

District 97 Middle School Wrestling Proposal

Submitted by The Huskie Wrestling Family, Little Huskies Head Coach Michael Colucci, OPRF Head Coach Paul Collins, OPRF Girls Head Coach Fred Arkin, and Executive Director of Beat the Streets Coach Mike Powell

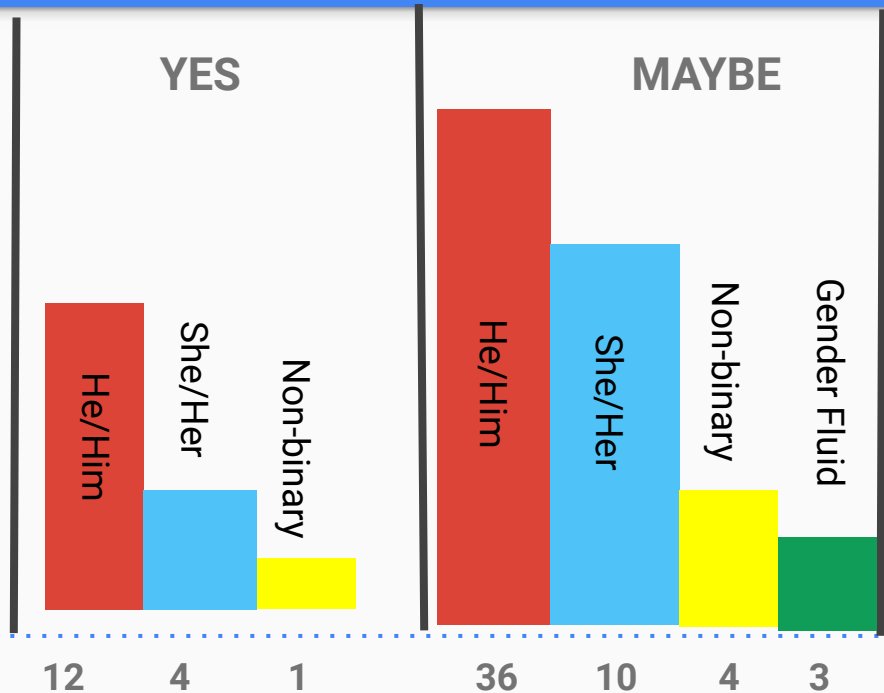
Summary:

We envision a program that can provide young teens guidance and direction during a pivotal time in their lives. Across the country fantastic results with young men and women in SEL and academic growth have been shown from participating in after-school activities. We aim to target all students, with an emphasis on our population of marginalized students. This team will include a co-op of students from Brooks and Julian.

The Need for Wrestling?

Brooks and Julian interest survey results:

- Interest: 17 yes (5.7%), 53 maybe (17.9%) combined total 23.6% of 296 responses
- Gender identity breakdown shows interest from many marginalized groups
- NEXT STEPS:
 - Identify students in the yes and maybe groups and determine academic and further demographic information
 - Track data during season on SEL and Academic growth



The Need for Wrestling?

Female wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. The NCAA has been looking to start female wrestling across all divisions. At OPRF one female wrestler earned a scholarship to wrestle. Fostering this experience in Middle School will increase female students chances of scholarships to attend college.

In 2015 the OPRF state and national championship team, made mostly of at-risk minority students, had the highest GPA in the school that year and all 16 of our graduating seniors went on to 4-year colleges.

There are no tryouts in wrestling. It is a sport that anyone, regardless of gender identity, size, ability, and body type can prosper in.



Program Needs and Budget

- 2 coaching stipends per OPTA Contract
- 2 wrestling mats
- Wrestling storage
- Transportation costs
- IESA Entry/Annual fees
- Custodial costs

Where Would Practice Take Place? Storage?

Middle school programs in the area practice after or before school. Locations vary from school cafeterias, gymnasiums, stages, or hallways. Some schools schedule a few practices and meets at the area high schools to help with space restrictions.

With the purchase of flexible roll wrestling mats practices and meets would be easily set up in several areas throughout the middle schools.

Mats can be stored rolled up on the side of practice locations. For further storage management, hoist systems can be installed to walls or ceilings to alleviate floor space.

Other Considerations

The team considered other impacts and questions that may arise on the rationale for a co-op Brooks and Julian Wrestling team under IESA.

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Female Participation

Competition with Area Schools

Why Not Other Sports?

Excerpts from Local Districts

"I think the greatest benefit of bringing wrestling to Gurrie has been the fact that it provided many of our students an opportunity to participate and connect with the school in a way they had not previously. This was the first time many of these students had experienced a school sport and found a connection and relationship with the school, coaches, and each other that have benefited them on and off the mat."

Ed Hood
Principal
Gurrie Middle School

"This program has been a huge success at our school. It is a perfect vehicle to increase involvement in the type of kids who would really benefit from more structure and discipline in their lives... We have seen a very positive impact on student academic achievement especially among our most at-risk students due to the positive interaction they are having with adults connected to our school."

Kyle Sieck
Athletic Director
Hadley Jr. High

Why now?

In District 97, we are striving towards equitable experiences for our students. A wrestling team will not only bring together students of diverse backgrounds, but can directly impact SEL and academic performance. This investment will help our students become role models for peers and lead to positive interactions between our two middle schools.

