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Dear G-A Family,

I am honored and filled with gratitude to be able to send this letter as the new varsity basketball coach for the Galesburg-Augusta Rams. I am extremely motivated and excited for the opportunity to begin building a program that our student athletes and community can be proud of. I understand that to build a consistent, championship caliber program it will take the combined efforts of many working toward a common goal. Not only will we challenge our student athletes to put in the time and effort, we will ask our parents and community to be a huge part as well. We want to build something special that all our Rams Family can take pride in. Our kids deserve nothing less than our best and by us guiding them and being that positive voice, we can create an atmosphere that is conducive to consistent success in not only basketball but in multiple sports.

We will put great emphasis on winning in the weight room and developing our student athletes through collaboration with all sports and all coaches within our district. We are working in tandem with our coaches from all sports to implement a lifting program that consists of common language and common expectations in order to promote well rounded athletes that can compete in a multitude of sports. Each individual sport will use sport specific lifts when in season to help maximize our student athletes' abilities. Encourage your student athlete to make a commitment to the weight room as it is necessary for sustained success.

Our basketball program is going to put a great deal of time and energy into developing our youth programs. We want to develop interest in athletics and the necessary skills at the youth level. We are in the process of collaborating with neighboring communities to start a local league that will minimize travel and provide a platform for all that have interest in playing the game of basketball. There will be opportunities for players to play in more competitive leagues as well, such as at the Courthouse or AAU. We will have camps and clinics to promote skill building and continuity throughout the program. We will have coaching clinics to provide the opportunity to learn the skills and schemes that we implement. To be successful we will need to have parent and community volunteers to help in many ways such as coaching, running clocks, transporting kids on game days, or simply being a positive voice of encouragement to our young student athletes.

Our basketball and athletic programs will be successful, but it will take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. Nothing worth having comes easy, but I know we have the people in our schools and community that are willing to take on the challenge and make this goal a reality. I look forward to our success and the opportunity to celebrate our student athletes, as well as, this amazing school district. If you would like to know more about our basketball philosophy and program, additional information is attached to this email. **RAM PRIDE!**

Respectfully,

Coach Dolph