

Dear Parents:

My name is Justin Counts and I am the Head Football Coach at Madison High School. I am writing to encourage your kids to consider playing freshman football at Madison next year.

There are several reasons why I think playing football will be beneficial for your kids. The first is that playing multiple sports, football in particular, will help their development as all around athletes. In the last full school year there were 3 football players on our varsity basketball team, 6 football players on the conference championship baseball team and 12 football players on the varsity lacrosse team. The coaches at Madison love to have smart, athletic, physical players that love to compete. Football develops all of those skills.

The second reason is that playing a fall sport entering your freshman year of high school has major social benefits. Your kids will get into the routine of getting up early. They will have a built in peer group when school starts and they will meet a large number of older students prior to their first day. Academics are a huge focus of the players in our program. Of our 25 seniors from last year's team, 11 of them had a 4.0 GPA or higher. These factors certainly will help smooth the transition to high school.

For time management and scheduling purposes, the Freshman Football Team plays all of their games on Thursdays and rarely has activities on the weekends. This will allow you to participate in other sports or other activities on the weekends without risking conflicts. Our Freshman Football Program will be very flexible in working with our athletes who play other sports.

All current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to attend Madison in the Fall are invited to join our after-school training/lifting program starting on March 16th. This voluntary program is free and focuses on general athletic development and would be beneficial to any prospective athlete regardless of the sport. Parents & students are invited to a meeting on this program Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30 PM in the Madison Weight Room (found in the back of the building across from the tennis courts & baseball outfield). The program is free and focuses on general athletic development and would be beneficial to any prospective athlete regardless of the sport.

Please consider this opportunity and I would be happy to speak with you personally if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by email at [JCounts9@hotmail.com](mailto:JCounts9@hotmail.com).

Thank you,

Justin Counts

Thanks,

**John Kenny**

Director of Student Activities

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