

**Baseball/Softball Research Completed by Kati Thul  
Number of Potential Students**

Wanting to play softball

10 freshmen  
5 sophomores  
3 juniors  
Total = 18 girls

Wanting to play baseball

8 freshmen  
5 sophomores  
5 juniors  
Total = 18 boys

\*A survey was completed of all current high school students only. Middle school students were not surveyed.

GPE enrollment numbers:

8<sup>th</sup> grade: 15 boys; 18 girls  
7<sup>th</sup> grade: 15 boys; 18 girls  
6<sup>th</sup> grade: 14 boys; 18 girls  
5<sup>th</sup> grade: 20 boys; 17 girls  
4<sup>th</sup> grade: 21 boys; 18 girls  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 13 boys; 15 girls  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 28 boys; 20 girls  
1<sup>st</sup> grade: 19 boys; 22 girls  
KDG: 18 boys; 22 girls

A survey of 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending St. Joe was completed: 2 students planning to attend GPHS next year— one was for baseball/softball; one was not planning to play.

**Other Survey Results**

**\*\*All students took this survey...only 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade answers are recorded below.**

45 students indicated that lack of classes is a problem, specifically lack of FACS, Fine Arts, Spanish, Science and Honors classes (these comments were made in the "other comments" section)

Number of students interested in these other sports/activities:

27 for Swimming  
15 for Tennis  
15 for Bowling  
11 for Golf  
3 for Cross country  
21 for Soccer  
23 for Powerlifting  
10 for Debate  
39 for Rifle shooting  
43 for Archery  
12 for Hunter Safety  
32 for Bass Fishing

## FACILITY NEEDS

From the Colwich ball club:

Russ Becker advised Colwich that the first choice was to use the fields at Andale for games and they understood that.

1. Fees would be \$75.00 per game per field
2. GPHS responsible for pre and post field markings/maintenance. Colwich will provide equipment and chalk as part of fees paid for the field.
3. Colwich will provide use of the concession and the inventory and GPHS would work the concessions with profits going back to the Colwich Ball Club.
4. Gate would be worked by GPHS and all proceeds to GPHS.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Coaches: 2 head @ \$3798 (\$7596) and 2 asst. @ \$2545 (\$5090) = \$12,686 total for all 4

Uniforms (home and away jersey) and one pair of pants or players buy own pants= \$2500 each sport = \$5000 total

Batting helmets 6 @ \$55-\$65 each = \$390 per sport = \$780 total

Bats—5-8 @ \$250 each = \$1,250 per sport = \$2500

Buckets of balls for practice

Game balls for each game

2-3 L-Screens = \$249-\$449 = \$1200

Batting practice shell---range from \$2400-\$4800

Pitching rubbers on all mounds (field and bullpen)

Mound for bullpens for baseball

Field equipment (brooms, rakes) and a storage shed for equipment

Juggs Baseball pitching machine = \$615 (www.amazon.com)

Juggs Softball pitching machine = \$615 (www.amazon.com)

Catcher's gear = \$400 per sport = \$800 total (baseballwarehouse.com)

**Total estimated cost for start up for year one: \$28,996 without fields included**

Umpire costs: \$220 (baseball) plus \$180 (softball) per game= \$400 x 5 home games = \$2000 per sport = \$4000 per year

For Beck Field to be a baseball field:

\*A portable mound is not a feasible option. Coaches and players want permanent baseball mounds.

\*Lights at Beck Field are not tall enough.

\*Dugouts would need to be enlarged.

## Info from Other Schools

Mrs. Thul contacted Ellis High School, who added baseball/softball nine years ago. Their enrollment was 152 students at that time and is now down to 130 students. The community already had fields as part of their rec program that are near the high school. There was no cost to the school district for facilities. The agreement is that the school district pays for the umpires for games and the rec commission allows the facility usage for free. They only had to purchase equipment and uniforms. Principal said that the track numbers were affected a little but kids were not going out for track either.

Mrs. Thul contacted Ness City as well since it was reported that they are starting baseball/softball currently. Tom Flax, Principal, indicated that the program is going to be self-funded for three years and the committee had \$20,000 collected in advance. A summer program exists there for baseball and softball through the rec commission up to age 16. The rec commission has fields already that the school district will use. He feels that their track numbers will be affected.

How did the addition of baseball/softball affect other programs? Answer from The Independent School: It is much like football and boys soccer. Baseball/softball has watered down both programs. Schools our size struggle with participation and when you offer too many sports something has to give. You will see some decline in your participation for track. We have a girl who is an excellent sprinter that plays softball and it has caused some friction because she is pulled in two different directions. I don't know if we will have enough for softball because of track and soccer.