

2024-2025 Coaches - 3rd Grade



Brandan Backman (Head)

My name is Brandan Backman. I'm married to my wife, Whitney, and we keep busy with our three kids: Mya (3rd), Tate (Kindergarten), and Trey (4K). I grew up in the Fox Cities and played basketball at Appleton North and in college at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I enjoy coaching my kids as well as serving as an assistant coach for the Appleton North men's basketball team. I look forward to working with your daughter this upcoming season and spreading my love for the game.

Adam Thiel (Assistant)

My wife Robin and I are proud parents of two wonderful girls, Ellie (8) and Addie (6). Outside of work and family, I enjoy running, reading and anything sports related – especially helping out my daughters' sports teams. I have been involved with youth sports coaching, primarily basketball and soccer, for the past three years and am passionate about fostering a positive and inclusive environment for young athletes. My coaching philosophy focuses on developing fundamental skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. I look forward to a fantastic season and am excited to help your children grow both on and off the court.



2024-2025 Coaches - 4th Grade



Jaime Krueger (Head)

Hi! I am Jaime. This is my 4th year coaching at Appleton North Hoops. I really love coaching basketball and watching the girls grow and develop their skills each year. It is so fun to see them understand the game and put their skills they learn in practice, and apply it to the game! I played basketball, volleyball and softball throughout my middle school and high school career. My husband and I have lived in Appleton for the last 15 years. My family is a big sports family, between baseball, basketball, track, tennis, football and cross country, so you will find my husband and I watching all of our nieces and nephews play sports. In the summer you will catch me on the lake somewhere or at a MLB baseball game! I am trying to hit all the baseball stadiums. I am 17 out of 30 completed. My college roommate and I started this trend after we graduated college and I have seen the Brewers play in 15 out of the 17!

Looking forward to another great basketball season! Go North!

Jake Kohlhagen (Assistant)

I am Jake Kohlhagen, father of 4th grade girls' team member, Reggie Kohlhagen. This will be my first year contributing as an assistant coach for the Appleton North Girls basketball program. I am excited to continue the growth and passion for our kids as they continue their sports journey. I fully believe in the value of sports as I have been actively involved in sports in some way from kindergarten until the present day. I played nearly 15+ years of competitive soccer, and 10+ years of competitive basketball, and I greatly enjoy participating in many other sports as well as watching them. I have worked as the soccer rec league program manager for the City of Appleton for 2+ years and thoroughly enjoyed working with children and coaches to help them learn and grow in the game of soccer.

When I am not directly involved with sports for my family, we enjoy traveling, board games, or hanging out by the water. Besides Reggie, my wife Nycol and I have an older daughter, Marchael, and two dogs, Poppy and Ramen. I believe there is a lot to be gained by our children from their time together on the basketball court, but I know it will take effort from all of us to maximize it. I look forward to being a contributor to this for the team.

Go Lightning!



2024-2025 Coaches - 5th Grade



Beth Fietzer (Head)

Hello Parents! I am so excited for the upcoming basketball season. I look forward to working with your kids and making this a great experience for everyone.

A little bit about my background: I graduated from Mukwonago High School and then Lawrence University. I remain the career assists leader and career steals leader at LU (but I love watching the LU program rebuild and hope to see those records fall in the future). In 2018 I was inducted into Mukwonago High School's and Lawrence University's Athletic Hall of Fames. I have a degree in Economics, and I work as a Sales Manager at TMC North America.

Chris and I have been married for 14 years and have two daughters (Allison 12 & Caitlin 10) and two dogs (Gauge & Willow). I enjoy crafting (sewing, jewelry making, any crafts really), espresso, music, plants, watching sports and being outside.

Basketball has always been a passion of mine. After graduating I spent three years on the LU coaching staff before moving. I was an assistant JV coach at Mukwonago HS and an assistant Varsity coach at Preble High School. I have been a part of the ANGBC with both of my girls for the last couple of years and appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the game again.

As a coach, I like to work with the girls on expanding their comfort zone, improving their communication skills, and strengthening their mental toughness. I am a defensive-minded coach and enjoy seeing what hard work and determination can accomplish. We will be working on letting our defense start our offense. I truly believe you play how you practice, and I will push the girls to work hard in practice and push each other. The girls need to be willing to try new things, willing to make mistakes – we want to show (or remind) them just how resilient they can be as individuals but also as a team.

I know basketball is a LONG season and I appreciate the sacrifices you as parents give to your daughter and to the team. I am happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, however please make sure we are setting up a time outside of game day or during a practice to have these discussions. I also encourage you to have your daughter talk to me/coaching staff if she has any questions or concerns. We want to help nurture coachable - and eventually employable humans. We know each and every one of these girls is capable and we will push them outside of their comfort zone to work on life skills. If you want to reach out to me personally, my contact information is below.

It is truly an honor to be able to coach, push and encourage your child. I look forward to watching the girls grow as individual players, as a team and as humans.

Beth Fietzer
Phone: (920) 475-7729
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2024-2025 Coaches - 5th Grade



Andy Bruno (Assistant)

I'm a husband and father of three children residing in Appleton WI. My love for the game of basketball developed in my childhood and I look forward to creating an opportunity for our youth players to enjoy the game of basketball. I played basketball thru 12th grade and I've had the opportunity to coach multiple youth boys and girls basketball teams ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. Additionally, I've worked with high school level players as an assistant coach in summer league teams. I'm a big believer that players, especially youth players, learn in many different ways, and providing visual links prior to practice on the concepts & or fundamentals that will be taught during practice times is a wonderful way for basketball players to accelerate their learning curve with basketball concepts and fundamentals. My goal is to create a positive experience for our players where they will grow their basketball knowledge and skillset while also balancing the competitiveness of our team.

Bryan Westfahl (Assistant)

- Born and raised in Appleton, WI.
- Love spending time with my wife and two daughters. Enjoy everything outdoors; Hunting, Fishing, boating etc.
- Coached my daughters in softball and basketball. Best part about coaching is having fun with the kids while seeing their skills develop!
- Attended Appleton West High School
- First Team All FVA Conference
- Baseball and Football
- Played D2 Football at Concordia-St. Paul, MN.
- Refereed Youth Basketball in Middle School, High School, and College.



2024-2025 Coaches - 6th Grade



Alex Hunt (Head)

My name is Alex Hunt, and I will be coaching the 6th-grade girls team this year for the Appleton North Basketball Girls Club. This will be my third-year coaching with the club, and our program focuses on player development and teaching the fundamentals of basketball. When I'm not coaching or training, I work as a Clinical Quality Consultant. Since 2007, I have been working with various healthcare organizations to help them address regulatory, quality of care, and patient safety opportunities. I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic but attended college in the Fox Valley area. I have been involved in organized basketball since I was young, starting with club basketball in the DR and then playing as a point guard in high school. Additionally, I played for one of the semi-pro teams in the city of La Romana, Dominican Republic. Aside from coaching basketball, I enjoy cooking, traveling with the family, and listening and dancing to Latin music.

Jana Cartier (Assistant)

I have played and loved basketball since I was about five. I played through my childhood, high school and also college (Lawrence University.) My wife Megan and I have three daughters; Malin (11) who I get to coach and also Harlow (9) and Bellamy (7) - not sure basketball is their thing, but they certainly stay active!

I absolutely love the game of basketball. I have become obsessed with watching the Indiana Fever, but what I love most about the game is what the game teaches aside from basketball skills. Being part of a team is something that is invaluable. Sure, making shots puts points on the scoreboard, but playing defense, making good passes, rebounding -- all of these things -- contribute to the win. It's not just about scoring, it's truly about teamwork! That is what I will teach your kids!



2024-2025 Coaches - 7th Grade



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2024-2025 Coaches - 7th Grade



Keith Doxtator (Assistant)

I'm looking forward to another fun and engaging club basketball season with your daughters. Seventh grade and middle school ball represents a meaningful step up in the competitive nature of the game, and I'm looking forward to developing talent, the love of the game, and overall preparing the girls for high school competition in alignment ANGBC's mission and priorities. While I may have spoken to most of you over the last couple years as an assistant coach, I appreciate Nicole's and the Board's efforts to improve team coordination, including coaches' information.

My wife, Trina and I are from the Fox Valley and returned here to raise our family - though we met as college students at UW-Madison.

We have two daughters participating in the club, Kyla in 7th and Harlowe in 5th grade. We also have two younger sons currently playing the supportive younger brother roles at our games, Calvin is in 2nd grade and Max is in 4K.

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I graduated from Seymour in 2003 where I played several sports to keep busy, yet basketball was always my primary attention and joy. I was a three-year varsity starter on teams that made the state championship game every year - once as a state champ and twice as the runner-up. While I was never the most talented or athletically gifted on the team, my role was earned from understanding our offensive movements, game flow and where to be defensively - all the types of guidance I've tried to instill, as appropriate by age and skill, within the teams I've coached.

I've been involved in various coaching capacities ranging from YMCA kindergarten ball up to ANGBC 6th grade ball with my children. I've also coached my youngest sister's middle school AAU teams.

Outside of athletics, my hobbies range from ones to keep me going physically or mentally. We often take family hikes or explore state and national parks. I've been working on checking off all the National Park visits, yet still have plenty to go. With friends, we regularly play board and card games in mildly competitive formats. Travel is another hobby that Trina and I have prioritized ranging from Door Co to Europe to seek out new experiences, cultures, and cuisines. I aim to keep involved in the community as well and currently serve on the Board for the Basic Needs Giving Partnership.

If any questions or curiosities come up during the season, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm happy to chat further.

2024-2025 Coaches - 8th Grade



Parker Johnson (Head)

My name is Parker Johnson and I will be coaching the 8th grade girls team at Appleton North Basketball Girls Club. This will be my 4th year with this group. Basketball has always been a big part of my life, ever since I could walk I've wanted a basketball in my hands. I have an extensive basketball background, along with other sports as well. I was a four time letter winner and three time All-Conference player in basketball at Brodhead High School. With that, I also played four years of AAU basketball with Wisconsin Hoops Select and one year with Randolph. I played three years of varsity football and two years of golf at Brodhead. In my free time I love to spend time with my friends and family, also in the gym or on the golf course.