



KANSAS CITY BLAZERS

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Junior II Families and Swimmers:

We are eager to begin another season at the Kansas City Blazers and I am excited to serve as the Head Coach for our Junior II program. I would like to take a moment to share our team vision and group objectives, as well as, additional information as it relates to the Junior II program.

Our primary goal is overall team success through individual achievement. The vision for the Junior II group is not only to prepare our swimmers to compete at their best, but to continue to develop the character traits, technical skills and personal self-esteem necessary for each swimmer to realize their individual potential and goals for swimming. We endeavor to instill in our athletes a sense of dedication and self-discipline by offering a challenging program that allows swimmers to step outside of their comfort zone for a better chance at success.

At the Junior II level, swimmers are expected to begin taking ownership of their swimming through their focused work ethic and commitment, thus creating their own opportunities to become stronger athletes and individuals. Every athlete has the potential to accomplish whatever they envision for themselves in swimming and in life. As coaches, we want every swimmer to be able to take the most from each practice, swim meet, and any other Blazers team related event.

Please take a moment to review the [Junior II Program Information](#), in full, with your swimmer(s) to ensure that he or she is aware of the policies and expectations of the group. There are expectations for practice and meet attendance that are imperative to your swimmer's success in this group.

On a final note, Coach Alex Morris has taken on a new role in our program as the Lead Senior I coach and I am happy to announce that Coach Veronica Nothnagel will be leading Junior II at our Shawnee Mission North site. Veronica grew up swimming competitively from the age of 7 through High School in Madison, WI. She began teaching swim lessons at 15 and continued to teach throughout college and graduate school. After graduating from NYU in 2012, she moved back to Wisconsin and began coaching with a large YMCA/USA team in Appleton. In 2013 she relocated to Saint Louis and was the head coach of a small YMCA team that grew from 10 to 40 swimmers in three years. After moving to to KC in the spring of 2016, she began coaching with the Blazers right away, working with every group from pre-blazers to Junior I. Veronica is very excited to start a new season and is eager to begin working with Junior II at Shawnee Mission North. She has been a tremendous addition to our Blazers staff.

On behalf of our staff, we look forward to working with our Junior II swimmers and families in the upcoming season.

Sincerely,

Mary-Catherine Ivey, Junior II Head Coach