

Jr High Baseball/Soccer

1. Funding:
 - a. We are already cutting athletic budgets. To add another sport would only add to the difficulty of funding all sports because their budgets would have to be cut even further.
 - b. Baseball's proposed budget this year is \$7,600 for the high school team. Jr high baseball would need similar funding.
 - c. Soccer could be less expensive but would still require approximately \$2,500 per team.
 - d. Uniforms and equipment would cost approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 just to start up the program.
 - e. Stipends would be necessary.

2. Travel/Games:
 - a. There are no Northwest Arkansas schools that have 7th and 8th grade baseball/soccer.
 - b. All games would be from Oklahoma or Missouri schools.
 - c. Currently we have a shortage of bus drivers (especially in the spring). Having to travel to out of state schools each time would significantly add to the bus driver problem.

3. Coaches:
 - a. One or two new coaches would be needed.
 - b. What do we do when current volunteers are not available?
 - c. Who coaches these groups when we have a high school game day?

4. Facilities:
 - a. With one baseball field, practice would have to start late in the evening or in the PAC.
 - b. Currently there is no way to squeeze another program into the PAC after school. We now have boys and girls soccer, high school baseball, high school softball, cheer, and football trying to schedule PAC time after school on a daily basis.
 - 1) Late evening practices mean getting home late every night for younger athletes.
 - 2) What do the athletes do while they wait for practice? Go home and come back or hang around school unsupervised?
 - 3) Coaches would add several hours to a week in which they are already working 70 plus hours.

5. Schedules:
 - a. Currently we don't have 7th and 8th graders practicing during the same period. To do so would mean a fundamental change in our master schedule. 7th grade

practices 4th or 5th period depending on boys or girls. 8th grade practices 8th period with the 9th graders.

6. True interest:
 - a. The reason that GYO doesn't have that age of baseball is because travel teams dominate this age group. Will families sacrifice travel baseball teams that play 30-40 games a year to play JH baseball and play 8-10 games?
 - b. Soccer at this age is played through the GYO program.
7. Shortage of athletes: Compared to other schools similar to our size, we are stretched very thin on athletes.
8. Title IX: Currently we are Title IX compliant.
 - a. Adding Jr High Baseball would force us to add a Jr High Girls sport (probably softball).
 - b. Adding one Jr High Soccer team would mean adding two.
9. I have spoken with the following about their school's current interest and policy toward Jr High baseball and soccer. They all have zero interest in starting junior high programs and their kids play either in the city league or for travel teams.

Farmington

Huntsville

Harrison

Gravette

Elkins

Greenland

Prairie Grove

Pea Ridge

Green Forest

Berryville

West Fork

Siloam Springs

Lincoln - Stated that they play for city league/travel teams, however their football coach is also a baseball coach. Therefore, in the offseason, baseball and football share the junior high athletes that play both sports. They alternate days so that each program can have them to practice. They do not play jr high games for the school.

** Lincoln hopes to bring up the subject of jr high baseball after the next athletic cycle when they join our conference.*

Gentry School District 7th-12th Grade Athletic Programs

Grade Level	Girls Programs	Boys Programs
7th Grade	Volleyball	Football
	Basketball	Basketball
	Track/Cross Country	Track/Cross Country
Junior High	Volleyball	Football
	Basketball	Basketball
	Track/Cross Country	Track/Cross Country
	Cheer	Cheer
Senior High	Volleyball	Football
	Basketball	Basketball
	Track/Cross Country	Track/Cross Country
	Cheer	Cheer
	Bowling	Bowling
	Wrestling	Wrestling
	Soccer	Soccer
	Softball	Baseball
	Golf	Golf
	ESports	ESports