



To: Dr. Tom Mahoney, Superintendent & Board of Education
From: Mr. Mike Lawton, Athletic Director
Re: 5th Grade Wrestling

October 2, 2023

At this time, I am recommending that O.C.U.S.D. #220 allow fifth grade students to participate on the district's middle school wrestling team beginning with the new 2024 season in January.

There are several reasons for this recommendation:

- Oregon joined the IESA last year (Winter 2023 season) and the IESA allows 5th graders to compete in their duals and tournaments.
- We now have several teams on our schedule that bring 5th graders to compete against us. Those 5th grade athletes help those teams fill the lower weight classes. For example, when we face a team like Dixon or Rochelle we often start the dual off down 24 or 30 to nothing because we do not have the ability to fill those lower weight classes due to the lack of help from younger wrestlers. Last year we ended up 12th in the state in IESA without being able to fill the bottom 4 weight classes. We believe that there is a competitive advantage in addition to the developmental benefits.
- A current jr. high assistant coach, Dominic Marchetti, is also a 5th grade teacher who would coordinate communication with that grade level.
- Space is not an issue as our wrestling practice room can easily accommodate the additional expected 10-15 athletes
- There would be no additional cost to the district.

Thank you



Mission: Educate students to be lifelong learners who are productive, responsible citizens.