OUR program better.

The Mansfield High School football coaches and the Gridiron Club of Mansfield work 365 days a year to make this program one of the best in the Northeast. We can only continue our tradition of success with everyone's help. Please attend a Gridiron meeting, contact a member, volunteer and get involved.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michael Redding, Head Football Coach

Michelle Busharis, Vice President Gridiron Club

Ed Westhaver, Vice President Gridiron Club