The middle school interscholastic athletic program in Kettering City Schools is designed for students in grades seven and eight who are capable and desire a high level of competition. The purpose of the program is to actively experience competitive sport, individual values, team values and their interrelationship. Through participation, the student-athletes should develop a greater appreciation for sport, rules of the game, sportsmanship, personal responsibility, leadership and teamwork.

Our belief is that the middle school years are a time for the development of young people, both in mind and body, and that athletic participation should foster that growth. Our coaches are carefully chosen to work with this age group and understand the varied developmental and maturity levels of the participants. The emphasis is on teaching effective habits, love of the game and instilling a lifelong commitment to health and physical fitness. An additional goal of our program is to prepare our student-athletes for the rigors of high school competition in a safe and supportive environment.

To better prepare our Kettering Middle School and Van Buren Middle School students to work together as high school athletes, we are instituting a merged program for all middle school basketball teams. Two teams will be chosen from combined tryouts for basketball. The teams will be designated as Navy and Silver. All teams will now play under the Kettering Firebirds name, not the separate middle school designations.

Kettering City Schools is a member of the Greater Western Ohio Conference. Due to the competitiveness of the athletic league in which we participate, it is necessary and expected that teams will be cut to a workable number of players based upon skill, ability, attitude and coachability. As a program, we strive to have teams of manageable sizes to ensure adequate playing time and to provide developmental opportunities for all of our student-athletes. The team selection procedures are set forth below and are required for the following squads:

- 8th Grade Boys Basketball
- 7th Grade Boys Basketball
- 8th Grade Girls Basketball
- 7th Grade Girls Basketball

The Greater Western Ohio Conference's bylaws stipulate that teams combined from more than one middle school in a district must be of equal talent. It is not permissible to field an “A” and “B” squad for those teams whose selection process includes cuts.

In an effort to demonstrate transparency of process and objectivity in team selections to the best of our ability, the following team selection procedure will be shared with potential athletes, parents and all interested persons. The process will be used for all of the above-named teams.
Team Selection Procedure

Prior to team selections:

1. The coaches will provide the required dates, times and location of the tryouts to all interested students.
2. The coaches will provide to the potential athletes the criteria on which they will be rated and the number of team members to be chosen.
3. The coaches will share the team expectations with all student-athletes.
4. The coaches will explain the method of notification to all student-athletes in regards to try-outs.

Timeline:

1. Three (3) tryout sessions will be held prior to the selection of all teams. These sessions must be held on or after the official start date for that sport as established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
2. The middle school tryout sessions will be held in conjunction with the high school tryout schedule. These tryouts will be held at Fairmont High School.

Selection Committee:

1. A minimum of three (3) coaches will be present at each tryout session to rate the athletes.
2. The selection committee shall consist of all the middle school head coaches and at least one member of the high school varsity coaching staff.

Selection Criteria:

1. Each athlete will be rated using the athletic assessment rubrics.
2. The assessment rubrics will be provided to all coaches prior to tryouts.
3. Additional criteria, such as attitude, coachability and academic eligibility will be considered in making the final team member decisions.
4. An equal number of student-athletes will be selected for each Navy and Silver team.
5. The panel will determine the composition of the teams with consideration of potential roles for each individual athlete. The panel will collaborate to create the Navy and Silver Teams, utilizing the tryout criteria and rubrics.
6. This process will take place with only team selection committee members present, not in front of athletes.
7. The decision of this panel is final and is the responsibility of the selection team.

Notification:
1. The head coaches are required to personally notify all successful and unsuccessful candidates for the team (individual meetings).
2. Additional meetings for unsuccessful candidates can be scheduled to further discuss areas of improvement.
3. Successful candidates will be informed of their team placement on either the Navy or Silver team.
4. The team members will be given notification of practice and game sites.
5. The head coach will provide a roster to the Athletic Director after all students have been notified of their status with the team.
6. The head coach will discuss any difficulties that might be encountered from this procedure with the Athletic Director.

**Player/Parent Responsibilities:**

1. The student-athletes trying out for the teams must attend a minimum of two (2) official tryout dates.
2. The student-athletes must come prepared for tryouts.
3. The student-athletes will have a current and valid physical and concussion forms on file in the Athletic Office.
4. The student-athletes and parents recognize the authority and decisions of the selection committee.
5. The student-athletes and their parents understand that playing time for those making the team is at the sole discretion of the head coach and may not be equal for all teammates.
6. The student-athletes and their parents understand that the position of players is at the sole discretion of the coach.
Girls Basketball - November 4th, 5th, and 7th
Location: Kettering Fairmont High School

Tuesday November 4th - Main Gym (athletic entrance, Door #23)
7th Grade Girls: 6:00-7:30pm
8th Grade Girls: 7:30-9:00pm

Wednesday November 5th - James S. Trent Arena
7th Grade Girls: 6:00-7:30pm
8th Grade Girls: 7:30-9:00pm

Friday November 7th - Main Gym (athletic entrance, Door #23)
**Final Day of Try-Outs & Cuts/Team Selections**
7th Grade Girls: 5:00-6:30pm
8th Grade Girls: 6:30-8:00pm
Try-Out Schedule - 2014-2015

Boys Basketball - November 8th, 10th, and 11th
Location: Kettering Fairmont High School

Saturday November 8th - Main Gym (athletic entrance, Door #23)
7th Grade Boys: 4:00-6:00pm
8th Grade Boys: 6:00-8:00pm

Monday November 10th - James S. Trent Arena
7th Grade Boys: 6:00-7:30pm
8th Grade Boys: 7:30-9:00pm

Tuesday November 11th - Main Gym (athletic entrance, Door #23)
**Final Day of Try-Outs & Cuts/Team Selections**
7th Grade Boys: 5:00-6:30pm
8th Grade Boys: 6:30-8:00pm