CFHS Girls Basketball 2026-27

Play Hard. Play Smart. Play Together.

Basketball Handbook

Instagram: @clearfallsgirlsbasketball
X: @cf_girlshoops

Coaches

Head Coach: Mary Graves
maryg@ccisd.net
This season will be my 12th season coaching basketball, my second year in the role of Head Coach, and my 14th year at Clear Falls High School. I have been teaching at the high school level for 16 years. Prior to teaching in Texas, I was an assistant basketball coach at Kentucky Wesleyan College (in Kentucky), and a graduate assistant coach at Chadron State College (in Nebraska), where I earned my master's degree in organizational and sports management. I played basketball at Ferris State University (2002-03) and Kalamazoo College (2003-06), where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and Psychology.

Assistant Coach: Amanda Jordan
amjordan@ccisd.net
This is my 13th year teaching and coaching at Clear Falls and my 5th season as a basketball coach here. I have been teaching special education and math for 25 years and coached several sports at many levels. I have been involved in many successful programs at Clear Falls including regional and state qualifying teams in volleyball, cross country, and track. In high school I was a four-year varsity letterman in golf, and state qualifier my senior year. I also played basketball, soccer, and ran cross country and track. After high school I received my bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University in Kinesiology and minored in math and health. I received my master's degree from Lamar University in Educational Leadership. My favorite part of coaching high school athletes is building comradery among all athletes and watching them grow physically and mentally for any sports they admire.

Assistant Coach: Jeff Johnson
jjohnson1@ccisd.net
This season will be my 13th season coaching basketball and 15th year in education. I graduated from Texas A&M in 2008 with a degree in sport management and a minor in business. After graduating, I taught for 4 years at Brazoswood High School and assisted with boys' basketball. I moved to Galveston where I taught for a couple of years at the middle school without coaching. But then I got back to high school at Ball High where I assisted with the girls' basketball program for 4 years. Then I took a break from public school and was a Youth Pastor at a church in Galveston for 4 years. After this, I went back to Ball High coaching the girls' basketball team for 3 years. I'm excited about the opportunity to continue to work with the girls here at Clear Falls!

Assistant Coach: Chelsea Maddox
cmaddox@ccisd.net
My name is Coach Maddox and I am excited to be a part of the program this year. This is my 10th year in education and my 3rd year coaching. Prior to this role, I served as a cheer coach and have also coached Little League basketball. I am a proud graduate of Clear Creek ISD and I played basketball and ran track at Clear Creek High School. I attended Texas Woman's University in Denton. Sports have always been a huge part of my life, and I love everything about athletics, competition, and teamwork. I am looking forward to building relationships with our athletes and helping them succeed both on and off the court this year.

My priorities for our program's continued success:

1. Model good leadership and teach females how to lead other females
2. Provide a safe and dynamic learning environment
3. Continue to grow our program's presence in the Clear Falls community
4. Provide high standards of coaching and push our team to grow
5. Refine our shared commitments to a unified vision for success

I am so excited to be back at it again with a fresh group of young athletes. We will strive to win district at all three levels while growing together as human beings.

Basketball Philosophy

The most important job that a coach will do is to provide student-athletes with the tools, opportunities, and support to not only earn their high school diploma, but also to be prepared for life outside of high school. In order to prepare student-athletes to be role models and leaders within their communities, there is an expectation to represent the program in a positive manner, both on and off the court. The program's commitment is also to win championships, and every member of the team and staff will make strides in this direction every single day.

A program begins with athletes who will commit to the team's system, work hard to get better each day, and are willing to put the team first. In some ways basketball is a very simple game, but it takes players willing to buy-in. Every player must commit to the system.

Practice Philosophy

My practice philosophy is that practice should prepare a team for every possible scenario that might be encountered in a game situation. Practice is where learning, discipline, and improvement should take place. Pre-season conditioning and team-building activities are as much about revealing character and a willingness to respond together and help each other out as they are about physical fitness. Practice is where teams adjust, figure out what combinations of players are cohesive, and earn playing time in games. I believe that games should be an opportunity to display the things that have been worked on and learned throughout the week in practice. I believe that practice should be harder than any game ever will be. The only way to simulate the mental toughness needed in a game is to make practice exhausting. By working hard in practice, a team can never attribute a loss to lack of preparation or effort. By preparing a team – physically, mentally, emotionally, and motivationally – they are given the tools that they need to win games. In games, we make adjustments. We aren't teaching new concepts. We figure out where we still have gaps and we address those gaps in practice.

Takes No Talent

Sense of urgency
Intensity
Attitude
Character
Discipline
Defense
Rebounding
Communicating
Being a great teammate
Being Prepared
Having a Positive Mindset

Transition to High School Athletics

Differences between middle school and high school athletics

- *Level of play:* All players are now competing with the best from feeder schools and all high school grade levels. The pace of play, field of play, and skill level are significantly higher.
- *Increased Time Commitment*
    - *Practice Schedule:* Both freshmen A and B teams will begin practices at 6AM starting on October 26th. Practice will run through first period. Athletes will be let out to change 10 minutes before the end of 1st. Trying out for the program means making a commitment to Plan on playing games and coming to games over THANKSGIVING BREAK and practicing over CHRISTMAS BREAK. We will have MANDATORY PRACTICES, plus one Varsity tournament after Christmas.
    - When we get into district play, we will offer a few after school practices for "A team" players to scrimmage JV players. On those days we will start practice at 7:20, not 6AM.
- *Playing time*: Based on the needs of the team -- the opponent, the game situation, and injuries may also be factors in determining the player's position and amount of playing time. Playing time is not guaranteed. It must be earned during practice. The coaching staff will have discretion to make changes during, before, and after games. We will not meet with parents to discuss playing time.
- *Off-Season:* Summer S.W.A.T. will make us better. We will also offer skill workouts and open gym times. Off-season is where individual growth occurs.
- *Team Schedule* - A&B team schedule

Athlete Code of Conduct

- It is an honor and privilege to represent Clear Falls High School as a participant in interscholastic athletics. It is in no way a right of any student.
- Athletes are expected to be responsible and self-disciplined. As an athlete, they are role models, and are a representative of themselves, the school, the school district and community to thousands of people, including young children. They should be a positive representation. Each student-athlete has the opportunity to set high standards for our basketball program.

An athlete must be:

- Responsible for personal actions
- Willing to put the team before themselves
- Coachable
- Respectful of other competitors and teams
- Willing to accept victory or defeat
- Respectful of officials, authority and decisions

Sportsmanship

To demonstrate good sportsmanship, a participant must be:

- Responsible for personal actions
- A team player who supports the teammates no matter what
- Accepting of direction
- Respectful of other competitors and teams
- Willing to accept victory or defeat
- Mindful of academic responsibility
- Respectful of officials, authority and decisions

Texas Senate Bill 2929 is a new law that grants officials at school-sponsored and UIL extracurricular eventsthe authority to immediately eject any disruptive or inappropriate spectator without a verbal warning. This law aims to improve safety and maintain order, while a school that accumulates three such incidents could lose its assigned officials.

Academics

- Students need to stay on top of their grades. The coaches will periodically conduct grade checks of all athletes. Athletes will be responsible for completing a weekly grade check form. Not passing a class for more than one week may result in not attending a game in order to concentrate on grades. All other tutoring must happen during non-practice hours. **Students are expected to be at practice every day.**
- UIL (University Interscholastic League) No Pass, No Play Rule - each student must pass all courses (with a grade of 70 or higher) at the end of each grading period to remain eligible to practice and compete.

Academic Support

- RISE
- Parent Role: Checking Skyward, encouraging students to communicate with teachers, draft themselves into tutorial sessions, lead in the classroom.

Communication

- *Support, Don't Coach:* All members of our staff are qualified, positive, experienced, and knowledgeable. We ask that during games and throughout the duration of the season you are also positive, supportive fans and let the coaches handle the instruction for our program.

- *Concerns:* After/during a game is not the time to voice concerns you may have. The coaches and I will be glad to talk with you the following day or make an appointment with you at a later time to discuss your concern. 24-Hour Rule: All communication should wait 24 hours after a game/incident before contacting a coach to ensure a calm, rational discussion. We will also follow this 24-hour rule.

Appropriate "Communication Chain of Command"

- Student-athlete speaks to the Coach (first and always preferred)
- Parent emails coach or parent emails coach to setup time to talk on phone
- Parent schedules a meeting with coach
- If unresolved, parent schedules a meeting with the CFHS Girls Athletic Coordinator
    - *Appropriate topics to discuss:* Scheduling, academics, injury concerns
    - *Inappropriate topics to discuss:* Playing time, team strategy, other student-athletes

We will not meet to discuss playing time.

Transportation

1. **Only student participants, coaches and other authorized personnel shall be permitted on buses.**
2. Student participants are expected to ride on school transportation both to and from all games. Students will not be allowed to leave games early. Exceptions to this rule will be made on an individual basis with prior written request of the parent, approved 48 hours before the game.

- Students may not transport themselves.
- Students may not be transported by other students.
- If there is an emergency and an athlete has to leave a game early, a CFHS coach must have visual contact with the parent/guardian prior to the student leaving the game and a note 48 hours in advance. Also, a CCISD travel waiver must be signed to leave the game.
- On some occasions, it may be necessary for students to arrive late or early for a game because of a conflicting event. In these cases, prior written parent permission 48 hours prior indicating knowledge of means of transportation must be given to the head coach.
- Each athlete will be given two travel waivers that permit them to leave with their parent/guardian from a SPECIFIC game (home or away) IF they have submitted the signed waiver to Coach Graves, Coach Johnson, Coach Jordan, or Coach Maddox 48 hours before the game.
- For tournaments, we will release athletes to their parents to go home from the tournament site, but coaches must make contact with the parent before leaving.

Game-Day Focus and Expectations

- All athletes are expected to help set up and clean up before and after home games.
- When traveling for a competition, the primary focus is to compete and support your team. Your commitment to the team continues until the program's final game is over.
- *Designated Seating:* All athletes must sit together in the designated team area while watching other program teams compete. Athletes are expected to spend time with and support their teammates, not members of other teams or fans. Please ensure you are back in the stands, with your team, by the end of the 1st quarter in the next game.
- *Cell Phone Policy:* Cell phone use is prohibited during all games—this includes your own game and any other program games you are watching. This is a time for focus, support, and learning together.
- *Permitted Use:*
    - Immediately after your game to briefly contact parents/guardians.
    - During the halftime break of another program team's game.

Important Notes

SPORTSYOU: If you haven't joined our SportsYou, please do so. We run most of our communication through that app, so please join!

GREEN LIFTING SHIRTS: Please send $20 cash if you would like a green lifting shirt.

RANKONE: Must be cleared through the training room to participate in tryouts.

- We are chasing another district title.
- With that comes WORK.

We appreciate the burden of work this puts on you as parents but also believe that the benefits (discipline, perseverance, speed, strength, team camaraderie) outweigh the cost. If your daughter needs help with rides in the morning, please reach out and we will try to get her hooked up with someone who lives nearby.

Ways you can help

- **Booster Club:** Thank you to our booster club board and members! Please join the Booster Club today! Your membership directly supports our athletes and helps provide opportunities for our program to travel and compete, to participate locally in the community, and to practice using adequate equipment and uniforms. Our team relies on the support from our booster club to help our program function. Our goal is for all members of the Clear Falls Girls Basketball team to join the booster club for the 2026-27 school year.
- **Where does the money go:**

  In the past year, the money we have raised through donations and fundraising has provided the program with –
    - Shooting machine
    - Brand new varsity uniforms
    - New practice uniforms
    - 3 tournaments for Freshmen, JV
    - Out-of-town tournaments for Varsity (3rd Place finish, 1st Place finish)
    - Meals at out-of-town tournaments

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Clear Falls High School Girls Basketball
Team Rules 2026-27

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Clear Falls High School in basketball. All players are required to follow team rules outlined below. Knowledge of the rules is mandatory. Ignorance is no excuse. Failure to follow them will result in suspension from a game and /or the team. A serious infraction will result in permanent removal from the team.

1. Go to class (on time).

2. Dress for school each day according to the school and district policies. No exceptions. We will be very strict on this.

3. You must be on time for all meetings, practices, and games.

4. Everyone will travel to and from games as a team, together. If a player misses the bus to a game, but makes it to the game on time, the player will not play.

5. Everyone must maintain a passing grade for all their classes.

6. Everyone will stay for ALL games. This is mandatory.

7. All practices are mandatory. <u>If you do not practice, you do not play.</u>

8. Shirt must be tucked in every practice and game.

9. No jewelry will be worn during practice or games.

10. Plan on playing games and coming to games over <u>THANKSGIVING BREAK</u> and practicing over <u>CHRISTMAS BREAK</u>. We will have <u>MANDATORY PRACTICES,</u> plus one Varsity tournament after Christmas.

11. “Travel jackets,” “Game Day Shirts,” and Shooting Shirts can only be worn on game days. Uniforms will only be worn at game times.

12. Any athlete caught using alcohol or drugs during season will be immediately dismissed from the team.

13. Athletes are to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner by following all school rules at the following: <u>Athletic Contests, in the Classroom, on any CCISD Campuses, at All CFHS School Functions.</u>

	Clear Falls Girls Basketball Website This is a new website. We will add all info here. This is also where you will be able to purchase meals for your athlete for game days.
	University Interscholastic League – uiltexas.org Mission Statement: *"The purpose of the UIL is to organize and properly supervise contests that assist in preparing students for citizenship. It aims to provide healthy, character building, educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants."*
	Clear Creek ISD Athletics – ccisd.net/athletics Mission Statement: *"It is the mission of Clear Creek ISD Athletics to promote and provide opportunities for each student athlete to develop into a productive citizen through work ethic, discipline and competition. We will create an environment that fosters humility, character, sportsmanship, making positive life choices and accept the idea that all deserve the right to be CHAMPIONS."*
	Clear Falls Knights **Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule**
	Join the Booster Club **We ask every player to join. Additional sponsorship options are available.** **Booster Club Sponsors** **Knight's Shield Booster Club Membership: $100** Senior Scholarship Application Knights Basketball Yard Sign Personalized Shield Displayed in gym Spirit Button (2) **Knight Guard Booster Club Membership: $50** Spirit Button Senior Scholarship Application Knights Basketball Yard Sign **Heart and Hustle: $25** Spirit button
	Team Store

SportsYou Access Codes

Clear Falls Girls Basketball 26-27	GBB PARENTS	1st Period	4th Period
8UQS-SEV6 Copy Code Please join this list. It serves as a master list of all athletes and their parents/guardians. Messages sent during instruction hours. (Early mornings and evenings.)	BXT3-WGPN Copy Code All parents/guardian only. Students will be removed. May be used during school hours. Information related to changes in schedule, booster meetings, etc.	BR8M-8PCC Copy Code Basketball players currently enrolled in first period. Will not be used during instructional day but could be used before/after school to communicate changes in schedule or routine. Permissible to communicate an absence via messenger prior to school.	B9GR-WKQ9 Copy Code Basketball players currently enrolled in fourth period. Will not be used during instructional day but could be used before/after school to communicate changes in schedule or routine. Permissible to communicate an absence via messenger prior to school.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Event	What you can do to help
• October 27th "Trunk or Treat"	Send in candy/decorations
• **Next Booster Club Meeting: October 28thv at 6:30pm**	Come! Sign-up to help! Add your voice!
• October 31 - "Meet the Knights" Scrimmage + First Parent Meeting	Help stock the concession stand!
• Nov. 16th – Vertical Raise Team Fundraiser	Identify 10 names of family friends + get their contact info

NOTES

- We will additionally have a **Player Pack – Sprint Store** if players and families would like to purchase gear: https://bsnteamsports.com/shop/HEsfLvJVRz
- We also ask each player in the program to purchase:
  - "Game Day" Shirt + Shooting Shirt – *More info coming soon*
  - Booster Club Membership

Meet the Knights

Clear Falls First Scrimmage and Parent Meeting

Date: October 31, 2026

8:30AM – 12:30PM

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