



You're probably wondering what you've gotten yourself into. I thought the same thing when we first joined crew...

My son and I walked into Edgewater High School's Freshman Frenzy the summer of 2017. Upon entry, we were immediately escorted by a very charismatic rower to the crew team's set up in the school cafeteria. They had quite a spread with a TV, ergs, and a big fancy boat on display. We were both blown away by the hospitality, energy, and effort that was put forth to make us feel comfortable and welcomed. My son decided that day he wanted to be on the Edgewater Crew team.

As a freshman magnet student matriculating from a non-feeder middle school, he didn't know anyone at Edgewater High. This new environment was quite overwhelming. As a parent, I often worried about the simple things like who would he sit with at lunch or will he be able to adjust to high school life? This all changed when he began to practice with the team. He quickly made friends with other freshmen who were literally in the same boat...in more ways than one! Even the seniors on the team would notice him and say hello in the hallways. That was a big deal for a small fish in a big pond.

His transformation from being a scrawny and shy middle schooler to a confident high school athlete became noticeable halfway through his freshman year. He gained weight and began to put on muscle. He carried himself differently and was much more outgoing. The team had given him a place where he belonged and a sport in which he was able to excel. He found his crew!

Not only did he find his crew, but I found mine too. There is a network of engaged parents who are the team behind the team. We lean on each other for transportation. We cook, we clean, we fundraise, we volunteer. Most importantly, we've all become great friends. You will find that regatta days are long. However, time goes by much faster when you're surrounded by friends and fun people!

Crew is a perfect metaphor for life. The sport requires discipline, hard work, commitment, and teamwork. It will give your child everything they put into it. They will win and they will lose. Their soft hands will become tough and leathery and their endurance will be pushed to the limit. It will be not easy. There may be times when they feel like giving up and need your encouragement to persevere. The sport is time consuming, but it will be time well spent, and the memories made will be everlasting. The challenge of competition often prepares ordinary people for extraordinary things.

Speaking of extraordinary things, 80% of our rowers are honor roll students at the top of their class. Our team has won countless medals and we compete nationally against the best of the best. The rowers and parents on this team are indeed extraordinary people who have created wonderful memories together. Let's make new ones happen this season.

Welcome to our Edgewater High School Crew Team!

Lair Barnes
President