

Sent February 9, 2019

Updates & Info for HABC Boosters

Hello Parents and Boosters:

At the time that I'm drafting this email, we are 117 days, 22 hours and 21 minutes until my oldest son graduates from Hays High School. WHAT? I know that many of you are on the same countdown clock! The school year is going to be over in a blink!

Celebrate the H! We are celebrating regional berths in swimming, fantastic results for powerlifters so far this season, top tournament placements in tennis, strong seasons for boys and girls basketball, and strong openings in soccer, as well as post-season honors for many football players. The spring sports are all gearing up and we look forward to seeing the results as ALL of our Hays Rebels excel on the fields, on the track, on the courts, and on the course! Keep an eye on social media for ongoing updates -- and don't forget to send in pictures to HaysABC@gmail.com so that we can represent all sports!

Scholarships. If you have senior athletes, remind them that the local scholarship application period is open -- including the add-on application for the HABC scholarship. The applications are available on the students' Google classroom accounts. They have to follow the instructions sent out by Julie Petrus and all applications are due by March 31 and must be turned in to the HHS Counseling Office. **The HHS Scholarship ceremony will be May 19 at 1pm at the PAC.**

Get Involved. Here are some upcoming ways that you can get involved in supporting the Rebels.

- **Volunteer to help with concessions for one of these events:**
 - **URGENT NEED -- Basketball Playoff Games on February 11 & 12** at Bales Gym: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4caba629a2f58-concessions>
 - **Shelton Relays @ Shelton Stadium on Saturday, March 9:** Hays will be hosting 10-12 schools for this track meet. We will post the sign-up for this closer to the date.
 - **Baseball & Softball Concessions:** We will soon be posting sign-ups for the baseball and softball concessions. Please consider covering an hour or two to help!

***REAL TALK:** Look, we know that working concessions is a drag. No one loves to do it. But it's a service that we as boosters/parents/friends/community provide to the teams and to the school. And listen, we that know you're all busy. You're busting your hump at work, at home, at all of your other commitments, AND you're supporting and raising these amazing student athletes. It's a lot, we know. We are RIGHT THERE WITH YOU, and the thought of adding one more thing to the calendar makes my head hurt too. But many hands can make this work light. Please, please, **please** help us carry this load. Even if you can only work one night, or even just shift at one game, or one hour at a track meet, it's still worth it and it's still helpful.*

Red & Blue Rally - Spring Sports! Wednesday, February 27. Mark your calendars now! We will be honoring the spring sports: Softball, Baseball, Track and Golf. Spring sport student athletes will receive a free meal. We'll be having a dinner from 5:30-6:30pm in the trophy room in Bales followed by a program from 6:30-7:30 in Bales Gym. Parents, families, and community members are invited. We will also need some help with ticket taking, set up, and clean-up for the event.

Membership Drive ongoing. Please encourage your fellow team parents and family and community members to join the HABC! They can join via the website: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/membership>
Total # of HABC members (confirmed/paid): **146**. Sport by sport breakdowns are provided at the booster club meetings. As mentioned before, we had a fewer than 90 booster club members last year. This is a big improvement, but we have a long way to go to reach our goal! With approximately 700 student athletes, we should have at least 300 booster club members. (See our booster goals below.)

As a reminder for new members, below is a list of our ongoing goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

HABC Goals for 2018-2019:

- **Increase membership.** With approximately 700 student athletes across all sports, **our goal is to have at least 300 HABC family and community members.** That is less than 50% of the athletes, which is still incredibly low. But last year, there were only 89 paid HABC memberships. Please help us to change that number by inviting friends, family and community members to join, and by encouraging your fellow sports parents to join.
- **Improve inclusiveness.** One of the primary issues raised to the HABC leadership has been the perception that the boosters are only about football. This year, we want to make every possible effort to change that perception. A big way to do that is for more parents of more sports to join HABC, attend the meetings, and get involved.
- **Expand communications.** We hope to communicate more this year -- via emails like this, via our newly revamped website, via social media. But communication is a two-way street, we would love to hear from you! Comment on our posts, reply to this email, send feedback through your parent sports coordinators. (If you don't know who they are, please reply to me and I'll send you contact information.) Additionally, we'll be posting the minutes from each HABC meeting online. All meeting minutes can be found here: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/info-%26-updates> (There's also a fun photo gallery with pictures that have been submitted from the various sports... have you checked it out?)
- **Implement procedures.** All volunteer organizations struggle in this area. This year one of our goals is to prepare "standard operating procedures" for things like concession stands and Bleacher Creatures, and more. In doing so, we hope to make it easier for volunteers to step-in, fill a need and know what they're doing instead of feeling uncomfortable or confused because they're just expected to know how things happen. It's our hope that this will help us to do things even more consistently from year-to-year. This probably sounds pretty boring, but it's pretty important for an organization where leaders and volunteers change every year.

Other Info:

- We are working to be more active in posting events and updates from all sports on the HABC social media platforms -- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are all active. Keep sending pictures and updates to HaysABC@gmail.com so that we can keep all of the content current!
- Shout outs to our two \$1000 sponsors (Texas Lehigh Cement and Crystal Clear Pools & Spa) and one \$500 sponsor (Bright Beginnings Schools). **We would love to have MORE sponsorships**, so if you have sales skills and/or know of companies who might be interested, please let us know! Sponsorship info can be found here: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/sponsorship> (and individuals or families can also be sponsors).

Below are some helpful links:

- Main HABC Site: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/>
- Membership: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/membership>

- Webstore: <https://haysathleticboosterclub.com/merchandise-web-store>

Feel free to share all of this with the other parents. And help us spread our 2018-19 tagline: **Fill the stands, bring the spirit, support our Hays HS student athletes!**

Celebrate the H!

Jennifer Williams

HABC President 2018-2019