



MR. GEORGE NOVAK, Athletics Director  
Mr. Daniel L. Stephens, Principal

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Good Morning Everyone:

My name is George Novak and I am the Athletic Director for the Woodland Hills School District.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year for the Woodland Hills High School and my 25<sup>th</sup> as its Athletic Director. I'm proud of all the positive recognition our teams have received both on and off the field over these 25 years. Woodland Hills has always treated the Athletic program as an intrical part of the total Education process. We have always put academics first. We are not a win at all cost program. We stress the values of being part of a team, discipline, sportsmanship and hard work.

We have a saying at Woodland Hills "To achieve you must endure." What this means to us is that no matter what happens to you in life , you cannot let it affect you negatively. You must be the better person and take the high road. (as our student/athletes have done many times in our 25 years.)

We as a school district take the incident that occurred on 2/18/2012 very seriously. Our principal Mr. Stephens and I along with other staff have spent countless hours this week meeting with all concerned parties. Statements were taken and documented from the coaching staff, team and staff at the game. We have followed the Policies and Procedures as stated in the Woodland Hills Code of Conduct Rules Book. Proper disciplinary action has been taken. In accordance with the Law of the State of PA. We are not permitted to go into any details other than that. No matter what happened to him during the game, Shakim's actions were unacceptable and as I stated, he has been disciplined accordingly.

The Woodland Hills School District would like to apologize to the WPIAL and all its membership.

We would also like to apologize to California University and their Security Personnel and thank them for the outstanding job they did and most important we apologize to Gabe Pritz and the Peters Township Team and School District. Sportsmanship is an intrical part of athletics and competition.

We must all continue to improve sportsmanship in all our individual schools.

And now I'd like to introduce Senior Shakim Alonzo. Shakim has been an outstanding student/athlete during his four years at Woodland Hills High School. He's been an Honor Roll Student and a positive leader in the school and community. Many people who know Shakim were surprised when they heard what happened. He's never been involved in any incident of this nature during his entire four years of high school.

I would like to apologize to Gabe Pritz and the entire Peters Township boys basketball team for my actions during the Woodland Hills/Peters Township basketball game on February 18, 2012.

My actions are completely inexcusable and I am sorry.

To my teammates, Coach Decker, Coach Novak, Mr. Stephens, Dr. Calinger, the Woodland Hills School Board and the entire Woodland Hills community, I am truly sorry.

Being a member of the Woodland Hills basketball team is a privilege and an honor. I failed to represent my team and my school in an appropriate manner and I am very sorry for the negative publicity that I brought to the team and the Woodland Hills community.

Coach Novak and Coach Decker have always taught sportsmanship.

Unfortunately, the events during the game, led to poor decision making on my part.

I also want to apologize to my family. I am blessed with a loving family who has always taught me right from wrong, and I am grateful for their support during this difficult time.

In closing, I would like to wish Peters Township continued success in the WPIAL play-offs.

Thank you