

Middle School Athletics: A New Approach

Proposed Changes to Middle School Athletics 2009-2010

In the spirit of trying to create a viable athletic program for our middle school students we have analyzed many models and have chosen the following two tiered program as the one to best meet the needs of all SUSD middle school students.

Tier 1: All Included Tier

- Four weeks of skill building, training and inter squad games for each sport
- All Included Tournament Day, on a Saturday, with teams competing at centralized sites
- Teams will be chosen from the first four weeks to move to the next level of competition

The All Included Tier is designed to be open to all interested participants with varying skill levels. There would be **no "cuts"** in this tier and all students are encouraged to learn the sport, improve their skills/knowledge of the sport and play the sport. We encourage each middle school to bring as many teams as they wish to the tournament. Each participant would receive a t-shirt.

Tier 2: Competitive Tier

- This season will follow the All Included Tier with students picked from the All Included Tier
- Designed to refine the skills learned and build a team
- 8 competitive games over three to four weeks between the teams selected from the first level of competition

We feel that this program will include more 7th and 8th grade student athletes in the athletic program in middle school. We have taken the total number of students that try out and compared that with the number of students that are selected to play. We would like to offer the opportunity to all middle school students to learn some new skills and reap the benefits of being involved in group athletics.

The fees for the new program will be \$60.00 for the all included tier and an additional \$30.00 for the students invited from the all included tier to be in the competitive tier.

The sports seasons will be as follows:

Boys Baseball and Girls Basketball – August 17th – October 8th
Boys Basketball and Girls Softball – October 19th – December 17th
Coed Passing Football and Girls Volleyball – January 4th – March 4th
Boys and Girls Track – March 15th – May 14th

All students participating in Middle School Sports are required to have a current annual physical examination card on file at the school prior to the start of the first practice.