



MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide community-focused social and recreational activities through exceptional programs, parks and facilities.

September 5, 2024

Oregon Community Unit School District Board of Education
c/o President Bryan Wills
206 S. 10th Street
Oregon, IL 61061

RE: Athletic Partnerships

On behalf of the Oregon Park District staff and athletic participants I would like to recognize several OHS athletic coaches for their efforts to assist the Oregon Park District in developing our youth volunteer athletic coaches and youth athletes. Youth athletics can be an exciting experience for many and the first opportunity these young individuals encounter team sports.

For many years, the park district has investigated options with OHS to enlist varsity coaches to assist with coaching clinics, youth skill development and impressing upon our youth the importance of being an Oregon Hawk. A renewed emphasis was placed on these efforts in 2018-19. Since that time, we continue to build programming through our organizations to benefit students in OCUSD #220.

We want to recognize the successful efforts of your coaches and staff during the 2023-24 school year. From September 2023-August 2024 we provided opportunities to increase students' exposure to athletics through camps, sports nights and introducing a travel basketball program.

In the 2023-24 School year we had participation from Nate Girton, Varsity Baseball Coach; Segar Larson, Varsity Soccer Coach; Angela Reynolds, Varsity Girls Basketball; Tiffany Rufer, Varsity Soccer Coach; Farrell Tremble, Varsity Volleyball Coach; Jarrett Reynolds, OHS Varsity Basketball Coach; Nate Rogers, Varsity Softball Coach; and Broc Kundert, Varsity Football Coach. Also, the OJHSH Physical Education team under the direction of Carrie O'Neal offered adult pickleball clinics throughout the year and a summer youth pickleball camp. Their efforts, along with their staff and players, allowed us to offer skills-based camps, clinics, and assistance to our volunteer coaches.

As a result, the park district has contributed \$16,378.40 in 2023-24 back to their respective programs in return for their services. This is the largest contribution to date. The 2022-2023 school year total was \$11,074.45. The organizations were given 100% of all proceeds. Camps and clinics were held



throughout the year and included baseball, softball, boys' and girls' basketball, volleyball, soccer, Little Baseball All-Stars, Strength Camp, Little Athletes and new this year Pickleball clinics and camps.

In addition to camps, we've had several teams step up to volunteer during the year. Special thank you to Andy Eckardt and the Bass Fishing Club. Mr. Eckardt and several students volunteered during our June Pop Up and Play at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to teach and assist kids with fishing.

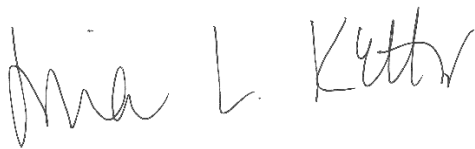
Thank you to the OHS Wrestling and OHS Soccer teams for volunteering during our Color Run. We appreciate the coaches and students volunteer efforts in our community.

August 2024 saw the introduction of the Junior Hawks Travel Basketball Program. This program is run by Oregon Park District with assistance and direction from your Varsity Basketball coaches. Both Angela Reynolds and Jarrett Reynolds have helped with try-outs, assisted in securing coaches and guidance for the fall season. We are excited to kick-off the travel season with four teams traveling to Eastland to play in the fall leagues. We hope to build upon these teams with the spring season.

A highlight for our youth teams is our OHS High School nights. Players are invited to come support OHS Athletics on a specific night, receive free admission, a treat and get to participate in some way in the evening. Thank you to Mr. Lawton for scheduling these nights and the coaches for getting youth involved. Nights were held for Baseball, Softball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball and Volleyball this year. Each year attendance increases, and we look forward to what the 2024-25 school year brings.

As a District, we understand the commitment required of an OHS coach and hope to continue to develop our relationships with each coach to directly benefit our volunteer coaches and the skill development of each future Oregon Hawk.

Sincerely,



Tina Ketter
Superintendent of Recreation

CC: Dr. PJ Caposey, Superintendent of Schools; Heidi Deininger, OHS Principal

