



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

P. O. Box 232, 39 Bank Street, SE, Chatham, VA 24531

Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

TO: Mr. Calvin Doss, Chairman
School Board Members

FROM: Mark R. Jones, Division Superintendent

RE: Study of Middle School Athletics

DATE: July 5, 2022

With approval from the School Board, I propose a study of the feasibility and need for Pittsylvania County Schools to offer athletic opportunities for middle school students. Based on the discussion held by the School Board at its regular meeting in June 2022, two meetings have been held with middle school principals and a survey conducted with Region VI Superintendents and superintendents in adjacent counties on middle school sports participation. The data in the following table provides information regarding middle school athletic opportunities available to students in Region VI and surrounding counties.

	Football	VBall	CC	B&G BB	Baseball	Softball	Track	Golf	B&G Soccer
Floyd	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Henry	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
MVile	X	X		X			X		X
Patrick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Botetourt	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Franklin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Roanoke	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Campbell	X	X	X	X			X		X
Danville	X			X					
Halifax	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

Floyd, Franklin, and Patrick Counties provide opportunities in football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball, track, golf, and soccer to middle school students. All of the other counties listed above provide opportunities in not all but many of the sports listed in the table. From the respondents to the survey, Pittsylvania County Schools is the only division that does not offer an opportunity for middle school students to participate in interscholastic middle school athletic programs. Pittsylvania County children in middle school can participate in baseball, football, basketball, softball and cheerleading through the County's Parks and Recreation Youth Sports program.

A meeting was held on June 22, 2022, with middle school principals and the Director of Middle School Education to discuss middle school sports. The principals have been asked to develop a list of items to be addressed for this to become a viable option for the School Division.

Some of the challenges of implementing athletics in the middle schools are associated with the availability of adequate facilities. The middle schools have gymnasiums to facilitate basketball and volleyball programs. However, the gyms have limited seating capacity (200) and all are used by the high school teams for practices. The outdoor facilities vary between the middle schools.

School	Football/Soccer Field (small bleachers)	Gym (winter) (Capacity – 200)	Gym (fall) (Capacity – 200)	Baseball field	Softball field
CMS	Yes High school does not use for practice	Yes High school uses for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice	No
DRMS	Yes High school does not use for practice	Yes High school uses for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice	No
GMS	No – space may be available	Yes High school uses for practice	Yes High school uses for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice	Yes High school does not use for practice
TMS	No – space may be available	Yes High school uses for practice	Yes High school uses for practice	No	No

The table below provides an example of middle school coaching supplements derived from those paid to high school coaches.

Sport	High School Supplement	Middle School Supplement
Football	JV Head Coach - \$2,700	Head Coach - \$2,000
Football	Assistant Coach - \$2,430	Assistant Coach - \$1,300
Basketball	JV Head - \$2,025	Head Coach - \$1,400
Basketball	JV Assistant Coach - \$1,000	Assistant Coach - \$1,000
Volleyball	JV Head - \$2,025	Head Coach - \$1,400
Volleyball	JV Assistant Coach - \$1,000	Assistant Coach - \$1,000
Baseball	JV Head - \$2,025	Head Coach - \$1,400
Baseball	JV Assistant Coach - \$1,000	Assistant Coach - \$1,000
Softball	JV Head - \$2,025	Head Coach - \$1,400
Softball	JV Assistant Coach - \$1,000	Assistant Coach - \$1,000
Soccer	JV Head - \$2,025	Head Coach - \$1,400
Soccer	JV Assistant Coach - \$1,000	Assistant Coach - \$1,000

The table below provides an estimate of the cost to offer one sport for boys and one for girls during a school year.

	Boys (8 games)	Girls (8 games)	
Head Coach	\$1,400 x 4 schools = \$5,600 + FICA = \$6,028.40	\$1,400 x 4 schools = \$5,600 + FICA = \$6,028.40	
Assistant Coach	\$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 + FICA = \$4,306	\$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 + FICA = \$4,306	
Transportation - \$250/away game/school	\$250 x 4 games = \$1,000 \$1,000 x 4 schools = \$4,000	\$250 x 4 games = \$1,000 \$1,000 x 4 schools = \$4,000	
Officials - \$55/game	2 officials x \$55 = \$110/game/school \$110 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$1,760	2 officials x \$55 = \$110/game/school \$110 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$1,760	
Officials Association Fees	\$300/season/school \$300 x 1 x 4 = \$1,200		
Game Security - \$35.40/hr	2 officers x 3 hrs x \$35.40/hr = \$212.40/ game \$212.40 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$3,398.40	2 officers x 3 hrs x \$35.40/hr = \$212.40/ game \$212.40 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$3,398.40	
Uniforms (1 time cost) - \$125 per athlete home \$125 per athlete away	15 x \$125 = \$1,875 \$1,875 x 4 = \$7,500 15 x \$125 = \$1,875 \$1,875 x 4 = \$7,500	15 x \$125 = \$1,875 \$1,875 x 4 = \$7,500 15 x \$125 = \$1,875 \$1,875 x 4 = \$7,500	
Equipment (1 time cost) \$1,000/school	\$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000	\$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000	
Insurance - \$3.00/athlete/ year	Catastrophic coverage 200 x \$3.00 = \$600 \$600 x 4 = \$2,400		
Athletic Director - \$1,000/season/school	\$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000		
VHSL Fees	None	None	
Trainer Costs	TBD	TBD	
Custodian - \$30/game	\$30 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$480	\$30 x 4 games x 4 schools = \$480	
Total (Startup)	\$46,572.80	\$38,972.28	\$85,545.08
Total (Recurring)	\$27,572.80	\$19,972.28	\$47,545.08

After review of this information, if the Board wishes to continue the exploration of providing an athletics program in each middle school, I recommend the first step to be the revision of School Board Regulation IGDA, Involvement in Activities. At this time, this regulation does not permit middle school students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.