

K-12 Athletic Programming Key Questions

1. What athletic/competitive/physical activities do we currently have at each grade level?

Athletics currently take place in Grades 5-12. Intramural activities take place in the high school.

2. What activities do we need to add to improve the experiences for students at each grade level?

We need to retain as many of the activities as are offered at the present time. We need to coordinate with YMCA, LaPorte Park and Recreation, Pop Warner, and KVA to provide experiences for younger students. Varsity coaches need to provide input on feeder system development in their particular sports. Current Elementary sports should be moved to fourth grade.

3. What activities do we have now that we need to discontinue, if any, in order to make better use of our resources?

We need to keep as many activities as possible. Soccer at the Intermediate Schools needs to be studied to see how to best implement it.

4. What grades 5 and 6 athletic program changes need to be made in order to prepare for the 5/6 configuration in 2019-2020?

Volleyball and basketball are the most difficult sports to schedule at the fifth and sixth grade level. The first goal should be to not reduce participation. It is proven that kids participation in extracurricular activities improves academics as well as positive role model interaction outside school and home. We need to mirror requests and development outline of varsity programs to these lower levels. We should encourage participation and evaluate current numbers. Based upon current numbers or historical numbers decide whether this level needs to be an intramural type program. Based on varsity coach input, experienced teams for limited participation against other schools could be formed.

5. What grades 7 and 8 athletic program changes need to be made in order to prepare for the 7/8 configuration in 2019-2020?

For the sports with significant numbers and that traditionally cut players there needs to be a focus on not reducing the number of participants (Basketball and Volleyball).

Basketball and Volleyball should have "A" and "B" teams. Each team should have a minimum of 10 players (10 "A" team players and 10 "B" team players.)

Football should have 1 team. In order to increase playing time, 2 extra quarters could be played after each game. Also, a limited "B" schedule could be played.

Soccer at the 7th and 8th grade level needs to be investigated. The remaining sports should continue as they have in the past.

6. How do we manage, coach, and communicate the expectations of program continuity from one level to the next?

A K-12 Athletics Philosophy must be developed and implemented. The expectations and the continuity should be contained the K-12 Athletic Philosophy. Decisions can be made based on this philosophy.

7. What facility needs do we need to plan for in order to carry out the proposed programming changes?

Desperate need for additional indoor space at high school and 7th & 8th grade level. Fieldhouse is in the plans at the Intermediate Schools. A new Fieldhouse should be considered at the high school to help with practice schedules and workouts for the spring sports during the winter months. A 4/6 lane practice track should be added on the Intermediate School campus. Lights should be considered at present track facility. A practice track would alleviate the with Kesling and the high school track programs at the same location at this time. Adding more students compounds this problem. Turf should be considered for the Kesling Middle School football field. Clarke Park should be upgraded JV and/or potential middle school baseball or club along with additional facility.

8. What is a reasonable time frame for carrying out an action plan to implement the changes?

**A reasonable time frame would be 1-5 years depending on project.
Program updates are short term and could be implemented based upon
time to schedule with schools. Facility concerns are more of long term fix.**