

SMITHVILLE R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAM AND DATA EVALUATION FORM

I. PROGRAM/ DATA INFORMATION

Type of Program or Data: **Extracurricular Activity Program**
Personnel Responsible for Evaluation: **HS/MS Activities Directors**
Month of Annual Review: **February 2025**

II. EVALUATION OF PROGRAM/DATA

Evaluator Name: **Justin Corcoran, High School Activities Director**
Scott Moore, High School Principal
Tod Winterboer, Middle School Principal
Trevor Mosby, Middle School Athletic Director

Evaluative Criteria:

1) The extracurricular program meets the needs of most students.

We have numerous clubs(21+), activities(8), and athletic programs(18) available to our students which provide a myriad of opportunities at both the high school and middle school level. These range from developmental and varsity athletics to service organizations and academic honor societies. Students are actively encouraged to participate in multiple clubs, activities, and sports, and these experiences enhance the overall learning experience of our students and provide opportunities not available otherwise. Additionally, our coaches and sponsors work hard to ensure students rarely have to choose between two of their commitments. Furthermore, students are actively encouraged to lobby for their interests to create new opportunities for their peers.

2) Student participation in the extracurricular program increases yearly or is maintained at a high level.

Nearly all of our activities maintain a high level of participation to the point where we have multiple levels of competition available, Varsity, Junior Varsity, C Gold, etc.

The High School for example offers 34 different athletic teams when you take into consideration the varying levels of competition per sport. We offer the same number of opportunities as other Suburban Conference schools nearly twice our size. Between our MSHSAA Activities and Athletics, 535 of our students (63.3%) participated this year in at least one organization, and this does not factor in new additions to our Spring sports teams. 70% of activities and sports are continuing to trend upward in participation as well. The number of students participating in our clubs and honor societies continues to remain very high.

Middle School participation in extracurricular programs remains high as well and still requires us to cut potential participants in basketball, volleyball, and cheer.

3) Staff, equipment, and facilities are adequate to support a quality extracurricular activity program.

Our district continues to make facility improvements and invest in our athletics and activities programs. The middle school turf athletic field, gym upgrades at the high school and middle school buildings, and a bond project identifying softball and baseball facilities as a priority are all evidence of that.

Coaching and sponsor stipends were added in the past to make our staff numbers competitive with our neighboring schools upon the last inspection. This investment in our programs is very appreciated and helps keep our staff-to-student ratio at ideal levels. Further analysis in the next calendar year is recommended.

Our extra-duty pay schedule only contains five columns, which does not incentivize longevity in those roles. A large-scale analysis of our extra duty schedule is recommended in the future to ensure we are staying competitive with our neighboring districts and maintaining fairness amongst our stipend values.

Strengths of Extracurricular Activity Program:

- We have a significant number of participants in our various programs. Nearly two-thirds of the high school population participates in a MSHSAA-sanctioned sport or activity.
- We provide a very respectable number of sports, clubs, and activities for our students to participate in which cover a broad spectrum of interests. These range from real-world learning extensions, to honor societies, service organizations, or even tabletop gaming and robotics.
- Student attendance and spirit at afterschool activities have risen due to our investment in the free entry for our high school students at our ticketed athletic events.
- In the Suburban Conference, we have access to higher levels of competition for all of our sports and activities.
- We have access to college-level weight training and athletic development facilities in the Warrior Activity Center, have very qualified personnel who attend yearly professional development on physical training running our programs, and have over 50% of our entire student body enrolled in a weights class first semester of this school year.
- The level and quality of our personnel in our programs is very high. We have extremely qualified coaches and sponsors who have provided consistency in the coaching of our student-athletes and the development of our clubs and programs.
- The achievement of our students, their programs, and the parental support we receive in their success is noteworthy. As a single example, we had over 100 all-conference selections last year in athletics and over 40 MSHSAA solo and small ensemble awards for Band and Choir.
- Our athletes, coaches, and school receive very healthy financial support from the booster clubs and the middle school support group.
- Our full-time athletic trainer, Gini Fite, has been very beneficial to both the high school and middle school programs. She represents the state of Missouri on multiple national boards and committees and has recently been nominated for Missouri Athletic Trainer of the Year.
- Our middle school coaching staff and extracurricular sponsors collaborate well together and work together with the common philosophy of doing what is best for the students.
- The middle school A,B,C levels of competition continue to be a positive structure. We are able to have full schedules for all three levels in all sports. In addition, we are able to effectively manage the sports as one program instead of grade-level programs. This really helps with program consistency and communication.

Concerns Regarding Extracurricular Activity Program:

- Upgraded facilities for softball and baseball fields including restrooms, concessions, and a press box are needed. (Prioritized in April 2025 bond project)
- The main stadium turf is deteriorating much faster than originally anticipated. I am concerned that certain spots will become irreparable over the next two years due to the type of turf that was installed.
- Our designated Javelin competition area, currently behind the baseball field, is prone to water drainage issues and is far removed from all of the other track events. This is an issue for practice when splitting up the athletes for training and causes issues when hosting meets due to the distance from the stadium.
- Bus scheduling this year has been a concern as the transition to Durham has had its difficulties and securing the correct number of buses on time has not always been consistent. Additionally, utilizing Enterprise rentals for district transportation can be cumbersome for our sponsors.
- The Performing Arts Center still utilizes incandescent lights instead of LEDs. This makes replacing fixtures more difficult and more expensive as time goes on as far fewer companies are still producing those fixtures.
- The middle school athletic programs often struggle with scheduling their practices due to limited facility access. Our students and teams continually practice at 6:00 am every morning due to limited gym availability. We often share space, have to deny practice time requests, and are forced to get creative with alternate spaces for practices and events.
- Our current middle school track practice facility's discus throwing area is enclosed inside the Horizon Elementary playground. This area is unsafe and not conducive to utilize for practice.

Recommendations Regarding Extracurricular Activity Program:

- Invest in Baseball and Softball field improvements: turf field, bathrooms, press box, and concession area. The upcoming bond project has identified this as a priority.
- Explore options for district-owned vans for activity transportation to supplement bussing. This would ease the burden of bus scheduling, provide long-term cost savings to the district, and provide greater flexibility when scheduling events or field trips.
- The district stadium lacks secure entrances and exits and its turf surface is deteriorating more rapidly than anticipated. Please consider this as a future item to address.
- Analyze the grass field areas surrounding the softball field to determine if there is a viable solution for fitting in a competition javelin throwing area along with discus and shot put.
- Add an auxiliary gym to the middle school. This would immensely benefit all middle school athletic and extracurricular programs. In addition, it would support our physical education classes that all SMS students participate in every day.
 - a. During the winter, we currently have six basketball teams, a cheer team, a Winterguard team, and an Archery club all competing for gym time at the MS level.
- Add permanent bleachers and restroom access to the newly turfed Middle School facility, so we can host sub-varsity level competitions with practicality and pride.
- Create a new discus practice area at the middle school track facility in order to move it off of the Horizon playground area.
- Continue to monitor the viability of the Middle School track surface. The Middle School track surface is still a work in progress right now and we will know more after the first year of track use. Scheduling home track meets is becoming nearly impossible with the High School Spring sports schedules. Being able to host Middle School track meets on the Middle School track would be extremely beneficial to both the Middle School and Horizon Elementary.

Areas of Focus for Directors of Activities and Athletics:

- Promote strong connections between all of our high school and middle school sports and our local youth programs. This will continue to foster high participation and build community partnerships.
- Emphasize vertical alignment when possible between our high school and middle school programs. Shared philosophies, visions, coaching styles, etc. lend themselves to a smooth transition for our middle school participants and foster an environment of collaboration between our buildings.
- Find ways to celebrate our students and staff in meaningful ways. Many of our sponsors and coaches put in hundreds of hours towards their program and deserve recognition for their hard work.
- Find new or creative ways to increase school spirit and participation. This should be done in conjunction with the Student Council, Music groups, and Spirit programs.
- Continue to learn and develop strategies that grow and positively impact our coaches and sponsors. Much like our classroom teachers, providing routine feedback, setting realistic and achievable goals, and fostering a supportive environment are critical to improving our staff members.

Comments of Evaluators/ Program Personnel:

Seeing our board members consistently attend a wide range of extra-curricular events is a very powerful statement to our students and the community. A statement that illustrates the necessity for a high-quality extracurricular activity program and its ties to our Portrait of a Graduate. The continued support of the Board of Education for our extracurricular activities and athletics is appreciated and noticed. Thank you.