

# Testimonials for the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity School Awards Program

"I have to admit that I was just a tad concerned when the OHSAA announced the revised process for the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity school awards. As I looked through the materials, though, I realized that the 'Respect the Game Challenge' process was essentially a checklist. Even better, the checklist was a great map to help us more fully integrate these core concepts into our school's mission. The Meyer Award has not changed much at all. How we record information and put it together in the PowerPoint application make up the bulk of the change. The Commissioner's Award is brand new, so we had no expectation of what it would take.

"The process is easy and functional as long as we work on it steadily throughout the year. Everything in life gets much more arduous when we wait too long to start it. If any member school ever has questions about our approach, I am more than willing to talk to them. Simply contact me at [mroark@cdeeducation.org](mailto:mroark@cdeeducation.org) or at 614 545-2128."

— **Mike Roark, Athletic Director**  
**Columbus Bishop Watterson High School**

"After having been part of earning the Harold A. Meyer Award for the past 11 years, I was a bit apprehensive when the new guidelines were introduced. But after reviewing the new format, I began to realize that we were still promoting the same sportsmanship program. All we had to do was submit what we have been doing in a different way.

"I collaborated with our technology staff and we chose to present our application using Adobe Pro. That program allowed us to move slides within the presentation and to include more information on each slide. We are already planning ways to enhance our application for next year in terms of additional photos, videos and student-produced promotions.

"Our goal from the onset of the new HAM guidelines was to achieve the Commissioner's Award. Even we if we fall short of that goal, we know that we have a program in place at our school that promotes a positive culture and encourages character development with ALL of our students."

— **Steve Zimmerman, Athletic Director**  
**Nagel Middle School, Cincinnati**

"We have earned the HAM award for three consecutive years and were hoping to reach the Commissioner's Award level when we submitted the new application for 2010-11. Our situation may be rather unique which, in return, lends itself to our commitment to this process. I chair our school's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee, which has as its members our superintendent, principal, assistant principals, head coaches, athletes, parents and board of education members. We are committed to this process, and that commitment comes from the top down.

"We view the application process 'an opportunity to improve our process of promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.' We meet four times a year to review how effective we were in reaching our goals on SEI and then make adjustments to improve the process. We understand that our commitment to this journey is ever-changing and that we must be willing to adapt along the way.

"We do not view the application process as work but rather a part of the process of improvement. The one thing that has been of great help is that, since we have such a big committee, we are able to provide many

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examples along with the evidence that shows our commitment to SEI. We are constantly taking pictures and collecting data that we put away knowing that we will be referencing that material during our next application process.

“I cannot tell you how much our commitment to this journey has helped to focus all of our coaches, athletes and parents on understanding their roles with respect to this journey. We are far from perfect, but we are certainly enjoying working towards that goal. I would strongly suggest joining us as we continue to try and improve our SEI process.”

**— Rob Dement, Athletic Director  
West Carrollton School District**

“The new OHSAA sportsmanship, ethics and integrity school awards program for the 2010-11 school year was challenging, but because it is now in three parts, it is more flexible and allows for schools at all levels of commitment to the awards program to apply. The ‘Respect the Game Challenge’ is essentially a checklist which provides a valuable tool to use all school year long. If you follow the list of suggestions and ideas, you can easily implement a sportsmanship program within your school and receive an impressive award for your efforts. All schools should be able to implement this level without any difficulty.

“The Harold A. Meyer Award is really the same as it has always been, but it has taken on a new format. Instead of copying and hole-punching your documentation, you simply scan, or copy and paste, and make a PowerPoint presentation of the same requirements. As was true with the original HAM award, the first time is the most difficult! Once the presentation has been completed, it is easy to then make your changes and include your new ideas and promotions for the next year. At Valley View High School, we document sportsmanship all year long, and we do so many activities within our committee, that it is much more manageable to scan and save throughout the year. We knew it would be overwhelming if we sat down to put it all together from scratch in June! Our committee made an outline of sorts, discussing the different sportsmanship components we implement during the year, and the PowerPoint then followed that pattern. We found that it was fun to ‘play around’ with the PowerPoint, and you can literally spend dozens of hours tweaking the look of the presentation, but if the documentation is there, that’s all that really matters. Also, as long as the committee members agree on the look of the presentation, it is easy to split up the different requirements and let small groups work on separate parts. Then you can put it all together for your final presentation.

“For the additional ‘Commissioner’s Award’ that was new in 2010-11, we handed off the production of the public service announcement to our student committee members who are also in our media classes. With the help of the media teacher, they were able to gather footage at a sporting event (we chose a track meet), download music and edit the footage to fit the requirements. Our students were proud to work on something that took little time, but required technology skills and turned out a nice finished product!

“Overall, the process in applying for all three levels of the OHSAA award was a challenging but rewarding one. It is great to see how much we accomplished and how much fun we had during the year, all presented with pictures and documentation in one streamlined technology presentation. We joke that our previous HAM award application, which we had dubbed our ‘Sportsmanship Bible,’ went digital this year. We would encourage all schools to apply for all three parts of the award for the 2011-12 school year!”

**— Shannon Longman, Sportsmanship Committee Secretary,  
English Teacher and Cheer Coach  
Germantown Valley View High School**