

Curriculum/Instruction Subcommittee Special

Monday, December 16, 2024 7:00 PM

Special Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (12/16/24 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/96771620622> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 967 7162
0622, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

II.A. November 25, 2024 – Regular

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

III.A. NFPS Orchestra Program Development and
Course Proposal

III.B. Bilingual Services

III.C. Middle School World Language Update

III.D. Adapted PE Overview

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 11/25/24

Minutes submitted by: Tim Blair

Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Greg Flanagan, Sue Huwer

Members absent:

Other attendees: Ken Craw, Kristine Woleck, Dom Cipollone, Ed Sbordone

Place of meeting: Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (11/25/24 at 7:00 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91284435095> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 912 8443 5095

Meeting called to order: at 7:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 28, 2024 – Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 28, 2024, as presented

Made by: Sue Huwer

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Eduplanet Overview (*Strategic Planning Goal: Curriculum*) - Dr. Woleck presented.

Eduplanet is the Electronic Curriculum Platform that includes modules that help teachers understand how to approach curriculum design and implementation using our Understanding by Design approach. We are using this platform to help align curriculum across the district by not only using these learning modules, but this allows teachers and parents to access parts of the curriculum electronically, creating visibility and user-friendly ways to update the curriculum on the website, and providing students with access to storyboard templates for connecting curriculum to instruction in the classroom.

B. Data to Inform Instruction (*Strategic Planning Goal: Instruction*) - Using the data that we have in a systematic way with our large range of Assessments for Responsive teaching to meet the needs of each student, analysis of the data to allow root cause understanding and identification of specific needs. In short, a more structured way to use data most effectively. There will be 5 different data meetings throughout the year with teams on all levels to review data and make adjustments and goals in action from those meetings. Dr. Woleck also talked about more good news for family communications, where the benchmarking ‘i-Ready’ assessments will now be downloaded through PowerSchool in the students’ portfolio each trimester. Many parents may recall the initial memo letter that went out with links recently. This portfolio will allow families to track student growth over time.

C. AI Work Group (*Strategic Planning Goal: Instruction*) - Dr. Woleck talked about AI and our strategic plan on how we can leverage it. We are going to form an AI workgroup that helps us address all the possibilities and problems AI presents. We are going to focus on Digital Literacy, which entails Digital safety, media and information literacy, digital well-being, and social responsibility. Our objective is to bring together stakeholders with multiple perspectives to develop guiding principles to explore and examine learning for all faculty and staff and learning experiences for students. This workgroup is expected to kick off in January.

IV. ACTION ITEMS – None

V. OTHER – We discussed and requested to add a special meeting for 12/16 in order to get ahead of some other items going into the new year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Greg Flanagan

Seconded by: Sue Huwer

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 8 p.m.

New Fairfield Public Schools

New Course Proposal

Directions:

Before completing this form, please discuss this proposal with the appropriate administrator(s) in your school. Complete this proposal form thoroughly, and attach any supporting documentation that would help the Board of Education's Curriculum Sub-Committee understand this proposal better. Be sure that you adhere to all deadlines, and be certain to acquire all required signatures. To ensure that a course can be properly planned for, if it is intended for a coming school year, please complete it by October 31. All other proposals can be forwarded at any time of the year.

Course Being Proposed: HS Orchestra

Proposal submitted by: Casey Hounsell and Jack Giuliano

School: New Fairfield High School

1. Indicate the department/grade level in which this course/program will run.

Visual and Performing Arts: 9-12 Orchestra (non-audition ensemble)

2. Please indicate if the new course or instructional program is a semester long or year long, and indicate the applicable grade levels. Please indicate the course level if applicable.

This will be a year-long course open to students in grades 9-12.

3. Please give the rationale for this proposal, and include its relationship to the past, current and future development of curricular offerings in New Fairfield.

New Fairfield Public Schools has a strong tradition of supporting the arts, as evidenced by the strength of its existing band, choir, theater, and music technology program. The district has expanded its performing arts programming to meet the evolving needs and interests of its students.

Over the past several years, the district has grown an orchestra program at the elementary school and through the middle school grades. Students who have participated in this orchestra program at the elementary and middle school are now positioned to enter the high school in order to continue to play instruments such as violin, viola, and cello, and expand to such instruments as bass.

We look now to extend the orchestra program into New Fairfield High School for students currently in the program (now in eighth grade) to continue to this next step in their progression. Introducing an orchestra would honor the district's commitment to the orchestra program specifically and performing arts broadly, meet the needs of our current and future students, and strengthen our existing high school music department.

4. Please indicate the target population for this proposal.

The targeted population for this course proposal are the current middle school orchestra students (11 eighth graders, 10 seventh graders, and 6 sixth graders) as they progress from the middle school into the high school beginning in the 25-26 school year. This course would also allow current high school students who previously did not continue with a stringed instrument in high school to have the option to return to that instrument.

5. Please explain if this course or instructional program is an addition or a replacement for an existing course or program.

The orchestra program at the high school would be an additional program to the current music department.

6. List any prerequisites for this course or instructional program.

While intended for students who have participated in orchestra in middle school, this class would be open to all students of all skill levels in grades 9-12.

7. Please write a short description of the new course or instructional program that would be suitable for the high school *Program of Studies* or for a curriculum document.

Orchestra is a performance-based ensemble course designed for students who play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and double bass). The class focuses on developing individual and ensemble musicianship through the study and performance of a diverse repertoire. Students will improve their technical skills, music reading, and musicality while expanding their understanding of music theory and music history. Participation in rehearsals and performances, including concerts and festivals, is an essential component of the course. This class is open to students of all skill levels, grades 9-12.

8. Please list the long-term course or program goals that define the broad outcomes that this course or program seeks to help students achieve.

Establishing orchestra at the high school level would provide a sequential string program, grades 3-12, in the district, ensuring students have consistent access to high-quality instruction from elementary through high school. Such a coherent program can allow for students to continue to pursue orchestra post-high school if desired or maintain an appreciation and enjoyment of a string instrument throughout their lives. This orchestra program would also then mirror the current band and choir programs, ensuring equity across all musical disciplines. In addition, it would provide the opportunity for collaboration between band, choir, and orchestra, enriching the overall music education experience for all students.

9. Please indicate what topics, units, or material will be used to meet the long-term goals listed above. What assessment strategies will be used in this course or program? What are the unique components of this course or program content that make it a worthwhile addition for our students?

The curriculum would be split into 2 expansive units in which students learn new techniques and musical skills that fall under the NAFME standards for their grade levels. Each one of these units will be facilitated with proper musical selection and demonstration. Their learning and growth each semester will culminate in a winter and spring concert which will serve as an assessment for their progress. The end goal of this course is to provide students with genuine performance skills and strategies that will assist in all musical endeavors as well as public demonstration.

10. Please enumerate the resources – both human and financial – that you anticipate will be needed to develop this course or program correctly. What impact would this proposal have on scheduling, staffing, and resources? Consider training, equipment and space needs.

This course requires an additional 1.0 FTE who would implement the high school and middle school strings program. In terms of resources, some funds in the performing arts budget would be needed to provide sheet music and instrument maintenance supplies. The current high school band and chorus rooms are available spaces for the orchestra and schedules will be coordinated to allow for access. Instruments and other supplies in the program are also supported by the Fine Arts Boosters and other grants from the PTO.

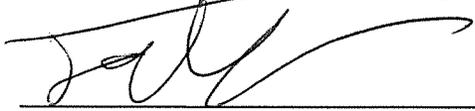
11. If this course will require a textbook, what is the title and cost estimate of a likely text?

Concert repertoire - 3-4 winter concert songs, 3-4 spring concert songs, 3-4 district concert songs, estimated at \$65/song.

12. What impact will this course/program proposal have upon other courses/programs currently being offered in the district?

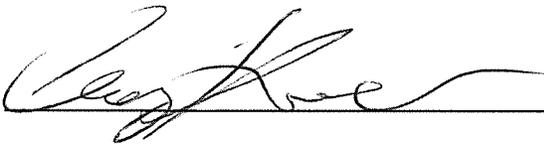
This course continues the current district goal of expanding the strings program throughout the schools. It will complete the high school curriculum to provide performing arts ensemble courses for band, chorus, and strings currently available in grades 3-8. It would also allow a continuation of the already-established classes as well as establish a culminating course for string students.

Signatures of those making this proposal:

 12/10/24

Teacher

Date

 12/10/24

Department Chair (if applicable)

Date

New Course Proposal Form
Updated January 2020

 12/11/24
Principal **Date**

 12/11/24

Assistant Superintendent

Date

New Course Proposal Form
Updated January 2020

Orchestra in New Fairfield

Building a Seamless Program for our Young Musicians



Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee
New Fairfield Public Schools
December 16, 2024



Orchestra in New Fairfield

Elementary Student String Numbers (Grades 3-5)

- 2022-23: Total students = 95
- 2023-24: Total students = 107
- 2024-25 (current): Total students = 115

NFMS Student String Numbers (Grades 6-8)

- 2022-23: Total students = 14
- 2023-24: Total students = 24
- 2024-25 (current): Total students = 27
- 2025-26 (anticipated): Total students = 35

Orchestra in New Fairfield

Current Elementary Student String Numbers (2024-25)

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
51	35	29

Current NFMS Student String Numbers (2024-25)

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
6	10	11

Moving Forward

- **Initiate an orchestra program at NFHS:** To address our current 8th grade students needs and bring back current high school students who may have been unable to play in past years.
- **Include middle school orchestra lessons for 6th-8th grade students:** To strengthen skill development and mirror the current band program at the middle school.
- **Ensure consistency of lessons for all 3rd-5th grade students:** To build foundational skills and success for students that can be brought forward in the middle and high school years.

The Benefits

Building a **sequential, grade 3–12 strings program** allows us to:

- Provide students with consistent access to high-quality instruction from elementary through high school.
- Mirror the current band & choir programs for equity across musical disciplines.
- Provide opportunities for collaboration between band, choir, and orchestra, enriching the overall music education experience for all students.
- Strengthen our music program when compared to other districts locally, in the state and nationally.

Next Steps

- **HS Orchestra Course Proposal** (*NFHS Program of Studies*)
- **One additional full-time orchestra teacher**
 - Allows us to hire a certified, high-quality teacher to transition our program to the high school and ensure staffing for lessons at the middle school.
 - Ensures all students across levels in the district (Grades 3-12) have access to orchestra lessons and playing in an ensemble. Access to lessons as well as ensemble opportunities ensures skill development to grow a strong program of young musicians.

Q & A

- **Is there space to accommodate expanding the NFPS Orchestra Program?**
 - The NFHS band and orchestra room will be scheduled collaboratively.
 - We continue to assess space for lessons and ensemble at NFMS per our space utilization study.
- **Will there be enough students moving forward?**
 - Current 8th grade orchestra students have indicated their interest in continuing to pursue orchestra next year and some current high school students (9-12) may also join.
 - Our enrollment in strings at NFES continues to grow.
- **Will the additional teacher have a full schedule?**
 - The additional staffing will provide for both HS orchestra and strings lessons across the MS and ES; both string teachers in the district will have a full schedule across the three buildings.
- **Do we have the resources/equipment to support a program at the High School?**
 - We continue to provide for music supplies in our district and school curriculum budgets and build instrument options. The PTO and FAPA Boosters have been wonderful partners as well.

Bilingual Services

Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee
New Fairfield Public Schools
December 16, 2024



Bilingual Education Requirements

CT State Statute: Sec. 10-17f.

Duties of boards of education regarding bilingual education programs.

(b) Whenever it is ascertained that there are in any public school within a local or regional school district twenty or more eligible students classified as dominant in any one language other than English, the board of education of such district shall provide a program of bilingual education for such eligible students for the school year next following.

Our Students (24-25)

- 97 students, K-12 English Language / Multilingual Learners
- 10 languages (Spanish, Portuguese most prevalent)
- 43 Spanish-dominant language learners at NFES (*eligible for bilingual services*)
- Currently, 1.2 FTE dedicated to EL services K-12

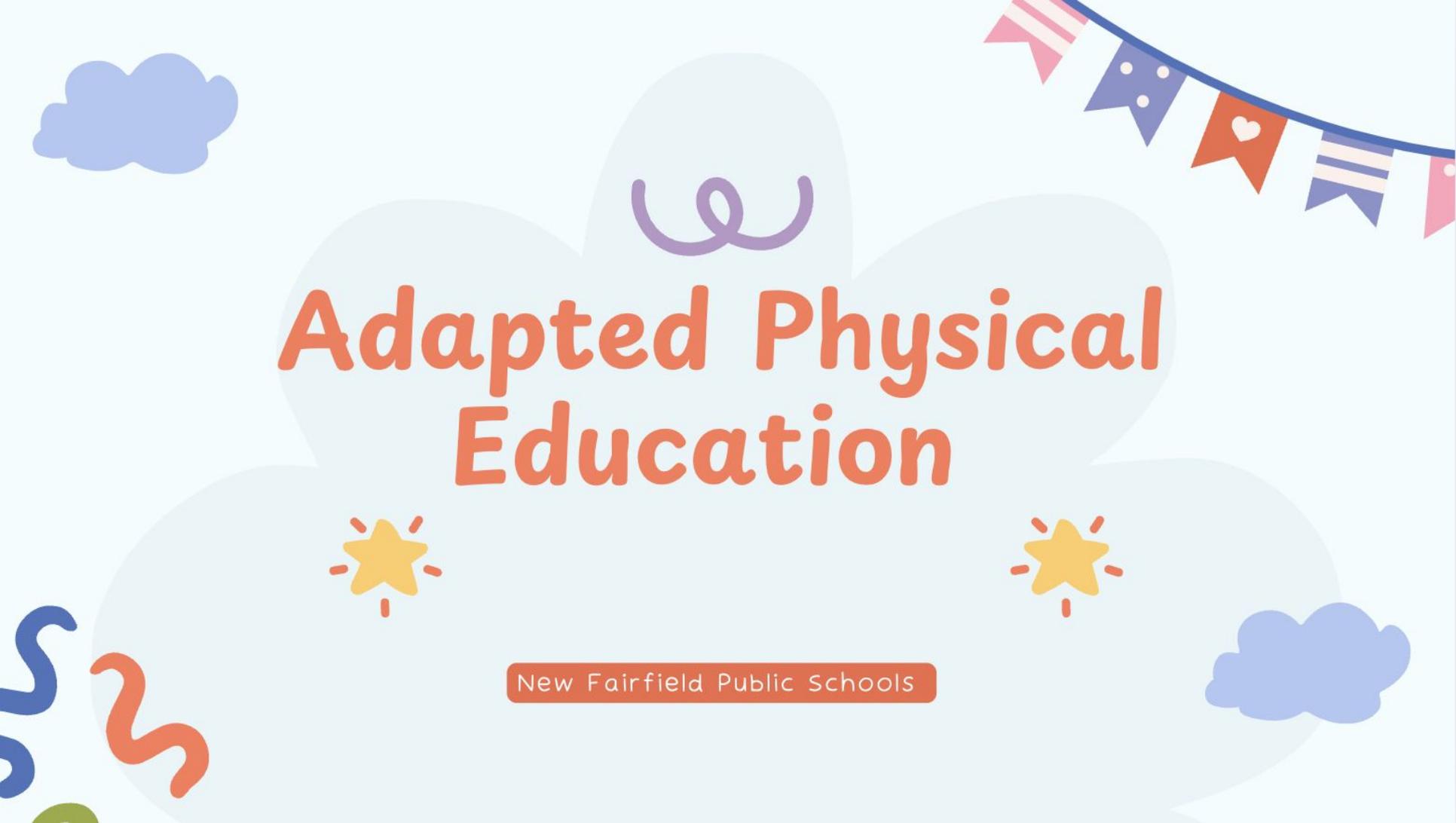
Trend Data

English Learner Status	Year					
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Not English Learner/Multilingual Learner	2,182	2,103	2,052	2,050	2,061	2,073
English Learner/Multilingual Learner	64	83	80	82	82	81
Total	2,246	2,186	2,132	2,132	2,143	2,154

* October, 2024 (2024-2025) - 91 Students

Next Steps

- Secure 1.0 full-time certified bilingual teacher (NFES).
- Continue to provide professional learning to all staff (PK-12) to understand the needs and language learning trajectory of English Language / Multilingual Learners.
- Ensure translation services and outreach for families.
- Support upper-grade students in pursuing the Seal of Biliteracy.



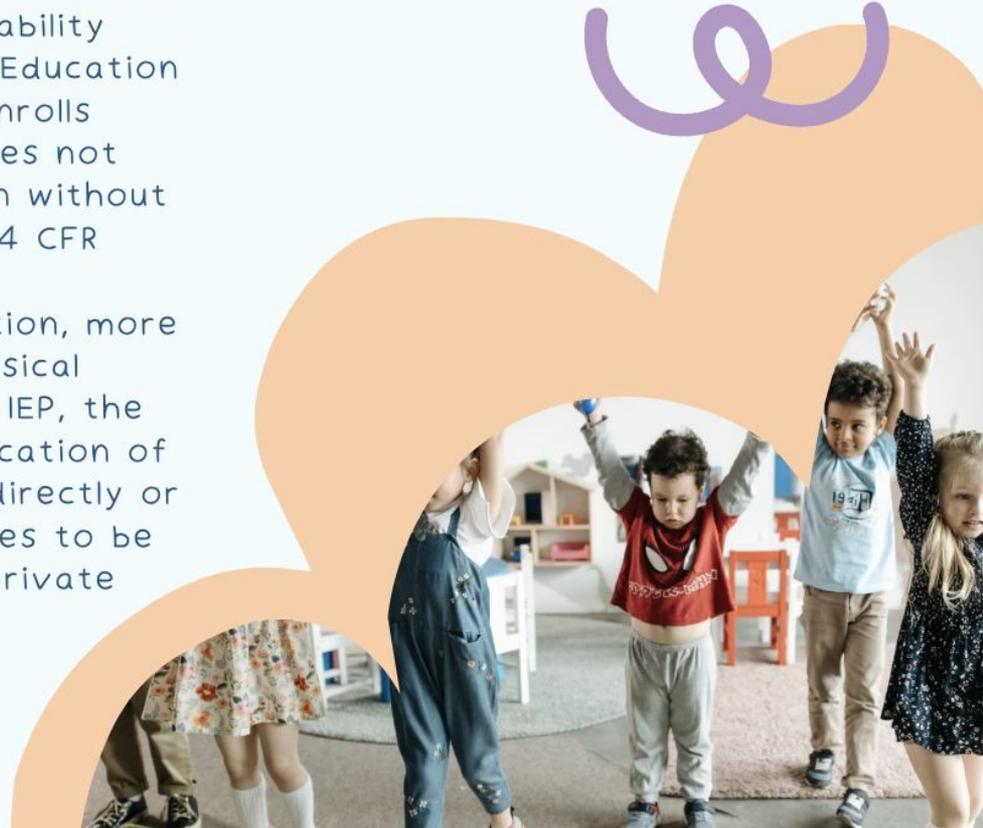
Adapted Physical Education

New Fairfield Public Schools

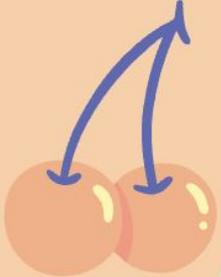
Why APE

Physical Education Mandates of IDEA

- IDEA states that “physical education services, specially designed, if necessary, must be made available to every child with a disability receiving Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), unless the public agency enrolls children without disabilities and does not provide physical education to children without disabilities in the same grades” (34 CFR §300.108).
- If specially designed physical education, more commonly known as adapted physical education, “is prescribed in a child's IEP, the public agency responsible for the education of that child must provide the services directly or make arrangements for those services to be provided through other public or private programs” (34 CFR §300.108).



APE Philosophy



Mission Statement

Adapted Physical Education (APE) is an individualized program that assists students who receive special education services in accessing equitable physical education in their least restrictive environment.



Core Values

- The instruction is adapted to the needs of the student.
 - The environment adjusts to the individual
 - The curriculum aligns with General Physical Education curriculum
- 



APE in NFPS Development Highlights

Team

2022 formed a team of PE teachers, PT/OT, special education and administration to study APE.

Process

2023-2024 Team created a process of APE evaluation.

Training

2023 staff began receiving training in APE; continuing in 2024-25.

Implementation

2024-2025 PE teachers have expanded implementation of Adapted PE to our students at NFES, NFMS, and NFHS.



Professional Development

Research/Self-guided

- *Evaluation process training
- FCPS Online Modules

Michael Laughlin, Southern CT State University

- APE Foundations Presentation
- Future: Paraprofessional support workshop – Bob Hale with Unified PE





Future: Unified PE

Overview

Unified PE is a program designed to bring together students with and without disabilities to participate in physical activities together, promoting inclusion and fostering leadership skills through a structured curriculum based on national physical education standards

- 10/4/24: Observed JBHS Unified Wellness Program
- Unified Sports Program Established Spring 2024
- Attend Unified Homecoming at JBHS on 11/22/24

