



To the Families of SSPP,

I wanted to inform you of some of the recent developments regarding the future of the SSPP Football program. First, St. Raphael Inc. (not the local parish and school but the organization that has organized the local football program for our school) announced that they would be “partnering” with the Bill George Youth Football League (BGYFL). In essence, what this means is that St. Raphael would be folded into the current format of BGYFL. To clarify, one of the biggest differences in the BGYFL and the way that SSPP has traditionally run its program is the breakout of ages. SSPP has had two teams, a Varsity made up of 7th and 8th graders (all ranges of playing ability) and a Junior Varsity made up of 5th and 6th graders. The BGYFL organizes it’s league by age and ability. Therefore, a 12-year-old would be playing with other 12-year-old players only and with those who are at similar skill level. This means our Saints Peter and Paul players would be playing on different teams.

Additionally, there has been a decline in participation of those SSPP students electing to play football. Half as many students choose to play football for SSPP than compared to a decade ago. When evaluating football participation at the younger levels (1st-4th grade), this trend of lower numbers for football would most likely continue. With such few players, any type of injury or eligibility issues could cause for a forfeit for not having enough players.

SSPP currently is part of the Suburban Parochial Football League (SPFL). Multiple teams are in similar situations as SSPP is with declining football numbers. Our team was increasingly being composed of players from both our Religious Education Program and two other local Catholic schools. Our football team was becoming less of a team representing SSPP and more of a team representing multiple entities. Furthermore, given the struggles of other teams within the SPFL with similar enrollment issues, it would not be surprising to see other teams going through these same discussions within the next couple of years.

When investigating all of these factors it has become apparent to me and the Athletic Association that it is not in the best interest of SSPP to continue the SSPP football program. I understand by doing this, we will no longer have a football program, which SSPP has a long tradition of success and participation. This will also have an effect on our Fall Cheer program as there would no longer be SSPP football games for our cheerleaders to perform. However, a final decision on the Cheer program has yet to be determined.

The Athletic Association, with my full support, voted to discontinue the SSPP football program effective immediately. I presented this to Mrs. Meskill and Father Brad and based on the facts presented to them, they understand and support this decision. As you can tell, this was not an easy decision or one that neither the board nor I took lightly.

In closing, I want to point out that the primary reason for this decision was to benefit our students who wanted to continue to play football. Although they will not be playing for SSPP, the opportunity to play football with those of similar age and skill level through the BGYFL will only benefit our students interested in football as they continue to pursue their enjoyment of this sport. Many associated with our program have expressed this advantage and we hope that their involvement with the sport continues.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at jbusche@sspeterandpaulschool.com.

In Service,

Justin Busche

Athletic Director

Saints Peter and Paul School