

Wrestling at Lakeview



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Purpose and Vision

- We are proposing a **co-ed, non-cut wrestling program** at Lakeview Jr. High beginning in the **2026–2027 school year** .
- The goal is to **expand access to student athletics** , increase student engagement, and strengthen Center Cass School District 66.



Benefits of Adding Wrestling to CCSD66

- All-Inclusive Sport : Open to all sizes, genders, and experience levels
- No cut sport
- Inexpensive
- Exposure to new sport prior to high school



Benefits on a Personal Level

- Builds discipline, resilience, accountability and confidence that transfer to academics and life.
- Also builds perseverance, self awareness, strength, and responsibility over person and equipment, (cleaning equipment like mats after practice)
- Individual sport but big emphasis on team building
- Prepare for high school athletic options



Equity and Access

- Wrestling is a **Co-Ed and Non-Cut** sport maintaining gender balance and supporting Title IX.
- Engages **at-risk and underrepresented students** increasing school connectedness.



By the Numbers

- Based on survey of 5th-8th graders at Prairiewood /Lakeview
 - 22 responded yes definitely to wrestling at the school
 - 30 responded maybe and would like more information
- Downers Grove Wrestling Club
 - 17 currently attend Prairiewood/Lakeview
- Surrounding D99 feeder participants-
 - Jefferson Jr. High- 84 wrestlers
 - Herrick- 73 wrestlers
 - O'Neil- 54 wrestlers
 - Eisenhower Jr High- 30 wrestlers



Cost and Resources

- Wrestling is a **low-cost, high-impact sport**
- Community partners (DGWC, DGS Boosters) are committed to helping fund **equipment and uniforms**
- The district would need to fund **two coaching stipends**



Possible Singlet Design



Facility and Logistics

- Practices can take place at Prairieview **gym, cafeteria or other shared spaces** .
 - This would limit interference with basketball practices or competitions.
- Mats are durable and can last **12-15 years**



Long Term Benefits

- Increases participation, school pride and feeder development.
- Strengthens continuity from middle school to high school athletics.
- Creates opportunities for students currently not involved in winter sports.



Closing

- This proposal represents a **student-driven , community-supported opportunity** to expand equity, engagement and opportunity at Lakeview Jr. High



Costs supported by DGWC & DGS

- **Wrestling mats**
 - Buy our own 20-20 feet mats
- **Participation fee**
 - Athletics fee at CCSD
- **Equipment**
 - Singlet (Resourced from school/support)
 - Headgear (Athlete responsibility)
 - Shoes (Athlete responsibility)
 - Mouthguard (Required for braces but highly recommend, Athlete responsibility)



Possible Singlet Design