



2023 WARREN COUNTY YMCA Pre-K-1st Grade Rookies Biddy Basketball

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Pre-K-1st Grade Rookies Biddy Basketball at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you for having your youth in our program! First things first, our YMCA Basketball Programs and Leagues are all about the kids. It's all about teaching them the 'fun' fundamentals of the great sport of basketball. We thank you for the opportunity in allowing us to help lead and teach your kids!

For our Pre-K group, we will meet on Saturday mornings from 8:30-9:20am. Each week, your player will work on learning basketball fundamentals such as dribbling, shooting, passing, basic rules and teamwork. These activities will help develop the initial skills needed for basketball. Later in the winter, depending on skill development levels, we may begin to play short quick basketball games with them towards the end of our time in the gym. Parents may be needed to assist Coach Ben and Y staff with stations/activities. Please be willing to help if asked!

For our Kindergarten-1st grade group, we will run clinic style practices for the first 2 weeks prior to Thanksgiving working on developing the same skills mentioned above. We will meet for the first 2 weeks at 9:30am. Starting Week 3 (December 9), the kids will be placed on teams and will play a game of basketball for the majority of our gym time with 10 minutes of warm up prior to games. I will let you know after week 2 (during the 2-week break) which team your child will be on and will send out game schedules for the remaining 5 weeks in December and January. Games will be at 9:30 or 10:30am (depending on how many teams we have). These teams will be coached by Y staff and myself. Staff will also "ref" on the floor. Any parents who want to help on the bench and rotate players in and out would be extremely appreciated. Staff will help coach, ref, and run the clock. This will also be similar to how we ran this group last year for anyone returning.

**The program schedule (dates) for both groups will be as follows:
November 11, 18, December 9, 16, January 6*, 13, and 20.**

**We will not have the program on the following dates:
November 25 (Thanksgiving Weekend), December 2 (Splash Bash 2023 – YMCA Swim Meet), December 23 (Christmas Weekend), and December 30 (New Year's Weekend).**

Picture Day* – The asterisk on January 6th means it is Picture Day! We will hand out picture forms before Christmas. For scheduling purposes, I will have you show up a little earlier as to make sure we do not lose too much practice/game time throughout the day for all levels. Shyvel and Beckie from Shyvel's Photography will be back taking our pictures again this year!

T-Shirts – Players will receive their team T-shirts on the first game day (December 9). The Pre-K group will receive their shirts the same day as well.

Make-up Days/Cancellations – There will be 2 make up day options at the end of the session (Jan 27 & Feb 3). These will be used only if we have to cancel one of the above dates due to weather/any other issues. Cancellations will be made ONLY if the Winter Weather is deemed too dangerous. If I feel like we won't be able to have the program, I (Ben) will cancel, otherwise it is on. If you live out of town, and don't think you can make it, but I have not cancelled, it is on you to decide if you want to come. I will wait as long as I can before making the call. I will send you all an automatic text from our computer system that will let you know if a cancellation is happening. Please avoid bombarding the Y with calls if you have not heard from me yet. If you have not heard from me, the program is on for the day.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child's team, the cost for the basketball season is \$200. This helps offset T-Shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of your child's team shirts as well as on the game schedule. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork sent to me by the end of week 2 prior to when I order shirts. As a thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence during all Spring, Summer and Fall sports in 2024.

Thank you so much for reading this letter. I hope you and your child enjoy our program! If you have any questions, call me at the Y at 309-734-3183, or email me at ben@warrencountyyymca.org.

Thank You,

**Ben Davis
Youth Development Director**

The Y: We're for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility