

DATE: May 22, 2009  
TO: WPIAL Member School Principals/Athletic Directors  
FROM: James Collins, Assistant to the Executive Director  
RE: 2008/2009 WPIAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS

In 1997 the PIAA and the WPIAL launched the program entitled: "SPORTSMANSHIP: The Only Piece Missing is You". Since then, forty-six WPIAL member schools have been selected for WPIAL Sportsmanship Awards. The purpose of the program is to promote sportsmanship in the schools and to reward those schools that best demonstrate the elements of good sportsmanship. In the 12 year history of the Sportsmanship Award, fifty-one member schools have been selected to receive the award.

The selection process for Sportsmanship Awards this year will be based on the fall, winter, and spring seasons of the 2008-09 school year.

The WPIAL Sportsmanship Committee will review nominations and select those member schools that will receive this honor for the 2008/2009 school year. At the WPIAL Football Championships at Heinz Field a minimum of two and a maximum of five (5) WPIAL Schools will be honored for their demonstrated good sportsmanship. A Representative(s) of each school selected for the award will be presented the following:

- a. A 4'X6' banner "SPORTSMANSHIP: The Only Missing Piece is YOU".
- b. A PIAA Board of Control resolution acknowledging their selection.
- c. A distinctive paperweight with the miniature banner embedded inside.

As a WPIAL member school we need your help as follows:

1. **Consider nominating a maximum of five member schools other than your school** for a 2008/09 WPIAL Sportsmanship Award by completing a "**WPIAL School Nomination Form**". Member school nominations must be submitted to the WPIAL Office by **August 1, 2009**.
2. **Consider nominating your own school.** A "**WPIAL Member School Self-Assessment Form**" must be completed and submitted by an administrator (principal, vice-principal and/or athletic director) by September 18, 2009. In addition to a completed self-assessment form, **The submission of specific documentation to support your sportsmanship program is required.** The Sportsmanship Committee offers the following suggestions, which have been incorporated in the applications of previous awardees.
  - (a) The submission of a typed cover letter summarizing the school's sportsmanship program.
  - (b) A completed self-assessment form (required).
  - (c) The submission of sample activities, which have been implemented to enhance the school's sportsmanship program. Examples include sportsmanship pamphlets to parents and /or students, sportsmanship recognition programs recognizing teams and/or individuals, etc.
  - (d) The submission of documentation demonstrating sportsmanship expectations-sample memos, policies, PA announcements, recognition letters, etc.
  - (e) The submission of documentation demonstrating community sportsmanship initiatives.
  - (f) The submission of documentation to demonstrate the steps the school takes above and beyond WPIAL/PIAA rules and school district policy to promote sportsmanship among students, athletes, parents, spectators, and contest officials.
  - (g) The submission of copies of commendation letters or newspaper articles citing the school for good sportsmanship.
  - (h) The nomination of other member schools using the "WPIAL School Nomination Form".

A copy of the **WPIAL School Nomination Form** and **WPIAL Member School self-assessment form** are attached for your use. Please download the forms as needed. If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact me or any member of the Sportsmanship Committee.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.