

From the Athletic Director's desk

By Michael Nelson

What I am going to say may surprise some of you, but it shouldn't: The Saugus High School Athletic Department is one of the best around, and it is far superior to many private/public schools in the area. Now, you probably are thinking that being the athletic director of the Saugus Public School system I would be bias, but there are facts to backup this statement.

Former athletic directors Mike Ginolfi, Matt Poska, John Nicolo and Jason Merrill worked diligently in making the Saugus High School athletic department the best it could be. They worked hard to provide the student-athlete in Saugus with the best possible athletic experience. Their hard work has paid off, and we are all thankful for that.

The Saugus High School athletic department offers 16 different sports that comprise over 40 different teams. This statistic far outweighs the competition.

Saugus High School offers the traditional sports: football, soccer, baseball and softball. But what separates us from the rest is that we offer much more. We offer our student-athletes the opportunity to participate in sports such as swimming, girls hockey, lacrosse, girls golf and wrestling. Not many other schools in the area can say that.

To show a comparison, I would like to enlighten you about some neighboring private schools. St. Mary's of Lynn has 12 sports and 34 teams; Pope John 13 sports and 24 teams; Bishop Fenwick 26 teams; and Austin Prep 14 sports and 39 teams.

Athletic success may be found at all schools, and Saugus High School has had its share. I encourage everybody to attend a game, and see the good things our children are doing.

Personalized Orientation

Recently, members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) invited the eighth grade class from the Belmonte Middle School to come to the high school and learn more about the athletic program. During the presentation, there were coaches who spoke about athletics and academics; alumni who spoke about playing for your hometown; current student-athletes who spoke about their playing experiences; and a student who transferred to Saugus High School who spoke about her positive experience.

After the presentation, the eighth graders were escorted into the café to meet-and-greet the high school athletes and coaches, and enjoy some Qdoba Restaurant refreshments.

I personally can speak on this matter, because I was a person who lived in Saugus, and played sports in town, but then decided to go to Pope John High School in Everett. Though I do not regret my decision, but I can say first-hand that it is not about the school it is about the student.

I have worked at Saugus High School for the past 10 years, and I can honestly say that there is no difference between a private school education and a public school education. If a student wants to succeed then he or she will.

Saugus High School has all the tools for a child to succeed, and if they choose to go here then they will succeed - if they want to.

We have great teachers, coaches, administrators, a solid guidance department and much more.

Please don't think, because you pay a tuition success will follow.

The Saugus High School athletic department and Saugus High School in general have a lot to offer, and if a student has the drive he or she will succeed, and hopefully it's here at Saugus High School.