



MHS Upgrading Track, Football Facility in 2015

Upgrades are coming to the Pioneers football field and track facility in 2015, as the Mooresville field is changed from grass to turf and the track area is resurfaced. The upgrades were made possible in part by Mooresville's partnership with Franciscan St. Francis Health.

"We are thankful to St. Francis for this commitment, which will enrich and enhance our student athletic and health programs," said David E. Marcotte, Superintendent of Mooresville Schools. "This is a win-win partnership which will maximize our school and community resources. This is an example of wise stewardship for the benefit of our students and our greater Mooresville community."

The change to a turf field is one many schools have undertaken in the past. After Whiteland adds turf to their field in the spring, Mooresville will be the last school in the Mid-State Athletic Conference to make the change.

The change to turf will allow engineers to solve some drainage issues which result from the field's placement on a slope. The change also allows for savings on annual maintenance for paint, seeding, fertilizer and watering. The biggest change, however, will be in the amount of time and usage the area will be able to have.

"With a turf field, we'll be able to have many groups to be able to utilize the field," said Athletic Director Zach Errett. "Right now, we only do light practices and games on the surface. Since we need to preserve the field, we have to restrict access. Having a field like this will allow the area to potentially be used daily, not only by athletic teams but by physical education classes, our marching band, and I also think that community will be able to utilize the new facility, too. Once this is completed, we will be able to see the full potential of how a project like this will benefit the community."

Varsity Football Coach Chad Dockery echoes Errett's enthusiasm for the project, and foresees many opportunities for future field use.

"This will be a tremendous asset to the football program because we will have more room to practice, a playing surface that will not be affected by weather, the ability to host tournaments, 7v7s, scrimmages, youth camps, and junior league super bowls," said Dockery. "More people from the community will have the opportunity to use the facility because unlike now with grass it will not get worn out."

The field surface is not the only area which will undergo changes. The track, which was already at the end of its lifespan, will be resurfaced. The changes in the track and the field will both benefit the track team.

"Track meets will be more efficiently run and we will be able to host more invitationals because of the improvements," said Dockery. "It will also help from a standpoint that in track it will help cut down on shin splints and other running injuries because we will have a newer surface and athletes will also be able to run on the turf. The new track surface will also benefit our cheerleaders in their routines."

The upgrades will begin in the spring of 2015 and be completed before the 2015 football season. The partnership between Franciscan St. Francis and Mooresville Schools began at the start of the 2014-15 academic year.



PHOTO: Superintendent David Marcotte, School Board Member Perry King, School Board President Dr. Bill Roberson and Assistant Superintendent Randy Taylor