



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL

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Independent School District #706 411 Fifth Avenue South Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Deron Stender: Superintendent · Laverne M. Hakly: Principal · John Vukmanich: Dean of Students · Kerry Bidle: Activities Director

Dear ISD 706 School Board,

When I was hired as the Head Wrestling Coach in the Spring of 2011, it was decided that the Junior High Coaching position be dropped for the 2011-2012 season. This decision was based on the fact that the team only had 12-15 total wrestlers in grades 7-12. It was discussed at that time, that consideration for reinstating the third coach (JH) would be possible if the wrestling program showed an increase in numbers.

During the past two seasons, we have more than doubled our number of participants to the mid-upper twenties. Most of these wrestlers are 7th-9th grade athletes, which qualifies them for Junior High competition. We had seven new 7th grade wrestlers come up from last year's elementary program. The elementary program had 120 wrestlers K-6 this year. It is with these numbers that I am anticipating we will gain another 5-10 new 7th grade wrestlers again next year.

Reinstating this coaching position would allow the coaches to fulfill transportation needs when using suburbans to/from tournaments. This would also allow the entire coaching staff to work more effectively with all the Varsity, JV, and Junior High wrestlers at practice. With the anticipated increase in Junior High numbers, it is essential that we maximize our mat space by breaking into separate Varsity and Junior High groups during practice.

The wrestling program has already made huge strides in its first two years of rebuilding. We have doubled our numbers and expect even more wrestlers next year. In order for us to continue on the road to success we need your continued support by reinstating the junior high coaching position to help us properly coach, supervise, and transport our wrestlers.

On behalf of the entire wrestling program, its coaches and athletes, I would like to personally thank you for your consideration and continued support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Mellgren
Head Wrestling Coach