



Dear Charger Football Parents:

As another year of football winds down at the collegiate and professional levels, we are reviewing the manner in which football is offered at Harding Middle School and trying to assess what, if any, changes should and can be made. The three options that we see are:

1. Do nothing and leave the team structure exactly as it is.
2. Have one team with both an A squad and a B squad at both the 7th and 8th grade level.
3. ***Eighth Grade***: One team with both an A squad and a B squad ***Seventh Grade***: Two teams (the current 8th grade model) both with an A squad and a B squad.

Currently the members of the eighth grade football team are divided into four groups; a green team and a white team that are both subdivided into an A squad and a B squad. The green and white teams practice together but play different opponents and different schedules. Prior to 2008, participation levels for eighth grade football ranged from 60 to 80 players per year.

Members of the seventh grade football team are on one team playing one schedule and are comprised an A squad and a B squad. Our seventh grade team has had between 60 and 70 players in each of the past three years that seventh grade football has been offered by the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

While our seventh grade numbers have been steady, the level of participation in eighth grade football has declined over the past three years. Recent Green and White teams have not had the numbers that enable them to compete with other teams that do not split their personnel. Should this continue, and what philosophy do you think we should embrace? Should Charger Football be more about participation or competition? How much success are we willing to sacrifice for more playing time? Are you satisfied with the participation model or would you rather see us compete at a higher level?

In the interest of improving Charger Football we are asking all of our sixth, seventh and eighth grade football parents to fill out the survey on the opposite side of this letter. We appreciate your help as we work to put together a better program for your children. We also understand that each of you will have differing perspectives in filling out this survey. We simply ask that you fill out the survey based on your experiences.

Sincerely,

Harding Football Coaches



Football Survey

Athlete's Current Grade _____

Name (optional) _____

1. As a parent, what do you hope for your child to gain the most by participating in school-organized football?

2. What is your preferred setup for Harding Football? (please circle one)
 - A. 1 competitive team (A & B) where playing time would be less
 - B. 2 less competitive teams (2As & 2Bs) where playing time would be more (teams are split as evenly as possible into Green and White)
 - C. Do nothing and leave the team structure exactly as it is.

3. Do other sports or activities interfere with your child's ability to play or fully commit to Harding Football? If so, which one(s)?

4. Do you know of any particular reason(s) fewer kids are playing football at Harding after 7th grade? If so, explain:

5. How could the Harding Football experience be improved for your family? Please include any suggestions, criticism, or observations that you feel are relevant.

****Thanks for taking time to offer your feedback and make Harding Football better!**

Please return this survey to:
Harding Middle School
Mr. Scott Nelson
4801 Golf Street NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402