

## MAROON BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Parents and Players,

This fall the Dowling Catholic Basketball program will be again running the MBA, Maroon Basketball Association. This will be the 13th season of MBA. This program is for boys entering grades 7 and 8.

When we created MBA, it was designed to help us develop our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and to get them acclimated to the Dowling Catholic system. Our goal in designing the MBA is to develop fundamentals and to teach the Dowling Catholic system to our youth. Developing and teaching the youth helps us work toward achieving our ultimate goal of winning a state championship!

We will be following the same format this year as we did last year with MBA. We will be selecting teams in 8th grade and running clinics for our 7th graders. One of the reasons for organizing the MBA in this manner was to allow our high school coaches the opportunity to spend more time working with and teaching our system as well as working to develop fundamentals of our 7th and 8th graders. The **time** we spend with them not only provides us a greater opportunity to work with and teach our future athletes but also provides a greater opportunity for us to evaluate our athletes.

As mentioned above 7th grade MBA will consist of five workouts with the DCHS coaching staff. There will be a small \$40 fee for these clinics.. The fee covers gym rental, program t-shirt, and five clinics working with the DCHS coaching staff. We will be sending out a flyer for these clinics some time in late June/early July. We do know that the first two **MBA 7th grade** clinics will take place on **August 5th and 6th from 6:00-7:20pm** at Dowling Catholic. The remaining three clinic dates and times will be determined later this summer or early this fall. We will be sure to communicate these dates.

The MBA 8th grade program will run the same way it has the past nine seasons. Participation is based upon a two day tryout evaluation. The Dowling Catholic coaching staff will run the tryout sessions, and the MBA Board of Directors and coaching staff will make player selections. Our plan is to keep between 20 and 30 athletes. We will have two to three teams. Teams will practice one to two times per week at gyms around the city and will compete in tournaments around central Iowa. There is no fee to tryout. However, if you make the program, you will be required to pay a fee in order to participate. The fee will cover your uniform, travel expenses, entry fees to tournaments, and gym rental.

Throughout the first couple weeks of the season the 8th grade MBA'ers will participate in three clinics with the Dowling Coaching Staff. Those dates and times will be determined, and communicated, later in the summer. There is NO FEE to tryout or to participate in the clinics.

MBA Tryouts will be held in August at Dowling Catholic. Dates and times:

### **8th Grade August 5th and 6th from 7:30-9:00**

Athletes will be notified on whether or not they made it within seven days of tryouts. Practice sessions will start a week after the completion of the Catholic Football League season. Athletes not making the MBA program and still welcome to attend the other three skills clinics throughout the fall.

The 2018-19 8th Grade MBA coaching staff will be as follows:

8th Grade Coordinator- Sean McMurray

8th Grade Coaches- Steve DeVenney, Jerry DeBondt, Steve DeGrote, Kevin Otte and Gary Steenblock.

\*\*\*More coaches to be named\*\*\*

We are fortunate to have this group of individuals helping us. The staff will focus on teaching the same offensive and defensive principles used by the high school program.

We urge all 7th graders to participate in the MBA Clinic Program and all of the 8th graders to tryout for a spot in 8th grade MBA.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

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