

At Fairfield Middle School, we are consistently searching for ways to better serve our students. It is our hope that we contribute to the development of the whole child. As a result, we try to encourage each of our students to “get connected” to FMS in some way, shape, or form. We offer a plethora of activities that our students are able to choose from in regard to how they may “get connected” at FMS. A few activities that students may participate in include, but are not limited to, the Hispanic Club, Drug Free Schools, Police and Fire Academy, or Student Council. Of course, many students choose to participate in our athletic program. We have approximately 25 teams that currently exist in our middle school athletic program.

At Fairfield Middle School, our mission to better serve our students also applies to our extracurricular programs. As a result, a decision has been made in regard to the structure of our middle school football program. During the 2009-2010 school year, Fairfield Middle School will have one football team per grade level rather than two teams per grade level. We believe that this change in the middle school football program will better serve our student-athletes and the football program.

The decision was made approximately ten years ago that Fairfield Middle School would support two teams per grade level in the sport of football. At the time, the belief was that more football players would be developed, which would make for a stronger varsity football team. Over time, we’ve discovered that our two football teams per grade level struggle to compete consistently due to the disadvantage of having our talent level divided. It is important to note that winning is not the bottom line. What’s most important is that our students are having positive experiences. Because our football teams failed to compete consistently at the middle school level, our students’ experiences were not as positive as we would’ve liked for them to be. For that reason, a number of meetings were held to discuss how we could make middle school football a more positive experience for those who participate. The outcome is the change from two teams per grade level to one team per grade level.

Anytime that a change occurs, it is natural to have questions and concerns. As a result, a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in Cafeteria A/B at Fairfield Middle School. Parents of current sixth- and seventh-graders are invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to provide students and parents with more information in regard to the change in our program. One obvious concern with this change is that some student-athletes may not have as much opportunity to play as they would have if we had two teams. There is a plan in place to alleviate that concern, and that plan will be shared at this meeting. Jared Nissen, Fairfield Middle School athletic director, will be there with me to answer questions. I can assure you that this change has been made with the interest of Fairfield Middle School better serving its students.

Billy Smith is the principal of Fairfield Middle School. He can be reached at smith_b@fairfieldcityschools.com.

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