



Bunceton - Prairie Home Athletic Co-Op



Bunceton and Prairie Home families, we are committed to the success of our students in the classroom, in extra-curriculars, and post-graduation. In order to ensure our students have the best chance at success, we must give them the foundational support they need. Our districts are excited about the opportunities our co-op provides for our students and are happy to announce a few adjustments for next year:

- *The addition of select clubs/groups to the co-op*
- *Returning to the fall softball championship season*

Our schools both offer great opportunities for our students outside of the classroom, but individually may not have the resources or personnel to offer the same exact extra-curriculars. Under this new agreement, school administration will be able to approve select extra-curriculars for co-op purposes. These will be selected on a year to year basis and logistics will be determined case by case. This change will allow the possibility of all of our students having access to programs like archery, chess club, and more! We will also begin coordinating more events throughout the year, starting with a combined field day for both elementary and junior high.

When it comes to athletics, a strong high school program is built up from a strong junior high program. Over the last several months, our schools have discussed how to best support all of our sports programs and it was clear that if we were going to give our students the best chance to succeed in volleyball, they would need an opportunity to learn and grow in the game starting in junior high. Our basketball, softball, and baseball players are supported in the acquisition of fundamental skills by our strong community rec programs. Unfortunately, we do not have the same programs in place for volleyball. A school-based junior high volleyball program would also conflict with our junior high basketball program and take away from the viability of our basketball program and the future success on the court.

Due to these realities, our school districts have made the difficult decision to remove the volleyball program due to the inability to build the program with a junior high season. We understand that this may come as a disappointment to some of our families, and we want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly. As a result, we will be moving back to fall softball. This move will allow us to play our more traditional opponents and cut down on the travel time our volleyball team has had to endure as more area schools play a fall softball schedule. Spring softball will continue to be offered as well, but our post-season will be in the fall.

We are committed to providing our athletes with the best possible opportunities to succeed and we believe that this change will be beneficial for the districts as a whole. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our districts. We are confident that with your support, we will continue to provide our students with an excellent education and athletic opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Anderson and Mr. Jordan Hoecker