

## **Melrose Athletic Department**

**Introduction:** The Interscholastic Athletic Program at Melrose is committed to the total physical, emotional, social and mental development of its participants. Interscholastic athletic competition is an extension of the classroom and an educational activity that provides outstanding opportunities to teach life lessons.

### **Athletic Department Mission Statement**

The interscholastic Athletic Program at Melrose High School is committed to the Mission Statement of Melrose High School, which states:

Melrose High School is committed to developing academic and personal excellence. In partnership with home and community, we foster a safe and caring leadership environment. We encourage a passion for learning by providing engaging curriculum with high expectations for all students. We prepare our graduates to become knowledgeable, respectful, contributing citizens in a global society. Additionally we will strive to achieve excellence in our school's athletic program by adopting the MIAA's model of Educational Athletics. The MIAA's model is endorsed by the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association (MSSADA), Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association (MSSAA) and the Massachusetts School Committee Association (MSCA).

"Educational Athletics addresses the following five areas; Wellness, Sportsmanship, Coaches' Education, Leadership and Community Service. Briefly described:

- Wellness – To empower students to make healthy life choices
- Sportsmanship- To teach respect for self, team, opponents, officials, rules and the game itself
- Coaches' Education- To provide opportunities for teacher-coaches to receive proper and ongoing training i.e. support professional development that is sport specific and training that addresses the health and wellness of our student-athletes
- Leadership – To promote the power of positive influence that student-athletes and teacher-coaches share as role models
- Community Service- To recognize the privilege of athletic participation and the responsibility of giving back to the community"<sup>1</sup>

Each area contains criteria that can be assessed in order to determine our progress toward achieving excellence in our athletic program. During the fall of 2013, at each teacher-coaches meeting and sports informational meeting, the Educational Athletics model will be presented and explained to each teacher-coach, student-athlete and parent. Goals will be established in order to chart out a "plan of action" for each sport toward achieving criteria in each area. At the conclusion of each season, teams will measure their progress toward each goal. The post-season meeting will include coaches, student-athletes and administrators.

1. Excerpt from the MIAA, Building the future through Education Athletics, July, 2013