



# STMA Boys Basketball



## *Character Strong March Newsletter*

**The mission of STMA Basketball Program is to foster a culture of positivity where kids learn from success as well as failure, become elite basketball players and even better teammates; develop a diverse skill set in the present that will allow them to own their futures and fall in love with the game.**

*Character  
Strong*

### **Purpose**

Our aim extends beyond building a top-tier basketball program; we are also dedicated to shaping outstanding young men who will bring pride to our community.

### **March Important Dates**

- **7th & 8th–3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th Grade MYAS State Tournament**
- **9th–3rd Grade Travel-Lite Tryouts**
- **14th & 15th–7th & 8th Grade MYAS State Tournament**
- **18th–Coaches turn in uniforms**

## Character Strong Trait of the Month: Cooperation



It is hard to believe that the 2025-2026 season is coming to an end! Thank you all for your continued support of the STMA Boys Youth Basketball Association. Last month, we introduced “Honesty” as our sixth Character Strong trait. Even though the month of February is over and we are moving forward with “Cooperation” as our next trait, it is important that we don’t forget what we learned about Honesty. Players, coaches, and families need to continue to show Honesty each day in the gym and in our community.

**Honesty & Cooperation are deeply connected because truthful communication builds trust, and trust is the foundation for effective teamwork.**

- **Honesty creates the trust that makes cooperation on the court reliable, resilient, and productive.**
- **Teaching honesty and cooperation early builds stronger players and teams.**

## How can players show **Cooperation**?

- Encourage teammates by offering positive, specific feedback, and celebrate others' successes.
- Pass the ball when teammates are open. Choose the team shot over individual play.
- Box out and rebound together, crash the boards as a unit, and look for outlet pass.
- Accept and play your role—embrace whatever the team needs.
- Follow team plays and system—run set plays, trust the coaches, and stay in sync.

## How can coaches show **Cooperation**?

- Rotate leadership—let different players lead warmups, drills, or huddles to build ownership.
- Resolve conflicts quickly and privately—address issues calmly, then move on for the teams' sake.
- Share coaching duties—delegate drills, rotations, and game tasks to assistant and players.
- Provide clear practice plans—share agendas so assistants can prepare and players know the day's focus.
- Communicate clearly and often—keep players, assistants, and families informed about plans, expectations, and changes.

## How can families show **Cooperation**?

- Celebrate the entire team—recognize teammates' achievements and milestones, not only your child's.
- Accept and model the role of a fan, not coach—let coaches coach and players play; focus on encouragement.
- Promote balanced priorities—support academics, rest, and family as a part of player development.
- Coordinate with other families—organize rides, schedule swaps, and keep one another informed about changes.