

Dear Mrs. Flory,

I am proposing the addition of a Junior High Golf program at Santa Fe Trail Junior High. Golf is currently one of the fastest growing sports amongst youth, and is becoming more and more common in Kansas Middle Schools each year. Currently, two schools in the Pioneer League, Anderson County and Iola, along with several other schools in Northeast Kansas are offering Golf as a Junior High sport in their district. Junior High Golf is a Spring sport that would be offered to all 7th and 8th grade students, male and female.

The JH Golf Season would run from the Monday after Spring Break until the end of April. This year, that would be March 18 to April 30. The season would consist of 14 practices, Monday's and Wednesday's only, and 4 Tournaments. Practices would be held in conjunction with the High School Boys Golf practices at Lamont Hills, and would require transportation from Carbondale Attendance Center on practice days. SFT would compete April 3 at Iola, April 11 at Lamont Hills, April 17 at Anderson County, and April 30 at Wamego. All tournaments except April 30 would be 9 hole tournaments. At Junior High Tournaments, schools are typically allowed to enter a team of 6 plus 3 additional girls to compete. Because of the limited number of spots available for each school at tournaments, students and parents would be made aware that they are not guaranteed each tournament on the schedule.

We have a strong student interest in golf at the Junior High. I expect that there would be between 15 to 20 students that elect to participate in the Spring. The limited number of practices and tournaments would allow for the High School Boys Golf coaches along with a *Volunteer Assistant Coach (\$1 Supplemental)* to provide the necessary supervision of the Junior High students. The HS Assistant Coach would be the JH Head Coach at all JH Tournaments. Students will be required to supply their own Golf Bags and Clubs if they wish to participate on the JH Golf team. Uniforms would be supplied through available Athletic funds.

Student involvement in extracurricular activities is a high priority in our district. The addition of a Golf program at the Junior High would afford our students with an additional opportunity for involvement in a Spring activity. Currently, students have the opportunity to compete on the Track & Field team during the Spring, but do not have any other choices during that season. With the addition of a Golf program, students would have the opportunity to participate on *both* the Track & Field team along with the Golf team.

Sincerely,

Austin Hershberger, AP/AD SFTJH

