Dear Oakwood families of student-athletes,

Oakwood’s athletic program is grounded in the school’s overall philosophy—an opportunity for students to develop mastery and character, to be engaged with a community of athletes, and to seek out healthy challenges. We are committed to supporting students in developing a healthy balance of responsibilities and experiences in the life of the school.

We recognize the burden on both teachers and students to make up missed class time due to early dismissals. We have taken measures to minimize the conflicts, working to produce a schedule of games and practices that works for student-athletes. In addition we have been able to secure nearby fields for games to minimize travel times. Student-athletes must also be proactive to minimize conflicts and to address them in advance.

A fundamental aspect of team sports is learning to balance individual responsibilities with your obligations to teammates. We are here, as your athletic director and high school dean, as well as your coaches and teachers, to support you in achieving this balance. It is our expectation that as a student-athlete you are to meet all of your responsibilities to the team. Unexcused absences from practice or games are not acceptable, and will be addressed according to the Athletic Code in the Parent/Student Handbook.

The following are some proactive suggestions of strategies that will help you navigate through the season:

1. Prior to the season, review your schedule with your teachers. Provide them with a written list of the days you will miss class. Arrange a convenient time to meet with teachers to make up or review missed material. Have your teachers outline the heavy workload days or weeks. Be aware of major tests, important review sessions, project deadlines, etc., well in advance.

2. Develop a network of study buddies who will share their notes and handouts with you.

3. Do as much work in advance as possible. Take advantage of PE frees and other free periods.

4. Use winter break to begin working on major papers that may be due during the season.

5. We will have abbreviated, 1-hour practices during exam week. Physical activity reduces stress and can improve test taking.
6. Utilize Wendy Weicker (Director of Support Services), your advisor, and William Perkins Tift (High School Dean) for support and counsel.

Ultimately, the responsibility is yours as a student-athlete to take the initiative to maintain both your academic and team responsibilities. Research points to the ability to persevere through difficult and challenging times as a key predictor of future success. Participation in athletics offers you that opportunity. We look forward to a challenging and rewarding experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Eric Walter
Athletic Director

William Perkins Tift
High School Dean