

## **Landsharks Baseball Club**

*“Love is the most important thing in the world. But baseball is pretty good, too.”*

*~Yogi Berra*

### **What is it?**

Landsharks Baseball Club (LBC) is a co-ed after school program. It is free for students and their families. Students can join LBC in the spring of 3rd grade. LBC is a voluntary program with no attendance requirements. We play on the field at Lincoln Elementary at no cost to the school. We gather in the gym at dismissal for a team meeting before playing. At 4:45pm players leave the field with an adult we know and trust.

### **What’s it all about?**

LBC is about giving students an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than ourselves as individuals. It’s about teamwork, inclusion, and activity. It’s about creating and feeling pride in our school, our team and our community. Most of all, it’s about having fun. Baseball is a kids game, let the kids play.

### **Expectations**

#### **1. Safety:**

LBC is focused on safe choices on and off the field, at all times. On the field we use real baseballs and bats and we learn how to use them safely. We wear helmets when we hit and use catcher’s gear when we catch.

**-Bats:** Before we swing a bat, we are sure that no one is in the way of our swing. Baseball bats are not swords, light sabers or toys. We use our eyes so that we always know who is swinging and give them plenty of room to swing safely.

**-Balls:** We don’t throw a baseball at someone unless they are looking at us and expecting us to throw.

Scrapes and bruises will happen in baseball. When they do, we have an opportunity to accept a challenge with grit and toughness. Careless failure to follow safety expectations is not tolerated and may result in loss of bat/ball privileges or playing time.

If players leave the field at any time, they let a coach know that they are leaving and identify who they are leaving with.

#### **2. Respect:**

We respect each other all the time. We respect other students during the school day. We respect each other at practice. We respect our teachers. We respect our families. We respect our field. We respect our equipment. We show our respect by being kind, honest and fair.

### **3. Effort:**

I don't care about THE best, I just want YOUR best. Baseball is hard and mistakes will happen. When they do, we encourage each other and try again.

### **Attendance**

LBC is a voluntary activity and there are no attendance requirements. If your child needs to miss practice, it is helpful to call the main office and tell Miss Kathy. She can tell the classroom teacher so they make sure your child goes home the way they should. We always leave a list of who is at practice in the school office. Parents can call the school if there is any confusion and someone can tell you that your child is out on the field.

I always encourage students to honor other commitments like other after school programs. There are plenty of days to play baseball, come whenever you can.

### **Student-Athlete:**

LBC players are Student-Athletes. "Student" comes first. School is our job, playing ball is a privilege. We earn that privilege by being safe, respectful and giving our best effort during every school day.

### **Extra Innings Challenges:**

Occasionally I will send players home with Extra Innings Challenges. These challenges are like baseball homework. They are not required, but they give kids a chance to learn some of the life lessons that baseball teaches. The other goal is to get family members involved. The challenges will probably require the kids to use the internet, so I encourage them to ask for help from an adult. Extra Innings Challenges will explore baseball history and culture, helping students make connections to their own lives.

### **Communication/Media:**

We have a Remind account for parents. If your child is signed up, you can join at <https://www.remind.com/join/lbc22-23>. I will communicate any important information to parents using Remind. You are welcome to reach out to me at any time.

We have a LBC Google Classroom for the kids. It's an open space for them to share anything about baseball. I often post baseball videos or ask them questions about baseball. It's a closed, monitored space (no strangers) where they can interact with each other and learn more about the game.

*“You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that  
it was the other way around all the time”*

*~Jim Bouton*