



SPARTAN STARS INITIATIVE

Michigan State Women's Basketball

Within her first nine years as the Head Coach of the Michigan State Women's Basketball Team, Suzy Merchant has been able to establish herself and the MSU Women's Basketball team as one of the best basketball programs in the country competitively on the basketball court. Along with that, she has also been able to sustain a very passionate following for her squad through the dedication of the MSU Community. The MSU Women's Basketball fan base has grown continually to be Top 10 in attendance nationally due in large part to a passionate season ticket fans base and also a youth fan congregation called the MVP Ball Club.

MVP Ball Club is about more than just basketball. It's about developing children throughout Mid-Michigan both on and off the basketball court. The philosophy is simple: *Be Active and Be Healthy, Never Give Up, Dream Big, and Be Yourself*. The club is open to any child, 8th grade and younger (per NCAA Rules), to be a part of a special club that promotes Leadership and Values in young people while actively supporting the MSU Women's Basketball Team. And during the 2016-2017 season, Coach Merchant has continued to reward children who follow the core *MVP* principles by featuring them during home games as ***Spartan Stars***.

Every home game, the MSU Women's Basketball team will feature 5 students (grades 1-6) from local elementary schools. Those selected will be highlighted during the starting line-up announcement and featured throughout Michigan State Women's Basketball home games. This recognition is to reward *Spartans Stars* whom were selected based on 4 criteria:

- 1) *Leadership within their school and class*
- 2) *Recommendation by a teacher or community advocate*
- 3) *Good grades with focus on good academic habits*
- 4) *Show community initiative through community service*

There are two ways to be nominated as a ***Spartan Star***: Teachers, school officials or parents/family members can nominate students OR students can nominate themselves. Attached in this packet is the Spartan Stars nomination form. Suzy Merchant and the Michigan State Women's Basketball team is excited for the chance to reward young people for showing that dedication to your values and your community. For more information on The Michigan State Women's Basketball *Spartan Stars*, visit www.msuspartans.com.

