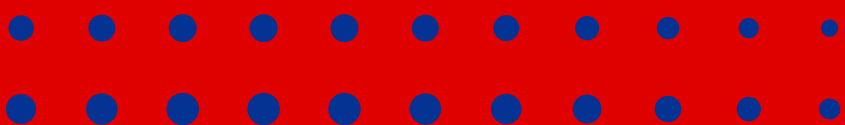


POWER OF THE STUDENT SECTION:

How to Lead, Energize, and Inspire

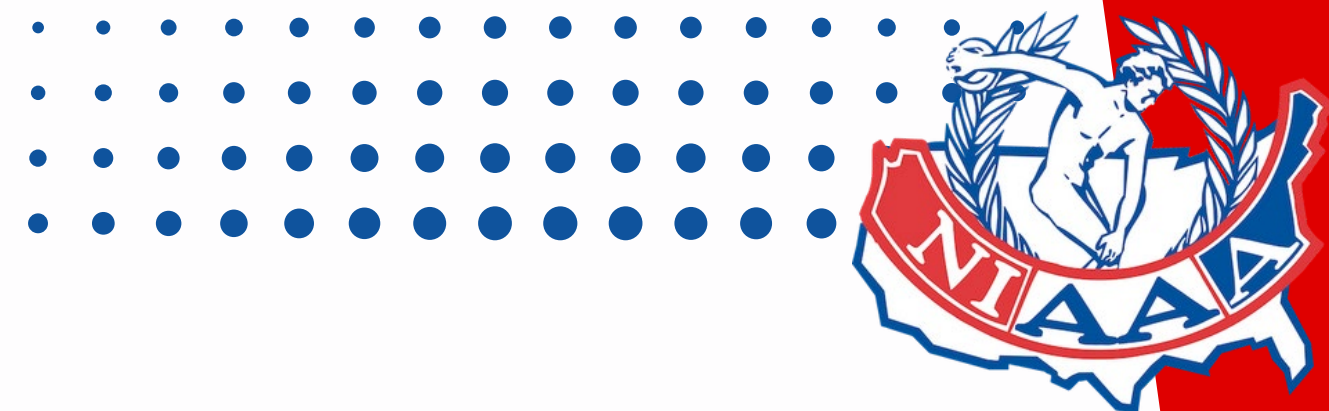


POWER OF THE STUDENT SECTION



Billy Tipps, CMAA
District Athletic Director
Bentonville Schools, Bentonville, AR
btipps@bentonvillek12.org

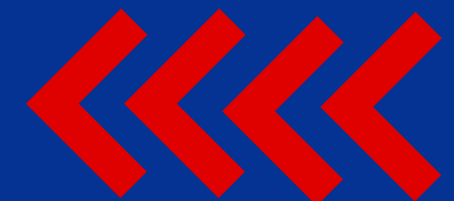
Angelo Fantasia
Director of Athletics
Timberlane Regional School District
Plainstow, NH
Angelo.Fantasia@timberlane.net



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

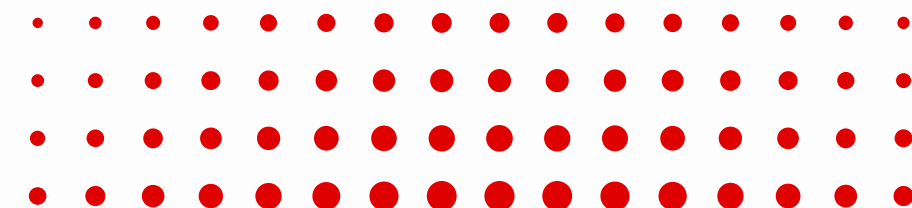
WHAT IMPACT DO WE WANT TO CREATE?

1. How many of you believe that student energy can change the climate of a school more than any policy ever could?
2. What is the overall culture in your school?
3. Why is it important to empower students and identify expectations?
4. How do you promote student leadership and engagement in your school?

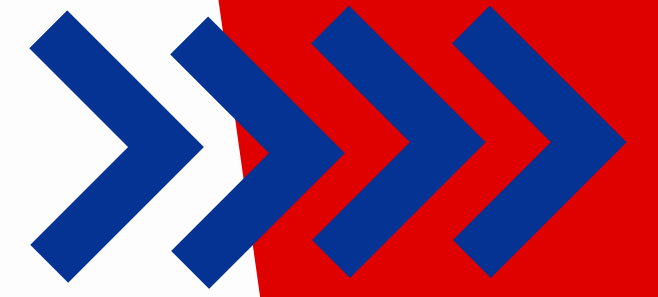


IT'S BIGGER THAN THE SCOREBOARD

- The student section **influences** school culture, community pride, and leadership identity
- Their energy **extends** far beyond game day, it reaches classrooms, hallways, and the community
- Powerful students = **transformative** change



THE BENEFITS OF A POWERFUL STUDENT SECTION

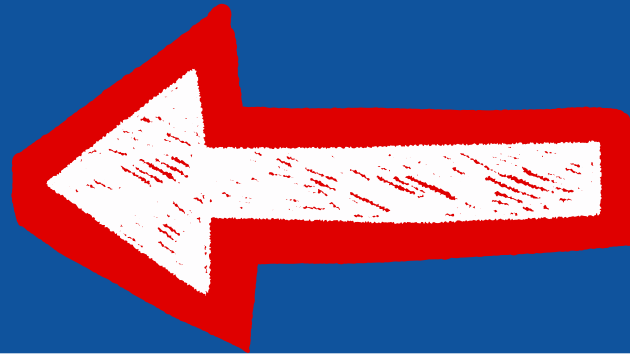


- Elevated School Pride and Positive Identity
 - feeling **connected** to something bigger than themselves
 - reduces negativity, reinforces shared identity
- Improved Student Behavior and Citizenship
 - leaders model respect, enthusiasm and set **peer-driven standards**
 - Expectations created translate into the hallways
- Stronger Relationships Across Grade Levels and Groups
 - unified section blends non-athletes, all classes, clubs, and fans
 - Builds a more **inclusive campus** culture
- Increased Daily Energy and Engagement
 - student leaders bring energy and excitement
 - students come more **engaged**
 - teachers feel supported
 - vibe becomes more positive and energized



»»» SETTING THE TONE

Expectations for student leaders



[Student Section Group
Expectations Resource](#)

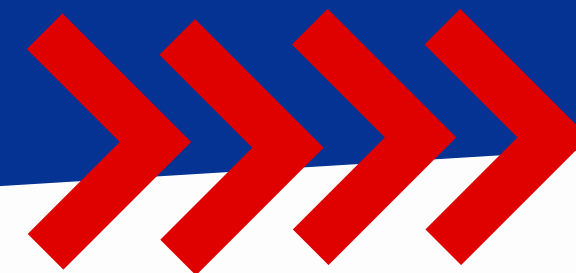
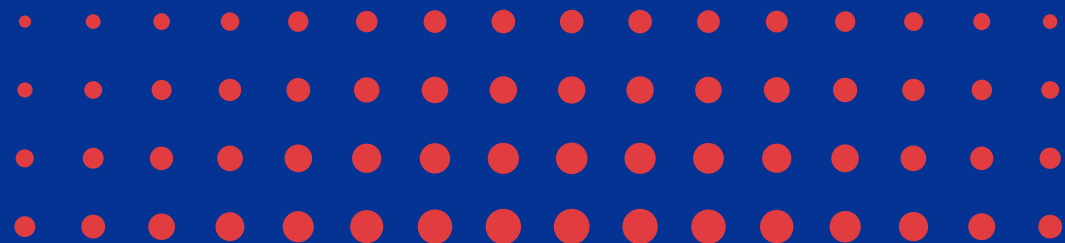
Applies in the school, stands, and in the community



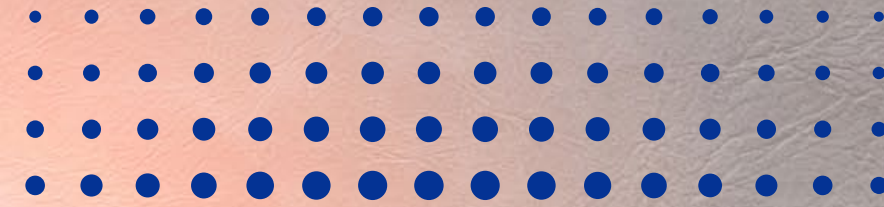
THE LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Men in Black, Golden Girls, and Blues Brothers represent tradition, unity, and leadership with purpose

- Visibility equals responsibility
- Good citizenship, Respect, Sportsmanship, Integrity
- Not about who can yell the loudest —about who can **lead the best**
- Members **model leadership** through behavior and school pride
- Membership is a **privilege**, not a right
- Expectations include academic success, **positive citizenship**
- **Intentional work** begins before the games



REFLECT....



If spirit can transform a game atmosphere, what could that same level of engagement do for your campus culture Monday morning at 8 a.m.?

[MIBGG 2025-2026 Information Form](#)

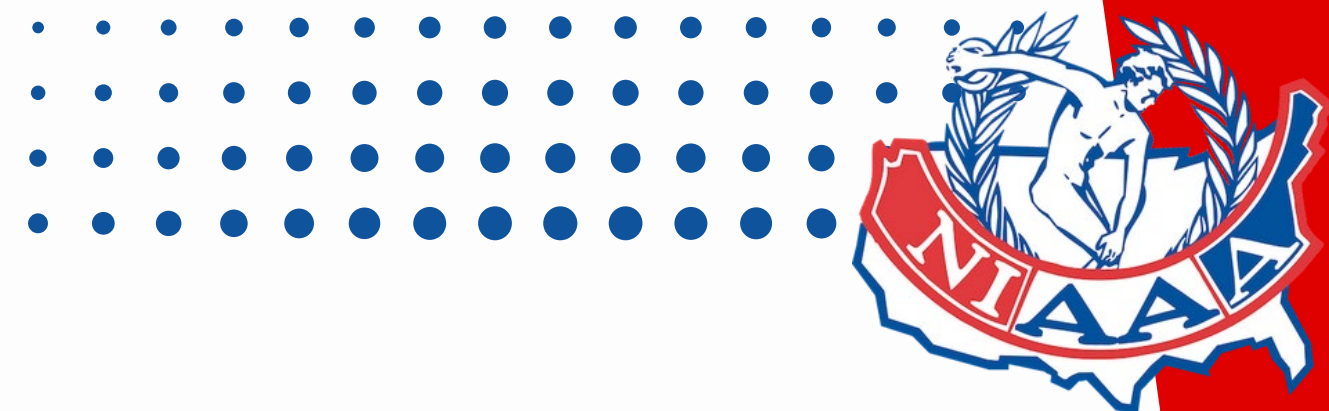
- Powerful student sections are more than noise
- When connected students believe their voice matters, they show up differently.
- Not just in the stands, but in classrooms, activities, and everyday interactions.

THE POWER OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT >>>>



**LIFE OF AN
ATHLETE**

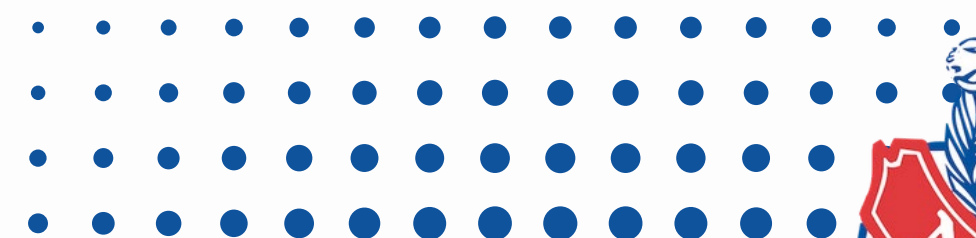
- Students rise to higher expectations when they feel connected, valued, and inspired
- engagement happens when students support one another and contribute to a shared purpose
- Engaged students understand their role in shaping a positive school culture —on campus and in the community
- Strong engagement builds leadership, character, and integrity in every interaction



YOU CAN COUNT ON TIMBERLANE OWLS TO ALWAYS



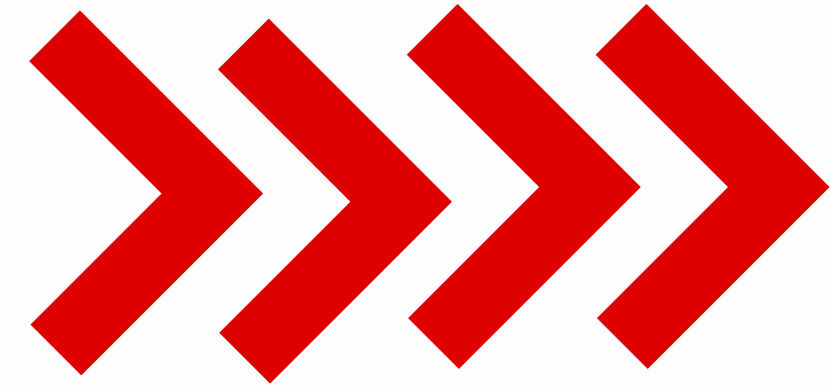
OFFER THEIR BEST
WORK COOPERATIVELY
LIVE RESPONSIBLY
SPEAK AND ACT RESPECTFULLY



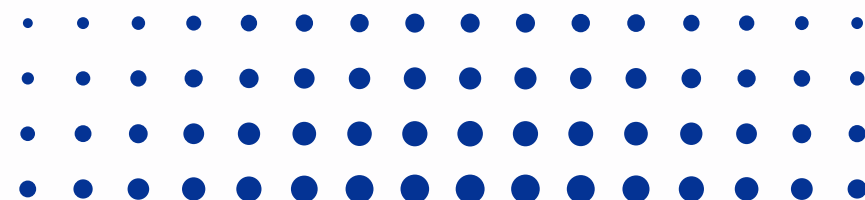
Life of an Owl Executive Council



PARENT AWARENESS NIGHTS



- Designated meeting time for parents, student-athletes, and coaches.
- Athletic Director shares expectations including sportsmanship and behavior.
- Coaches share expectations with parents and players



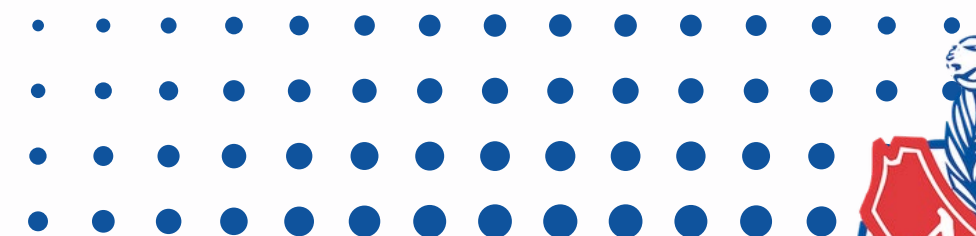
POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR

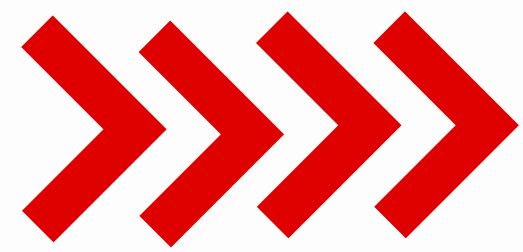


- Cheering for your team
- Being respectful to officials and opposing team players
- Positive word choices

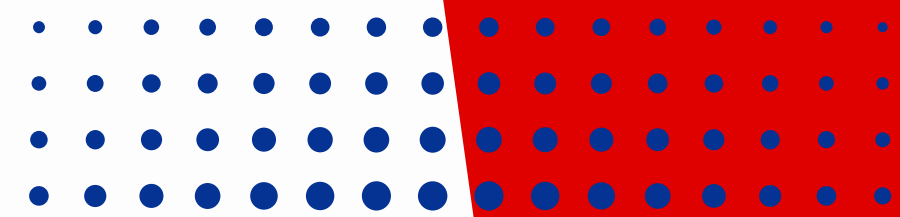


- Singling out opposing team players
- Yelling at officials
- Coaching from the sideline
- Negative word choices





FAN AND STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS



What are your expectations regarding fan behavior?

Student Section Etiquette



How do you communicate those expectations?



RIVAL GAME SCENARIO >>>>

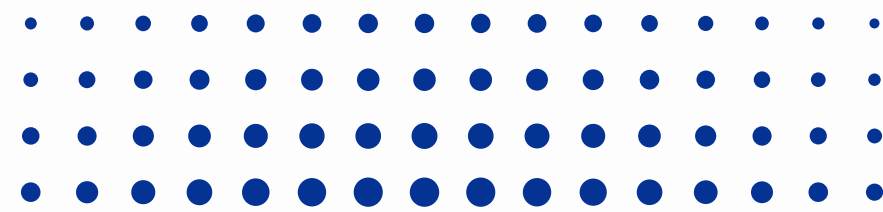
You have a big game against
a rival school next week.

How will you prepare?





EXPECTED FAN BEHAVIOR



** CREATED BY STUDENT LEADERS*

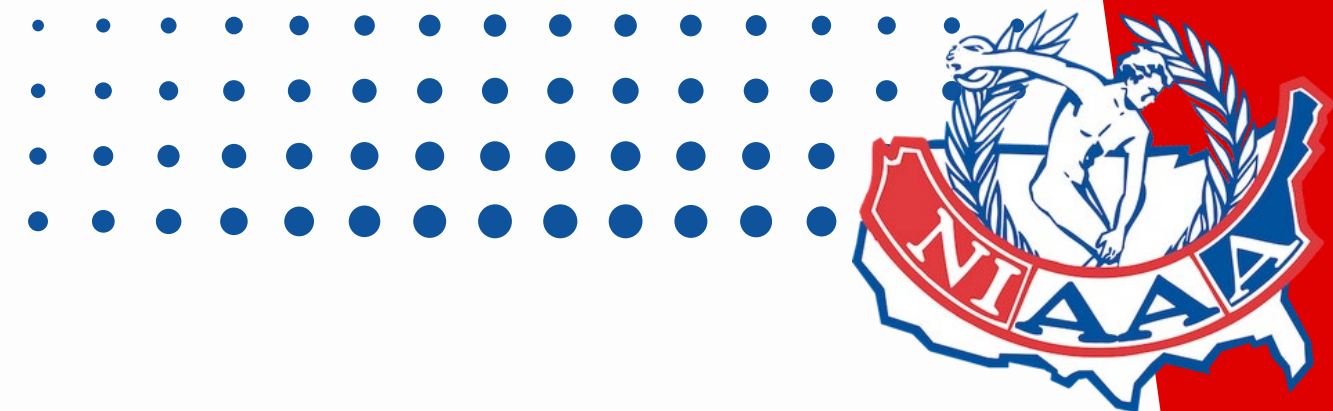
- Coaching from fans can happen before and after, not during
- Please be respectful of opposing teams and encourage a healthy and happy environment
- Let the players play, coaches coach, and official officiate
- By demonstrating these positive behaviors you will create positive experiences for your student athletes



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



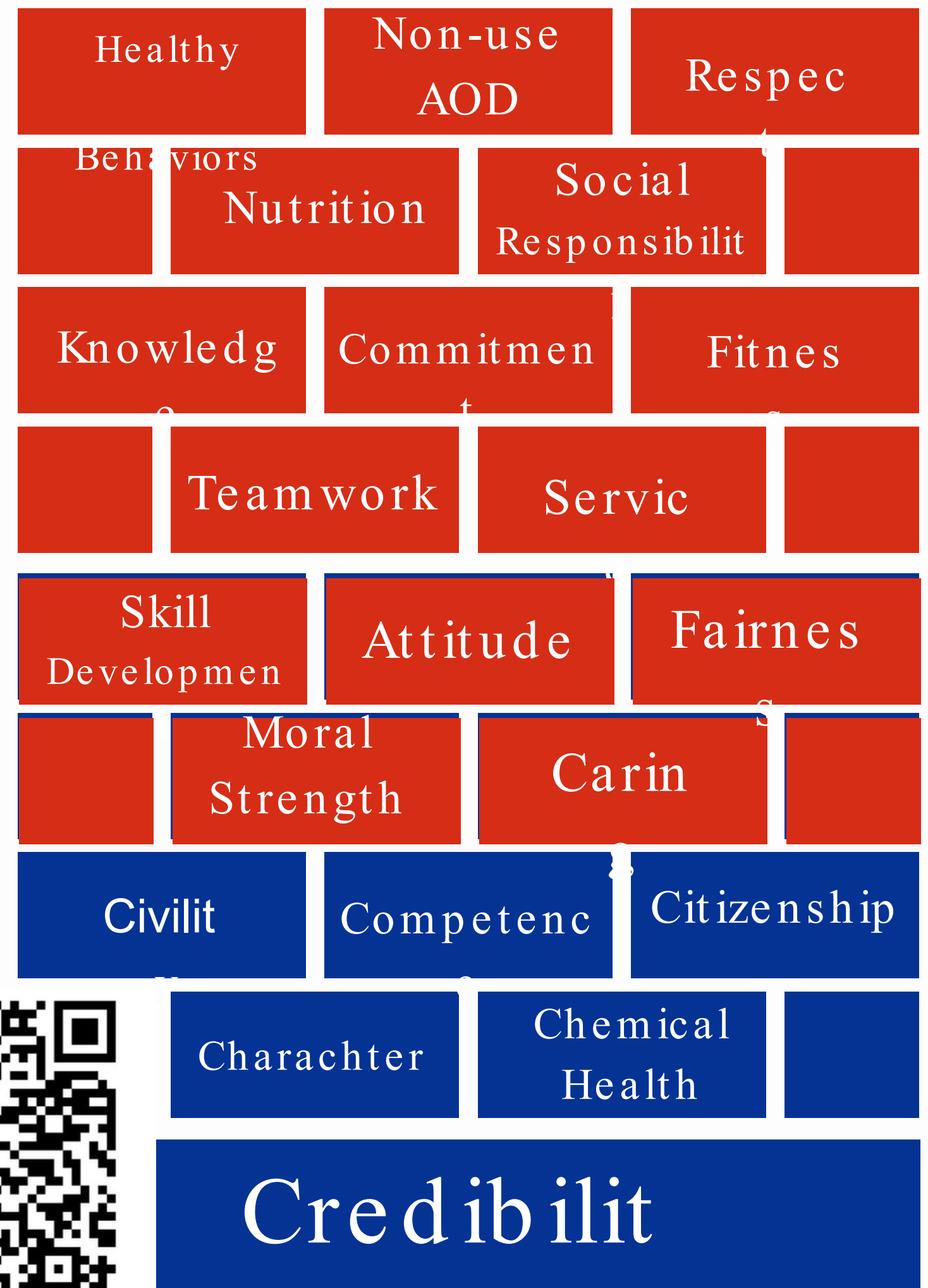
- LIFE OF AN OWL STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS AND SCENARIO WORK
- STUDENT-LED THEME NIGHTS: WHITE-OUT, NEON, PAJAMA NIGHT



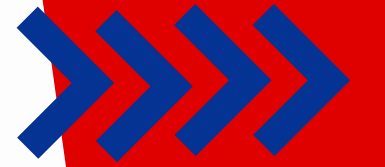
5 C's of

- Civility: honesty, enthusiasm,
- Character: moral strength, self-control, and fair play.
- Competence: Knowledge and adaptability
- Chemical Health: healthy lifestyle choices
- Citizenship: social responsibility and role modeling, and respect.

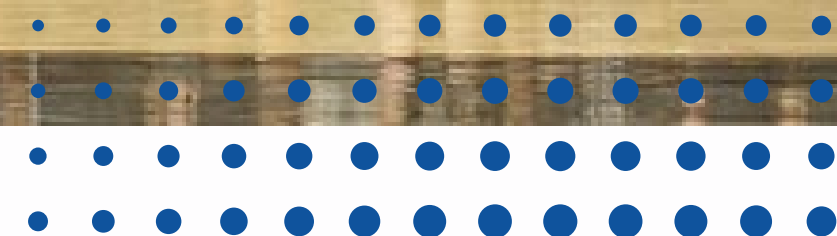
Application



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUPS: PROGRAM OVERVIEW



- PURPOSE:
- GUIDING GOALS:
- COMPOSITION:
- MEETING FREQUENCY:

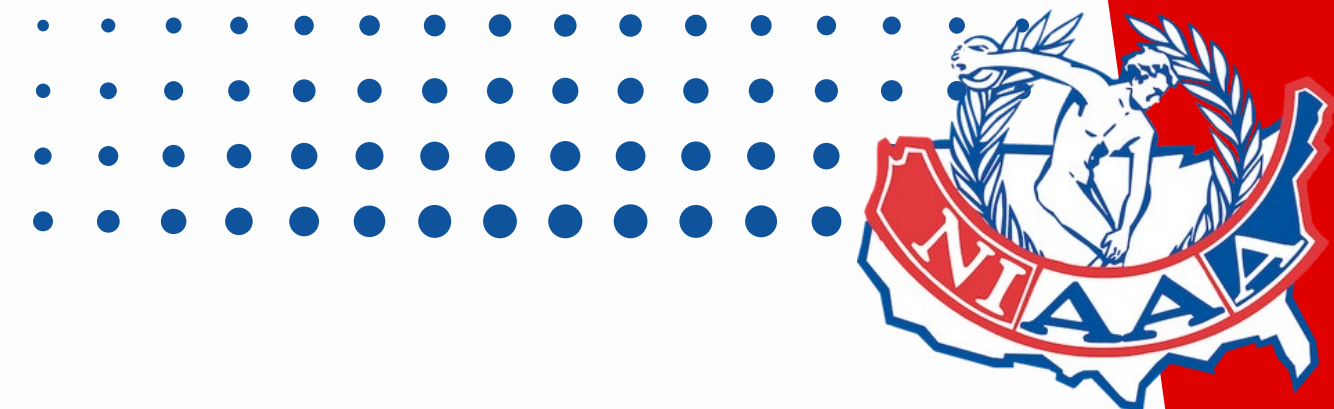


STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT SECTION POWER

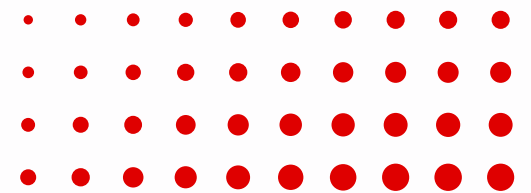


What is the **Connection** ?

- One **teaches** voice, responsibility, and influence
- The other is where those qualities get **lived** out
- Leadership **groups create** leaders, student **section** gives them a platform .
- When **connected** they don't just create noise they create student -driven culture



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



- Creation and Reading of Pre Game Announcements
- Student Leaders Present their view on sportsmanship and fan behavior for both students and adults at Parent Awareness Nights
- Involve more students/groups in game ceremonies
- Project Hope: Play for a Cure
- Pep Band



REFLECT....



YOURSELF

How do you include your students into leadership responsibilities?

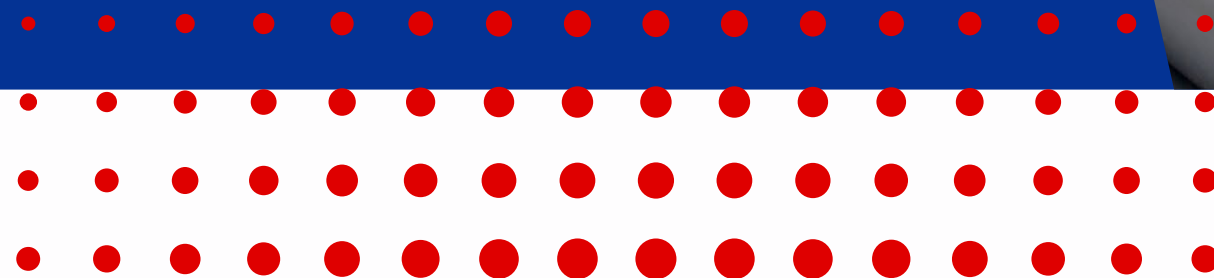
- Do you schedule the time?
- How are your coaches coaching leadership?



CREATING A POSITIVE CLIMATE



- Thermometer vs Thermostat
 - Anyone can check temperature, leaders change temperature
- Work is constant
- Enlist student leaders
- Make connections



REFLECT...

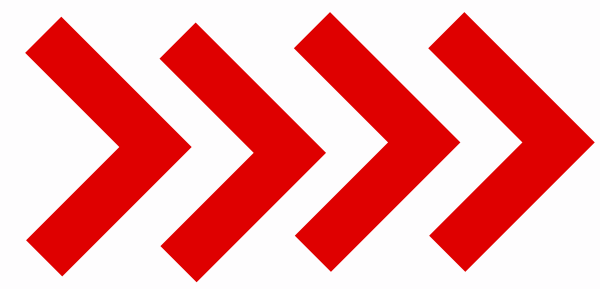


YOURSELF

- Share examples of positive or negative experiences you've had at athletic events.

How could a powerful student section have affected that experience?





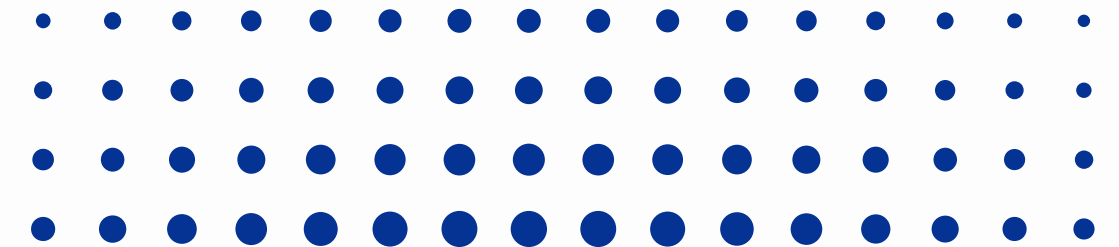
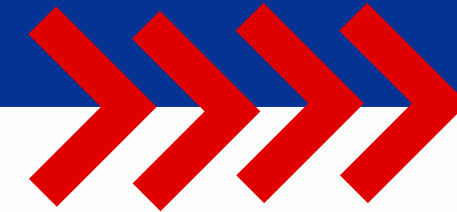
FINAL MESSAGE



- “The student section is more than hype—it’s leadership.”
- “Students set the energy, the expectations, and the culture.”
- “When done right, the student section becomes one of the most impactful leadership groups in a school.”
- “Together, we create a climate where school pride, responsibility, and excellence become the norm.”



THANK YOU



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