

Dear New & Returning Boys Volleyball Players,

Thank you for your interest in the Shaker High School Boys Volleyball program. Here at Shaker High School, our coaching staff is working our hardest to put together the most competitive program by recruiting the most talented student athletes, and focusing on teaching the essential volleyball skills to these student athletes. It is our goal to successfully compete and win the Suburban Council regular season title, and Section II Tournament.

My name is Coach Leventhal and I am the boys' varsity coach at Shaker High School. I coach the sport of volleyball with a great deal of enthusiasm and passion, as well as a strong desire to help young athletes improve themselves on and off the court of competition. Throughout the tryout process and regular season I intend on working with you to improve your overall volleyball skill set, including improving footwork, lateral movement, and general volleyball acumen.

Among the most important things I intend on achieving this season is the cultivation of a team atmosphere that we are all proud to be a part of. The friendships that I've made with teammates during my playing career, that I still have today, make creating a strong sense of pride in our team a priority for me. One thing I look forward to is spending a lot of effort on working with individual players while still focusing on the overall team concept we'll strive for.

My coaching philosophy is that successful teams are based on integrity and trust. With that in mind I will be open and honest about telling you guys a little about myself: I'm a 30 year old health educator who played volleyball throughout my high school and college career. I captained my varsity team for my final two seasons of high school, including an undefeated conference championship team in my senior season. I earned All-County honors as a defensive specialist/outside hitter in my senior season. I played club volleyball at SUNY Albany during college. Currently, I am a full-time teacher at Shaker Junior High School. As a health educator, athletics have always been a part of my life. The relationships I build with my student athletes will be based on mutual respect, something that's earned. I think we can learn from one another which will help us go out there and continue to build on last year's terrific season!

This is my second season as the varsity head coach, and I can't wait to build on the success we achieved last year. Our program, is headed in the right direction and, with your help, I am looking forward to besting last year's season with highlights that included a 12-8 record and a trip to the Section II Tournament Semi-Final game!

This season is right around the corner and I hope you're as enthusiastic as I am. The first step is for us to get in touch with one another in order to open the lines of communication. Here is my email address: david_leventhal@yahoo.com. Please e-mail me when you get this letter so I can begin compiling a contact list and begin getting in touch with you. If you have a cell phone number please include that in your e-mail.

Lastly, I want to ensure that we field the most competitive team possible for this season so I ask all of you to think about recruiting some athletic friends that might be interested in trying out and learning about the game. I encourage all student athletes that play sports in other seasons to try out for volleyball to stay in shape for their other sport, be part of a successful team atmosphere during the fall athletic season, and it looks terrific to add multiple sports to your college resumes! Basketball players especially, will find that the skills learned and practiced are particularly applicable to their sport and they often make terrific volleyball players.

Please continue to check the Shaker Athletics website during the course of the summer for more information on the boys volleyball program and this year's tryout process. Tryouts are set to begin August 22nd from 1-3 pm, so please make sure you have an up-to-date physical and health office approval from our nurses here as soon as possible, otherwise you cannot participate in tryouts.

I can't wait to get back into the regular season and continue creating a winning volleyball tradition at Shaker High School!

Fondly,

Dave Leventhal
Head Varsity Volleyball Coach
Shaker High School