

Lightning Football Team Calendar/Schedule

Greetings,

This document contains important information and the schedule for Lightning's upcoming football season. First, I wanted to briefly introduce myself and our staff for the upcoming season. My name is Jonathan Farlett. I will be the Head Coach for our Lightning Football team for the 2025-2026 season. My passion in coaching is building character, creating a positive culture and environment for our team and school, and helping students reach their potential and develop their unique talents. I am extremely excited to join the Normal Park and CSAS community this season and to work with our students, parents, staff, leadership, and community. One of our goals as a program is to be a direct reflection and representation of all the amazing things that our school community is doing on a daily basis. I will be entering my 11th season as a football coach. Previously I have coached middle school football at CCS and Orchard Knob Middle School. I am currently an Instructional Coach at East Lake Academy. Joining me on staff this season are Coach Alex Guthrie and Coach Matt Guthrie. Both Coach Alex Guthrie and Coach Matt Guthrie bring a ton of coaching and playing experience to our program. More than this, they are incredible role models who will consistently be encouragement for our athletes and school community. Both of these men are amazing teachers, fathers, husbands, and high character coaches who will help create an incredible environment and culture for our team. We are incredibly excited to begin this season and journey with you this year.

One final piece of information that I wanted to share prior to sharing some important dates and pertinent information is our theme for this season. This theme will be something that we will be consistent in reminding the boys of every single day of practice and games. Last year, we focused in on the theme of FAMILY. To build on this theme and continue growing the program our theme this year will be Selflessness. The goal for our team is to build a program that is centered around the profound notion of putting others before ourselves. We will seek to be servant leaders in our schools and communities, and in our families. You will hear this theme often alongside our program core values which are listed below.

We are so excited to partner with you and be stewards of the program this season.

Jonathan Farlett

Matt Guthrie

Alex Guthrie

Important Dates:

Please work to get a sports physical prior to our first mandatory practice which will be Monday, July 22nd. Once you have a physical, please be sure to have your child bring it with them on the first day of practice. Physicals will also need to be uploaded to the final forms app. We are happy to help you do this as well as get you into contact with our amazing Assistant Principal Leon Rorie to help make this happen.

Monday, July 21st: First Day of Practice. 3pm-5pm, Helmets only.

July 22nd-24th: Practice, Helmet Acclimation, 3pm-5pm.

Monday, July 28th-Wednesday, July 30th: 3-5pm. Note, no practice on July 31st due to teacher inservice beginning.

Monday, August 4th- Tuesday, August 5th: 4:15-5:45, We will begin practicing for our school time on these days. We know some students may have registration and orientation at both CSAS and Normal Park. We will adjust time/practices accordingly.

Wednesday, August 6th-Thursdays, August 7th, 4:15-5:45. Normal Park students will go to the gym right upon dismissal for study hall. CSAS students will follow football dismissal procedures. These will be confirmed closer to the beginning of the year and shared through the remind app and weekly parent emails.

Monday, August 11th-Thursdays, August 14th: 4:15-5:45. Students will follow school dismissal procedures. End of practice time may be adjusted and will be communicated.

Saturday, August 16th: Jamboree, Time TBD, Location TBD. Information will be shared as soon as it is available. Please be sure to mark this day on your calendar. Game time is typically between 8 and 1. Last year we played around 10:30.

Throughout the season after the start of school, we will practice from 4:15-5:45 on Monday's and Tuesday's and 4:15-5:15 on Wednesdays which will typically be a walkthrough day. Practices are incredibly fast paced. Attendance is mandatory for our boys to develop and grow as a team and as individual players.

Grade/Behavior Policy:

The expectation for our football players is that they are passing all classes. There will be two grade checks during the week of games. Grade checks will occur on Mondays and Wednesdays. If a student is failing a class on the Wednesday before a game, they will be ineligible to participate in game day activities.

Students are expected to actively participate in study hall after school. Study hall is an extension of the school day therefore all behavioral expectations must be followed.

The expectation for our football players is that they are representing our school and program well at all times. This means that our football players are following all behavioral expectations inside the classroom, locker room, and on and off the field. Disciplinary decisions regarding our team are made in a collaborative effort between administration, student support staff, and the coaching staff.

Program Core Values:

Respect

Discipline

Enthusiasm

Compete

Family

Parent Meeting:

We will have our mandatory parent meeting on Monday, August 11th, from 5-5:30. This is a tentative time.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities:

We need parent volunteers for pregame meals, gate, chains, field set up, and filming games. A list will be provided at the parent meeting. You can also volunteer by emailing Coach Farlett. We will also be sending a sign up sheet through the remind app and on the night of our parent meeting.

Communication:

Communication regarding practice and games, weekly updates, and other pertinent information will be done through both email and the remind app.

Parent Meetings/Concerns:

Please always feel free to reach out to Coach Farlett if you ever have any concerns or questions. Please allow 24 hours before reaching out after a game day if you have concerns following a game.

End of Season Banquet:

We will be having an end of season banquet. A date and time will be shared during our parent meeting on Monday, August 11th.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you and to coach your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Grace and peace,

Coach Jonathan Farlett, farlett_jonathan@hcde.org

Coach Alex Guthrie

Coach Matt Guthrie

“A culture of care in schools is characterized by non-dominating relationships, where adults and children feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, have a culturally safe place for their voices to be heard, and are able to be self-determining.” - Dr. Tom Cavanagh, RJED