



Fostering Student Excellence

Central Cass School District

JUN 20 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to talk about the boy's high school golf program. I am the current head coach at Central Cass High School in Casselton, North Dakota. I have asked my Activities Director, Academic Dean/High School Principal, and Superintendent to review and sign this letter. I would like to make it known that I am not a teacher at the school, but a pastor in the community and care about our young men and women and every facet of their lives.

The main goal of our education system, regardless of the school, is to educate our children as best we can to prepare them for the world within and beyond our local communities. I truly believe that all extracurricular activities play a huge part in this process but should not be the primary focus. Education is by far the main focus of the school system and trying to prepare our young people for their further education or for them entering the work force.

Spring golf becomes a problem when weather makes us continually adjust the season to get our golf meets played. Golf as you know is different from all of the activities, because every meet that is played requires students to be out of the classroom for the entire day, as our course want kids off the course so paying customers can come and use the facilities after work. The springtime is the most important time for education, as students are wrapping up their studies. Today many are taking dual credit or college credit courses. When missing two or three days of school during the spring for sporting events, it takes a toll on the learning/educating experience. I have had students, over the nine years I have had the coaching, tell me coach "I can't go to the meet because I am behind on this class or that class, or something important is coming up in the class and I don't want to miss it." When this happens, there are many times that the best players on the team are not available for the competition. Our school has a policy that our students can only be released for two days a week for competition. This is the second year in a row, I had to ask for an exception to make sure we had a competitive team available for our regional golf meet. My kids know that education is the most important part of their lives right now and that I will assist them in any way shape and form that I can to help them succeed, both in the academics and golf.

There are of course other reasons for moving the golf program to the fall, but for me will always take a back seat to academics. The courses are in better shape in the fall, proprietors would rather we are there in the fall than spring, weather is better or more consistent, and most important if done correctly kids would miss less classroom time to focus on their education. We could start the golf season the first full week of August. Have three or four meets the second week of August, with one or two meets the third week and one a week after that until you have state golf the last week of September. There could be an agreement that no meets would be scheduled on a Friday to conflict with football, which seems to be the biggest obstacle among the schools.

The two primary goals for golf should be a great education for our kids and being able to have the best product/conditions to succeed in both and currently I believe we are failing our students in both areas, as we continue to play our sport in the spring.

Respectfully,

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Head Boy's Golf Coach

Morgan Forness
Superintendent

Nikki Wix
Academic Dean
High School Principal

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