

The Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) have joined forces with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to create a collaborative and seamless approach to serving Minneapolis Youth. Starting in the fall of 2014, MPS will offer Flag Football at all K-8/Middle Schools and the MPRB will offer tackle football programs for area youth in grades 8 and under. These organizations will also be partnering on a middle grades soccer jamboree Wednesday September 24 at the Neiman Athletic Complex.

- Benefits of this partnership include:
 1. Minneapolis Public School students will have the opportunity to participate in an “Education Based” Flag Football Athletic Program that creates opportunities for the development of different skills and values that may not be found in the regular school curriculum. This program focuses on skill development while holding students accountable for their academic progress. Students should contact their school athletic director for sign-up information.
 2. Minneapolis Public School students will have the opportunity to participate in a city wide youth tackle football program that will assist with the development of physical and social skills in a fun, participatory and safe environment under the guidance of knowledgeable and supportive coaches. Registration and Additional Information is available at: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=581>
- Details of this partnership
 1. MPRB will supply tackle football registration information to MPS K-8/Middle School Athletic Directors for distribution to students. MPRB registration begins before school starts so there is concern about how to get these students connected to a park. Both organizations can post on websites and we will have building ADs communicate to their communities in multiple ways. (examples include: e-mail, US mail, web sites, robocalls, etc.)
 2. MPS K-8/Middle School Athletic Directors will work with students and families to connect them with area parks.
 3. MPS will include a statement on athletic forms communicating MPRB programming.
 4. MPRB may request the use of existing MPS tackle football helmets, shoulder pads etc. from schools if there is a need for additional equipment.
 5. MPS Funding for Middle School Tackle Football will be shifted to flag football programs and Soccer Jamboree.
 6. MPS High School Football Coaches will be expected to connect with their local MPRB team to establish a relationship with students in their high school attendance area.
 7. MPRB Tackle Football games will be held at MPS High Schools to expose area youth to high schools.
 8. Highly advanced MPS students will have the opportunity to participate in high school football programs, per Minnesota State High School League rules, realizing that if they choose this option the student would NOT be eligible to participate in the MPRB program.
 9. MPS and MPRB will work together to assist MPRB with accessing birthdate information on players/students to enhance efficiency of the standards.
 10. This initiative will provide equity for all MPS K-8/Middle Schools in their current athletic programming.
 11. This initiative will eliminate students from playing in two tackle football leagues thus assisting in enhanced student safety.
 12. This initiative will allow MPS school athletic directors and MPRB staff to work closely together to better serve their communities.
 13. This initiative is the start of bigger vision where MPS and MPRB will collaboratively work to provide consistent and enhanced athletic programming, in all sports, for Minneapolis Youth.