



ATHLETICS

Girls Swim and Dive

Head Coach: Sam Hunt

Assistants: Russ Neal

Emily Hess

Present~Respectful~Ownership~United~Determined

Welcome to our Decatur High School Athletic program! Athletics and activities provide participants additional opportunity to learn, develop skills, grow as an individual and as a member of a team. Our Gator Athletic program will strive toward a united culture that fosters a high work ethic, accountability, outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork and respect for all.

During any season, there will be a wide range of emotional highs and lows, challenges that require perseverance, problem solving, wonderful celebrations and many lifetime memories. We consider ourselves partners with each role clearly defined:

Participants Compete, Parents Support, Coaches Coach, Officials Officiate

Decatur is a member of the North Puget Sound League (NPSL) with fifteen other schools resulting in extremely competitive contests. As Golden Gator's we will support the NPSL sportsmanship code and commit to: *Show pride, class, spirit and respect. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.*

The North Puget Sound League website contains all the information important to participants, coaches, parents, and spectators. Please always refer to our NPSL website <http://www.npslathletics.org/> as the Decatur Athletics master contest schedule. Our NPSL site provides the opportunity for people to sign up and receive emails when a contest is changed. Find the orange Subscribe button to follow any of our programs. You will find the most current contest schedules as well as locations and directions to all of the venues for our NPSL opponents. To assist participants and their families in planning for practice and contests during our season, coaches provide additional documents. Viewing the NPSL site on a regular basis is encouraged.

I am excited about the opportunity to lead the Decatur High School Athletic Program. Since my hiring in June I have confirmed many of my observations of the Gator culture. I have admired from the opposite side of the field/court the spirited support for Gator Athletics. I appreciate the district emphasis on developing scholar-athletes. I am determined to expand the Decatur Family through positive athletic experiences.
Go Gators!

Terry Jenks

Director of Athletics

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Coaching Staff:

Sam Hunt - Head Coach/Biology teacher: shunt@fwps.org

Russ Neal - Assistant Coach

Emily Hess - Assistant Coach

Remind 101 – enter phone #81010, then enter @decatursw into text box <http://www.npslathletics.org/>

We are excited to be coaching and working with such a great group of participants. This will be Coach Hunt's third season coaching high school swim and dive. He has coached various sports for 24 years and has taught at Decatur 20 years. This will be Coach Neal's eleventh year coaching at Decatur. He has been a lifeguard and swim instructor for over 20 years. Coach Neal is passionate about aquatics and is proud to be coaching at his alma mater. Coach Hess joins the team with a lot of swim knowledge and is excited to share it with the team.

Philosophy of our program:

A successful season for our team will be determined by our participant's ability to improve every day; by how hard we practice, by how aggressively we compete, & by how united we are as a team. We believe that it takes the talents of many individuals and hard work to produce a successful team effort. Our success as a team hinges on our ability to develop our individual talents and build a team culture that operates as one cohesive unit. We believe that for our team to be successful the good of the team must come first, before the good of the individual; however, individual contributions will be valued and recognized.

Iron Gator – we really want our participants to get out of their comfort zones so we strongly encourage them to compete in all the events, even if this is a new style of swim to them. Our goal here is that we will fill up our heats with as many participants as possible which also helps our point total in a competition. When our participants compete in four events during one meet, they will earn one letter point and receive recognition for this accomplishment.

If participants compete in four events for all seven NPSL meets, they will receive a special decal at our banquet.

Golden Gator – this is earned when a participant competes in every single type of swim style during the NPSL season. This is a great challenge for our participants and we look forward to seeing how many embrace this opportunity.

When participants achieve Golden Gator status, they will receive a special decal for their Decatur spirit gear at our team banquet.

Determining factors for level of competition in our program:

- *PROUD characteristics*
- *Academics, attitude and attendance*
 - *We understand some participants may have jobs or work commitments. This makes a 100% commitment to any team challenging. If a job or work commitment impacts one's ability to be a fully present participant, coaches and participants will collaborate with the intent to find a solution but ideally, our athletic program priorities are family, academics, team.*

- *Talent, experience, work ethic and cooperation*
- *Results of competition times in events*
- *Performance & dedication at team practices and contests*

Decatur Athletic Program Philosophy:

Varsity is committed to compete and win while demonstrating PROUD characteristics.

JV is designed develop and retain participation numbers while demonstrating PROUD characteristics.

Varsity (V): All participants have the opportunity to compete at the Varsity level if they are capable, can be competitive. Competition decisions are dependent upon PROUD characteristics, talent, commitment, punctual, in attendance, work ethic, and attitude. In addition, our Varsity team has the highest emphasis on competing at the state level. We will focus on outcome-based results which may lead to an inequity in the number of events one competes in at the Varsity level.

Lettering Requirements:

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- 30 points are required to earn a Varsity letter
- 5 points are earned if participant is eligible on the first day of the season (8/20)
- 3 points are earned if participant and parent/guardian attends Gator Athletic Night
- 2 points are earned if participant is eligible compete in first meet of the season
- 1 point for an Iron Gator performance (7 possible opportunities to achieve this)
- 5 points for above 90% attendance
- 3 points for above 80% attendance
- 1 point for above 70% attendance

Points can also be earned during our competitions:

- Individual Event - 6 pts for 1st place in the event**
 - 4 pts for 2nd place in the event
 - 3 pts for 3rd place in the event
 - 2 pts for 4th place in the event
 - 1 pt for 5th place in the event
- Relay Events – (these points will be divided by 4 before awarded)**
 - 8 pts for 1st place in the event
 - 4 pts for 2nd place in the event
 - 2 pts for 3rd place in the event

When a participant qualifies for the NPSL meet in an individual event, they automatically qualify to earn a Varsity letter When a participant qualifies for the WCD meet in a relay, they automatically qualify to earn a Varsity letter

All participants must consistently demonstrate PROUD characteristics throughout the

entire season. In addition, participants will:

- meet the 80% attendance requirement throughout the season which includes all practices and matches
- be academically eligible at the end of the season
- have returned all issued equipment or gear before the banquet
- have paid all fines through the finance office before the banquet

If in case there is a behavior standard or a situation that falls short of our PROUD characteristic standard, it is possible that this could impact their receipt of a Varsity letter.

Junior Varsity (JV) team: Our JV team will focus on the development and retention of participants with the intent to prepare them to eventually compete at the Varsity level.

Program Expectations

Practice Standards:

- *On practice days our team will train at King County Aquatics Center (KCAC) from 2:30-4:00. We expect everyone to be on time, dressed and pool side ten minutes before our start time.*
 - *We train off sight and we recognize this can present challenges with transportation to practices.*
 - *Participants are not allowed to transport teammates to any practice.*
 - *Participants may drive themselves or related family to practice.*
 - *Parent/guardians may drive their own children to practice without a FWPS form.*
 - *A FWPS school district form is required for parents to fill out and return to Decatur's Athletic office in order to transport other participants in a private vehicle (Form 121-A) to practices.*
 - *Form 121-A must be returned to the Athletic office at Decatur High School before transport of any participant with the exception of family members.*
 - *Form 121-A requires proof of insurance and a copy of a current Drivers License.*
 - *Form 121-A may be picked outside the Athletic Office at Decatur.*
 - *Families can work together with carpools. Coaches are not involved in organizing transportation.*
 - *Pick up time at KCAC is at 4:15pm.*
 - *Attendance at practice every day is critical to our ability to improved and be competitive. If for some reason a participant cannot make practice please communicate to Head Coach at your earliest convenience through Remind 101 or email.*
 - *FWPS scholars are required to attend at least half a day to compete in a contest or practice. School related activities and pre-arranged health appointments are considered part of the regular school day.*

- *100% attendance is required at all team practices, games and functions.*
 - *If you are sick and at school, you need to see Head Coach if you believe you need to go home, in lieu of practice.*
 - *If you stay home from school, do not attend practice. If you are too sick to be in school, you are too sick to participate.*
- *Swim and dive lends itself to participant who compete in club. WIAA rules state that high school programs may not alter or make exceptions for club participants.*
 - *Per WIAA policy 18.23.1 – schools may not give students special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable them to participate in non-school athletic activities. Some examples of special treatment or privileges include reduced practice time, special workouts, late arrivals, early dismissals or missing a practice or contest.*
 - *Regular is defined as more than once.*
- *ASB cards must be purchased before competing in a contest. o Financial hardships should be communicated to the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director during a school day.*
- *Per WIAA rules, participants must have 10 practices before competing in a contest.*
- *Help with all the preparation on meet days with any swim set up required etc. “See a need and fill it”*
- *Participants are not to be active until there is a Coach present and is overseeing everyone’s safety.*
- *When a participant is academically ineligible, recovering from an illness or injured, we expect them to be fully present to the best of their ability, an “all in” team member, supporting and cheering on teammates during practices/contests and in a position to continue learning so they are fully prepared and ready to contribute upon return.*
- *Come to practice ready to compete with intensity every day. #wecompete*

Behavior Standards:

Core covenants of all Decatur Athletics are PROUD characteristics:

Present – we show up everyday, fully committed to learn and develop in our sport.
Respect - of self, teammates, coaches, opponents, officials and all people and property.
Ownership - of all decisions, being a dependable and trustworthy teammate.
United - as a team, Decatur Athletic program and as a high school.
Determined – to do our best everyday, never give up and to represent Decatur at the highest level at all times.

- *Participants are expected to conform to all state, local, community, district, school and team rules, policies, and standards. That includes showing proper respect to coaches, officials, parents, other teammates, other sports*

athletes, school faculty and staff, bus drivers, and/or any other adult in an authoritative position at our school or any locations that we may visit.

- *Families and participants can be a tremendous help for coaches to become aware of bullying and harassment. Please communicate with the Head Coach or AD as soon as possible.*
- *We do not allow demeaning initiation ceremonies or hazing of any kind. Families and participants can be a tremendous help in this area as well. Please communicate to the Head Coach or AD as soon as possible.*

Contest Standards:

- *Meets start at 3:30pm. Typically meets end by 5:00pm.*
- *Participants need to be dressed in Decatur gear and ready to warm up an hour before start time. Participants will know one day ahead of time if they are competing V or JV on meet day.*
- *Participants are not allowed to leave the pool area to get food etc. Water on deck is encouraged.*
- *For home or away meets, participants are required to be present from start to finish, unless there is a valid reason that is communicated as early as possible and approved by the Head Coach.*
- *During any season, there could be unexpected illness, family travel plans or school conflicts. Please inform Head Coach as soon as possible. How unexpected issues are processed will be on a case by case basis.*
- *Safety is a high priority. Participants must let a coach know when using the restrooms or moving out of vision from our coaching staff.*
- *Each participant on our team will wear Decatur gear. Decatur gear will be worn on ALL contest days (NO EXCEPTIONS). Spirit gear is encouraged to be worn to school on meet days.*
- *We will exhibit outstanding sportsmanship at all times. Race fast and race hard!*

Post-Contest Behavior Standards:

- *All participants are responsible for making sure our swim area is completely cleaned up whether the trash belongs to Decatur or not. We will always leave our spaces better than we found them. Everyone in our program will lend a helping hand.*
- *After every meet we will have a brief team meeting before participants talk with loved ones, the fans, or the media.*
- *After meets if a participant is approached by a reporter before we meet, politely tell them that you will be glad to talk with them in a couple of minutes after our team meeting.*
- *When talking to the media always be a humble winner or a gracious loser. Always give your teammates and coaches credit for their play and allowing the team to be successful. Give your opponents credit where credit is due, and never ever criticize your teammates, coaches, opponents or the umpires in public.*

Program Communication:

Remind 101 – Sign up now!

When there is a concern, Head Coach prefers to be contacted by Remind 101.

Problem Solving Steps:

We encourage all participants to speak directly with coaches if there is a misunderstanding, clarification is needed or an issue arises. As parents, please encourage your children to speak directly with coaches. If the issue is not resolved with their coach one on one, the problem solving chain will be:

- Athlete speaks directly with Head Coach in person when emotions are controlled
- Athlete and Parent speak directly with Head Coach
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach and AD speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD and Vice Principal speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD, Vice Principal and Principal speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD, Vice Principal, Principal and District Athletic Director speak in person

Gator Head Coaches have high expectations and are developing competitive programs which naturally lead to intense emotion responses at times. As we work through emotional situations, Gator Head Coaches are committed to collaborative, healthy problem solving interaction believing that our communication order provides a healthy framework for working through conflicts. If there is a situation of high priority, danger to participants and/or others of severe nature, these steps may be altered for the welfare of all involved.

Team travel and transportation standards for contests:

Our bus transportation standard is for everyone to ride to and from contests. Bus transportation is a great opportunity and time for building team culture and bonding. If parent/guardians opt to transport in their private vehicle, that process will be:

- Parent/guardian will sign out with the Head Coach on a document clarifying who will be privately transporting a participant after the contest has ended.
 - A FWPS district form is not required to transport your own participant.
- FWPS Form 121-A is required for a parent to drive someone else's child. This form is available outside the athletic office.
 - Form 121-A along with proof of insurance and a copy of a current driver's license must be returned to Decatur HS athletic office before any private transport. Please do not give these forms to any coach.
- We will travel with PROUD characteristics at all times.
- When we step off the bus, we will be ready to compete by our behavior and appearance.
- Participant safety is our paramount duty and highest priority. Please help us with communicating clearly and in writing about transportation of a participant home from contests.
 - Players are not to drive teammates to or from any practice or contest.

Injuries:

Decatur Athletics has an ATI Athletic Trainer (AT) who provides care for our participants. Hours are posted on the entry door to the AT office which is located by the locker room entrances. FWPS has a detailed contract with ATI. We encourage all participants to utilize this resource for physical care.

- Injury defined is when a participant can no longer practice or compete in a contest. Our AT or anyone at ATI can reinstate a participant after an in person review as long as an outside Dr. has not been part of the evaluation process.
 - It is not inside a coaches expertise of knowledge to determine a participants physical status so they are not able to reinstate an injured participant. AT's or ATI has this responsibility.
- If an injured participant sees a physician he/she must then provide a written physician's note clearing the athlete for the referred injury before return to play to the AD or AT.
 - The AD or AT will communicate in writing to the coach that a participant is released for practice or competition.
- If a participant is removed from a practice or contest due to a suspected concussion, he/she must have approval from a medical professional before they return to play.
 - The participant must also be cleared through our AT who has specific return to play protocol for concussion.
- If an injury bridges seasons, a written physician clearance is required to participate in the second season.
 - ALL written notes are to be turned into the AD or the AT – not a coach. AD or the AT will communicate in writing to Head Coach that the participant is released for practice and/or contests.

Defining Roles:

Role of a Decatur Coach:

- Encourage sportsmanship
- Lead by example
- Promote a family atmosphere
- Guide the team towards success and elevate the level of competitiveness
- Establish and develop a positive culture that is based on PROUD characteristics
- Help each participant be a better competitor and person
- Inspire participants to reach their full potential
- Foster a passion for competition and their respective sport

Role of the Participant:

- Be coachable
- Display PROUD Gator characteristics and take PRIDE in your team
- Always give your best effort – be fully Present
- Keep control of your emotions at all times
- Always bring a positive attitude
- Show respect for your teammates and be the BEST teammate
- Work hard and compete with intensity
- Be enthusiastic, honest, dependable and loyal

- Earn the respect of your teammates by your actions
- Compete each day as if it is for the CHAMPIONSHIP (#wecompete)

Role of the Parent:

- Leave the coaching to the coaches
- Participate in the program where there is a need
- Support your participant with your presence and words
- Understand and support the goals/dreams of the program
- Communicate with the Coach when you have concerns (ideally with your child present)
- Always stay positive and enjoy your participants experience
- Encourage your participant and the entire program throughout the season

Academic Requirements and Eligibility:

Academic status will be monitored by the Athletic Director. FWPS has defined dates for academics to be checked as well as specific recovery process. Parents will not be notified if their high school scholars are academically ineligible. Our high school participants will be notified by the AD or Head Coach and they are responsible to communicate their status to others. Parents can view scholar grades through ParentVue. Please connect with your child's counselor if you need assistance to access ParentVue.

Social Media Standards

FWPS and Decatur Athletics supports Social Media sites as this is how information is shared in today's times. Decatur Athletics and Coaches commit to projecting an image that supports our PROUD characteristics - focusing and acknowledging our accomplishments. Once comments and information are posted on a social media site, they are difficult to retract. Therefore, we trust and respectfully request that our participants, parents and coaches are positive on all social media sites focusing on Gator accomplishments.

- Trash talking on any social media form is considered inflammatory and subject to athletic discipline.
- Inappropriate postings on any social media site is subject to athletic discipline.

We ask our entire Gator Community to avoid challenging or being critical of other schools, our own programs, our coaches/players, official's etc. on social media sites. Thank you in advance for protecting our Decatur image as PROUD and RESPECTFUL GOLDEN GATORS!

Early Dismissal Days:

During our season, there will be a few early dismissal days. Unless the Head Coach has scheduled supervised time in a specific location for team members, participants will need to leave campus and then return when coach supervision is present for practice/contests.

Athletic Code for Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco Products (including e-cigarettes) and Misuse of Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs:

Participants that violate any of the above will work through the language in both the FWPS Athletic Handbook (<https://www.fwps.org/Page/4920>) and policy 18.25.0 in the WIAA

Handbook (<http://wiaa.com/conDocs/Con1690/Eligibility.pdf>) with the appropriate Decatur Administrators or Designee.

Areas Parents can be involved/helpful:

Swim meets offer the opportunity for parent involvement. We always need timers so if interested, please communicate with Head Coach. We encourage involvement at our meets

General information:

- Please check www.npslathletics.org/ for league schedule, transportation departure times and standings.

Additional Resources

- NCAA Eligibility Center (EC): www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org
 - This is for ANY student who has the desire to continue playing in college.
 - The NCAA EC allows for any school you are recruited by or you contact, to track your transcripts, test scores and amateurism.
 - Without clearance from the NCAA you will not be allowed to participate on a college team.
 - There are 1,200+ NCAA Div. I, II, and III colleges and Universities across the country, there is a place for anyone who is interested.
- NAIA Eligibility Center www.PLAYnaia.org
 - There are 250 NAIA colleges and universities
 - Initial Eligibility standards are similar to NCAA Division II
 - Decatur Athletic Director or Counselors assist our scholars with NCAA or NAIA Eligibility. Please connect with them if you need assistance
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA): www.wiaa.com
 - Provides in depth rule and policies that all high schools are required to follow.
- Federal Way Public Schools website – www.fwps.org
 - In depth athletic department rules and policies for all high schools in the district:
<https://www.fwps.org/Page/4920>