

Menomonie School Board  
Return to winter sports  
Monday, November 9, 2020

Mr. David Styer

My name is Tiana Glenna and I have twin boys who are sophomores at Menomonie High School. Our boys play football and hockey through the school district.

I am writing to request your support of continuing winter sports at the High School. The hockey rink has been up and running with strict guidelines in place to reduce the exposure to COVID-19. We received support from the County to open the facility for hockey and our Youth board President is in discussions with County Health Director monthly to update on the restrictions and make modifications if required. Playing High School sports is very crucial to the mental health of the students and I request your support and the rest of the School Board to please consider allowing Winter sports to continue. The athletes want to play and are already following all the guidelines and restrictions that are in place at hockey rink and will continue to do so if they are allowed to play.

We signed our boys up with the MYHA hockey when they were 4 years old. Any parent of an athlete can appreciate the time and effort that goes into supporting your child in any sport. If you are not a parent of an athlete, or were an athlete growing up, then this may be hard for you to understand the importance of continuing the sports season. This dedication is not only represented by an athletes' parent but through the actions of our student athletes. Our MHS hockey received an award last year for holding the highest GPA in our conference! This is where the dedication of the student athletes come into play. It is not just about the game itself but the dedication to the continuity of family, education, and sports. Many of our players have put in many hours on the "field/ice rink" and off over the summer in preparation for this upcoming season. Taking this away from the kids at this time will destroy their emotional and athletic stability for the years to come!

My child told me this morning (we were to have practice today but they again cancelled it until the outcome of this meeting) what's the point, you know the season is done before it even started. I feel like a yoyo because first we have practice then we don't, or we are having a season then we are not - what is the point anymore. These are the words of a defeated child who lives for this sport. I had and have now tears in my eyes as I can see the love and spark for a sport leaving my children.

Sports and academics are what provided a part of their identity. Those are both being taken away from our children through the closure of the school (going virtual - which I hope is better than the end of last year) and if sports are discontinued.

I know you have already decided to send our children into a virtual learning platform, please do not take away the last thread they are all holding onto. Please do not take away winter sports.

Thank you for your consideration

Tiana Glenna  
Parent of MHS athlete(s)