

January, 2009

Dear CDS Families:

Covenant Day School has been asked about the likelihood of adding football as a school sponsored sport. Although typically the addition or removal of a sport is a decision for the administration of the school applying the Board-approved guidelines in the Athletic Strategy document, this particular question has risen to consideration by the CDS Board of Trustees.

We acknowledge that football is a sport that can be played to the benefit of the athletes involved, just like other sports. We value life lessons that come through good coaching, and appreciate those who keep the game in perspective. We affirm that football in this region is an excellent means to build school spirit and community.

A number of students in the CDS middle school and high school have been participating on club football teams (that is, parent sponsored, not school sponsored). These have gone well and have provided a fine outlet for those interested in this sport. The students who have participated on the club teams have enjoyed good coaching and strong support from families and friends. The students have learned valuable lessons and gained the benefits of participating on a team. Based on our experience over the last two years, the Board has decided to approve football as an official school club for both Middle School and High School, as outlined on the enclosed attachment.

However, given the desire to do all things with excellence, the Board has determined that there are a number of practical reasons that would not allow approval of football as a school sponsored sport at this time. The issues of affordability, facilities, student enrollment, and the growth and maturity in other sports, are detailed below. Our desire in communicating this is so that families will be fully informed.

I. Affordability is a core aspect of the mission of CDS and a stated priority of the Board. The present need is for further development in making CDS affordable for all Christ Covenant Church members and the greater CDS family. This specifically means greater movement toward our target goal of the pool of funds for financial assistance at 20% of the annual operating budget.

II. Facility expansion priorities approved by the Board are these: a.) Construct a permanent facility that will house Kindergarten through 5th grade, CDS Administrative Offices, and the Lower School Media Center under one roof as well as provide increased space for CCC elementary Sunday school classes; b.) Construct fields, a stadium, and parking areas in Warner Park to fulfill and further the athletic ministry vision of CDS and SOAR; and purchase land necessary to enlarge Warner Park to fulfill this vision;

c.) Construct Phase II of the High School, which includes additional classrooms, an area for the arts, a cafeteria and stage; and d.) Enlarge the Wilcox Building to include permanent classrooms for the 8th grade and special classes, a Middle School administrative office, a Middle School cafeteria, and storage. In addition to these, it is essential that we expand and enhance current weight training facilities prior to adding football. The current weight training room is not of sufficient size or equipment to serve the needs of football athletes.

III. Optimally high school enrollment should maintain a consistent level of 350-400 students before football is added. Considering the number of students that comprise football teams, along with the other sports fielded during the same season, we believe this number allows for healthy co-existence of multiple sports teams.

IV. While we have reached the 3A classification within the NCISAA and currently field teams in many sports, we deem it necessary to further develop our current sports programs before adding another one. This will involve adding JV levels to the sports that are now fielded as well as recruiting and retaining strong coaches.

We do not believe that the school will be able to consider football as a school sport for the foreseeable future while we pursue addressing these priorities. We recognize that some families have a passion for the development of Fine Arts, others favor Athletics—specifically football—while yet others may be more focused on service and outreach. We encourage football families to continue to avail themselves of opportunities with the club football teams while we continue to develop the areas above.

We are thankful for your interest in working to develop all aspects of CDS to fulfill our mission “to assist the Christian family by providing an education marked by a biblical world view, academic excellence, and affordability so that students are equipped to be salt and light for God's glory” and we ask for God’s continued blessings as we strive diligently to serve our King.

In His Service,

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CDS Football Club Provisions

Club Football:

(Middle School level) In 2006, the CDS Board approved a joint club football Middle School team with Carmel Christian School. At the Middle School level, this is open to students from CDS, Carmel Christian School, and others. To continue as a school-sanctioned club, we will implement the following:

- I. As with all school clubs, there will be a school employee who serves as sponsor. A stipend for this person's services will be provided by the team parents. This sponsor will serve as a liaison between the team and the school and also supervise the football players as they are waiting for transportation to practices or games.
- II. As with all extra-curricular activities, student participation after school requires that a student be in attendance for every period during that school day. This includes both games and practices.
- III. As with all sports, students must have no grades below 65 and no more than two grades below 70 for the prior quarter in order to be eligible to participate. (Exceptions may be made for a student who receives academic accommodations through CDS. This student will have no grades below 60 and no more than two grades below 70.)
- IV. Middle school club football members will be allowed to wear team jerseys during school on game days (excluding chapel days).
- V. Club football events will be communicated through standard school communication avenues and will be included in the yearbook.
- VI. Football equipment may be stored at school during the day but not overnight.
- VII. The Club parents will be responsible for obtaining facilities, schedules, transportation, coaches, and medical personnel. Currently no CDS facilities are available for practices or games.

(High School level) At the High School level, CDS is offering to have a have a Club JV and/or Club V Football team. This would be open only to CDS students. The expectations are:

- I. As with all school clubs, there will be a school employee who serves as sponsor. Because many high school students drive, we would not expect to be supervising students awaiting transportation.
- II. As with all extra-curricular activities, student participation after school requires that a student be in attendance for every period during that school day. This includes both games and practices.
- III. As with all sports, students must have no grades below 65 and no more than two grades below 70 for the prior quarter in order to be eligible to participate. (Exceptions may be made for a student who receives

academic accommodations through CDS. This student will have no grades below 60 and no more than two grades below 70.)

- IV. High school club football members would not wear team jerseys during school, but instead they would be required to dress up just like other high school athletes according to the same standards for chapel days (shirt/tie, etc.).
- V. Club football events will be communicated through standard school communication avenues and will be included in the yearbook.
- VI. Football equipment may be stored at school during the day but not overnight.
- VII. The Club parents will be responsible for obtaining facilities, schedules, transportation, coaches, and medical personnel. Currently no CDS facilities are available for practices or games.