**WELCOME MESSAGE**

Welcome to the Wiregrass Ranch wrestling team and family. You have taken the first steps to participating in the most exciting and challenging sport at the high school level. As an athlete you will work and push yourself harder than you ever thought you could. As a parent, you will scream, cheer, yell and possibly cry as you ride the emotional roller coaster of one of the most emotionally charged high schools sports.

Wrestling is unlike any other team sport. Wrestler’s will score individual points for their match and team points based on the results of their individual bouts. However, not only is it a team sport, but it places special emphasis on individual effort. No matter how the team does or doesn’t do, each wrestler has an opportunity to be a state champion as every varsity wrestler has the opportunity to compete in the year end state tournament.

In wrestling, there is a direct correlation to the amount of work that the athlete puts in, to the amount of success they will have. The harder your work, the more success you are likely to have.

The upcoming season will be filled with trials and tribulations. This seasons schedule will afford the athletes an opportunity to face some of the toughest competition in the state. The team will travel to Valdosta, Georgia, Orlando, Osceola and Manatee County. To be the best, you have to beat the best. And we seek out the toughest competition across the State.

This year’s team will be the first year we will bring back nearly a full team of seasoned and experienced wrestlers. We saw tremendous growth from all of our first-year wrestler’s last year and have high expectations for this year’s team. This year’s team will boast five returning varsity wrestler’s, two girls that were state qualifiers and two boys that were regional qualifiers. And we have a handful of freshmen joining us from our American Warrior Wrestling Club – “Intrare Bellator” or “Enter the Warrior”.

In closing, I am excited that you have accepted the challenge of wrestling. It will push you to new limits and you will achieve or accomplish things you never believed you could do. You will develop a set of skills and values that will not only serve you well on the wrestling mat, but will serve you well throughout your life. I am looking forward to an outstanding season and the privilege of working with you and your families this year. GO BULLS!

J. EDWARD KETLER, Ed.D

Head Coach, Wrestling