

2025-26 Whitefish Bay Jr Dukes Girls Basketball Club

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Whitefish Bay Jr Dukes Girls Basketball Club is a program designed and organized to teach, develop and train athletes to play the game of basketball. Our goal is to teach life lessons and solid, fundamental basketball skills by giving athletes the opportunity to develop and advance, so they may have the opportunity to play at the high school level.

MISSION:

The WFB Girls Jr Dukes Basketball Club exists to provide a positive, competitive environment where girls can learn and develop basketball and critical life skills. Our mission is:

- to teach and develop athletes to play the game of basketball at a competitive level, thereby enhancing their opportunity to play at the high school level.
- to prepare athletes both on and off the court by teaching values such as integrity, teamwork, confidence, commitment, hard work and perseverance.
- to create a positive environment that fosters a sense of community and love of the game for athletes and their families.

PHILOSOPHY:

The Jr. Dukes Girls Basketball program is dedicated to raising and empowering young basketball players. And as a feeder program for Whitefish Bay High School, we work to not only build a love for the game, but also prepare the girls for competitive play at the high school level.

With this in mind, we look to build the girls' skills and confidence over time in the program, providing a "step-up" approach that increases competitively as they progress.

For the 3rd through 4th grade teams, we teach the fundamentals of the sport and focus on whole team development. We provide a balanced environment that caters to every skill level. Our goal is not to cut players at these levels. Teams will be decided based upon the number of players and skill levels.

As the athletes progress, we begin to prepare and transition them for a higher level of competitive play.

For the 5th through 8th grade teams, we move to more of a "select" model where our goal is to split the teams into A and B levels or pods, applying cuts if numbers exceed roster maximums. This allows the club to build skill levels that successfully transition them to our high school program, while providing team options that are more aligned with individual needs and level of play. Our coaching philosophy follows this step-up approach, with the possibility of bringing in paid coaches at the higher grade levels.

Playing time follows an "equal opportunity" model. Our goal is that every girl has the opportunity to play in both halves, but that does not necessarily mean equal minutes. Effort, attitude, and attendance in practice and games can impact playing time. Managing minutes during a game is hard with a running clock, the coaches will do their best in the flow of the game to substitute accordingly.

COACHES:

Teams are coached by predominantly parent coaches with the potential for paid coaches. The coaches spend hundreds of hours each season to work toward our overall program mission. These are volunteer positions and without these dedicated individuals we would not be able to provide such a positive experience for our athletes. We will work with the Varsity coaching staff and other professionals to provide workshops and guidance for the coaches.

LEAGUE:

Grades 3-8 will typically play in the Overtime Basketball League at The Facility in Mequon and Gateway Sports Academy in Port Washington. Teams are guaranteed at least 12 games that will be played on Saturday or Sundays November 1st through December 14th. We are guaranteed 2 games for each weekend scheduled with a league tournament on the final weekend. Teams will play all of their games on a single day of each weekend- Grades 3-6 on Saturdays and Grades 7-8 on Sundays. Officials will vote on a "Player of the Game" from each team and those players will field the roster for an All-Star Game on November 30th. There will also be a skills competition and 3-point contest.

TOURNAMENTS:

Our teams typically play in around 3-5 local tournaments depending on their grade from January through the end of February/early March. These tournaments will be communicated throughout the season as they are confirmed and we understand the competition at each one. Coaches and the Board will determine the tournaments that are the best fit for each team. Our Whitefish Bay Tourney is planned for February 21-22 at the Whitefish Bay High School Fieldhouse with the backup option of Gateway Sports Academy if there are any post season HS scheduling conflicts at our Fieldhouse.

Coaches may also select players to field a team of girls to participate in one of the State Tournaments offered. Additional costs may apply if your athlete is selected to play on a State Tournament team. Our participation in these tournaments are heavily dependent on the dates they are offered.

PRACTICES

Our plan is to begin practicing at The Warehouse and local gyms for overflow space beginning the week of October 20th- February 20th. Typically we will practice once per week for 3rd grade (an extra optional Sunday practice is usually offered) and twice per week for grades 4-8th. Once availability of coaches and schedule are finalized, they will be communicated to the teams. It is expected that players are at every practice and game (with reasonable exception) and prioritize Jr. Dukes Basketball over other commitments.

FEES:

Fee payment will be open from September 16th-30th via the Crossbar platform that you used to sign up for tryouts. You can pay your fees at Offer acceptance or can postpone payment and complete by the 30th. Fees will be paid directly on the website or can be made via check by entering **PAYOFFLINE** when registering and mailing your check to : Jr Dukes Basketball, c/o Carrie Osswald, 1109 E Circle Drive, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217.

Player fees will be \$500 for Grade 3, \$650 for Grades 4-6th, and \$750 for Grades 7-8th. This model aligns with the number of practices, games, and tournaments provided from October to March for our players. Uniforms are an additional cost.

*If your family is in need of a payment plan to cover fees for the upcoming season, please reach out to Nicole Miskel at nicolemiskel@gmail.com.

UNIFORMS and SPIRITWEAR:

Uniforms are approximately \$100. Players are required to have the uniform jersey and shorts. Shooting shirts and warm up pants are optional. We replace uniforms every 2-3 years to keep up with our fast-growing girls, so please size accordingly. If your daughter's grade is up for reordering but her uniform still fits, you don't have to reorder. **All new players and those in need of a different size should order a uniform. Practice jerseys are recommended for each player and can be purchased for \$15 at tryouts.**

Uniforms will be ordered by parents through Burghardt Sporting Goods' online system and must be done by September 25th. A link will be provided to you in your team placement offer and will have a very quick turnaround in order to get uniforms in time for our Nov 1st League. Sample uniforms will be available during tryouts to help with sizing. Jersey numbers will be confirmed for new players or players wishing to change their jersey number at tryouts. **Spiritwear ordering will also be available until September 25th. An additional Holiday order of Spiritwear will be available in October/November.**

TRYOUTS AND TEAM PLACEMENTS:

We welcome girls Grades 3-8 that live in Whitefish Bay or go to a Whitefish Bay public school to register for the Jr. Dukes program. As our mission is to prepare girls for the WFB high school program, team placement priority will be given to those girls who reside in Whitefish Bay and have a path to attending the high school. Girls that played in the Jr Dukes program last season but are out of district are eligible to play out their Jr Dukes career.

Team placement recommendations will be made by our evaluators with final decisions voted on by the Jr. Dukes Board of Directors. Any special circumstances or exceptions will be reviewed by the board.

We invite girls to register at their individual grade level, but empower our evaluators to review the girls' skill levels and recommend them for team placement, as well as potential advancement to a higher grade level. If select girls are deemed at a greater skill level and roster sizes support it, they may be considered for higher than grade level teams. If a player is offered a placement on the higher grade team, she will be allowed to decline the offer and remain at her grade level.

If your daughter has a specific team/coaching request, you must let us know directly at wfbgirlsjr-dukeshoops@gmail.com by September 14th. Otherwise, we will assume everyone will accept an offer if subsequently granted or accept team placement. **We will not allow a player after rosters are communicated to try to 'swap' to another team to be with friends.** We appreciate that for the younger teams especially, that players like to have at least one friend on the team as they learn something new. It is not in Jr Dukes best interest to put all Holy Family or St Monica players on one team.

Our plan is for Offers to be sent via email **no later than September 17th with acceptances requested within 48 hours. Uniform orders must be made by September 25th** in order to ensure delivery before our League starts.

Please direct any questions about team placement to John Burkemper at johnb@james.construction or 414-526-8265.

| DATES | Event |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| September 14 | Virtual Parent Meeting 6pm |
| September 15 | Tryouts and Uniform Sizing |
| September 16-17 | Offers sent |
| September 18-19 (48 hrs from offer) | Offers accepted |
| September 16-25 | Uniforms and Spiritwear ordered |
| September 16-30 | Fees paid |
| October 19 | Kick Off Party 6-8pm |
| October 20 week | Practices Start |
| November 1 | Team Pictures @ The Warehouse |