

1 Sports at American high schools

Presenter: Hello everybody and welcome to *Schools Around the World*. Today we will be looking at high schools in America. With us in the studio is Charlie Waters from Albuquerque. Now where is Albuquerque, Charlie?

Charlie: It's in the state of New Mexico – in the south-west of the United States. Albuquerque is the biggest town in New Mexico and more than 500,000 people live there. It's pretty hot there with lots of sunshine as it's in the middle of a desert. We also have the Sandia Mountains nearby, where you can go skiing. It's a pretty exciting place.

Presenter: That sounds just great. Now talking about sport, how important is sport for the students at your school?

Charlie: Very important. We take sports quite seriously. When you join a team, people want you to turn up for practice regularly and also take part in other team activities, like going for a meal or on a hiking trip.

Presenter: That takes a lot of time, doesn't it?

Charlie: It does. It means training almost every day, after school. When you come home it's pretty late, and you still have to do your homework. It's pretty hard, but if you are good at sports, you get a lot of respect, from the students and teachers.

Presenter: Does that mean you need to be super sporty if you want to join a high school basketball team?

Charlie: Well, if you want to play for a really good team, you have to be a very good player. You see, usually, before the school year starts, there are three days when the coaches and trainers look at all the players. They check how good they are and how fast they are. If you aren't good enough, you can't play for the team.

Presenter: So, what then? Does that mean you can't do any sports unless you are really good?

Charlie: You can try another sport. One that is good for beginners. However, if you are not into sports at all, there are lots of other activities you can do. There's dance, art or drama clubs or you can do science projects or work with computers.