

From the Office of

J. Frank White Academy Athletics

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Date: September 17, 2009

From: Bobby Lockhart, Athletic Director

To: JFWA Parents, Students and Staff

RE: Fees for Athletic Teams

As many of you know, we've pondered charging a per sport fee for the past several years but have delayed implementing such fees. Since our students already pay for tuition, books, etc. we wanted to defer adding another set of fees as long as possible. The time has come, however, for us to add those fees.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 basketball season, we're going to charge a \$30.00/sport athletic fee. This fee will help cover the various costs associated with each athletic team: travel, officials, coaching stipends, etc. While these fees will help cover some of our costs, we will still continue most of our fundraising initiatives. As you can imagine high school athletics are costly, even when you do it on a limited budget such as ours. For example, our fall sports – which are all non-revenue sports – will cost approximately \$9000. A single home basketball triple-header costs us over \$400. We do quite well containing costs – roughly half of our coaches work for no monetary compensation but we want to provide as quality an athletic experience as we can afford and there are some fixed costs that can't be reduced or avoided.

Some sports will have a uniform cost above and beyond the fee, and the athletes will own their uniforms in those sports. In all other sports, we will provide the uniform and they will be returned at the end of the season.

The fee schedule will be as follows:

- Friday, September 25 – Boys Soccer (Students have been notified every day since September 17)
- Friday, October 9 – Baseball
- Friday, October 23 – Boys and Girls Basketball
- Friday, November 20 – Boys and Girls Tennis
- Friday, April 2, 2010 – Girls Soccer (for 2010)
- Friday, May 28, 2010 – Boys and Girl Golf & Boys and Girls Cross Country (for 2010)

These dates are set according to the timeframe needed to put a schedule together. For example, boys soccer teams are building their schedules for next spring right now and several teams are waiting to hear if we'll have a team or not, so that's why that fee comes first.

In team sports there will be a required number of registrants for us to sponsor the sport. If the required number of boys or girls submit the fee on time, we will put together a schedule, order uniforms, etc.; if not, we will not move forward with that team/sport for the school year. These numbers are based on the minimum number needed to play, the likelihood of injuries and recent history of that sport at JFWA.

For example, the girls soccer team has historically (i.e. the three years that it has existed) performed well with 12 or so players on the squad and the number for that team will be lower because the fee for it will be collected from returning players before the preceding school year ends and we can reasonably expect 2-3 girls to join once our new students have enrolled during the summer. Boys soccer, on the other hand, will begin registration after the school year begins; therefore, the pool of potential players is complete and a higher number will be required up front for boys soccer to "make." Furthermore, boys soccer has struggled to keep a team on the field over the years when only 11-12 boys have committed to play.

The required number of registrants per team sport:

- Boys Soccer—14
- Boys Basketball – 7
- Girls Basketball –7
- Baseball—11
- Girls Soccer—10 (returning players plus rising 8th graders in the preceding spring)

Sports with both team/individual components such as golf or tennis will not have minimum numbers unless it's deemed necessary to do so at a later date due to waning interest.

During the basketball season, we've traditionally asked parents of basketball players to help work in the concessions stand, a source of revenue for our athletic teams. In keeping with this tradition, we will waive the fee for basketball if the parents of a particular player work the concessions stand two games during the season. Parents can sign up with Mrs. Toti, the concessions manager by emailing her at Amanda.toti@lmunet.edu. She will work with you to find games that will fit your schedule and still allow you to watch the games that your son and/or daughter play. Keep in mind there are a limited number of slots to be filled and once they are filled, the chance to have the fee waived will cease.