

DMPMS VOTES TO LEAVE THE CIML

By: Rylie Meyer
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Des Moines Public Schools announced in late March 2021 that the district will be leaving the Central Iowa Metropolitan League (CIML). DMPS along with other surrounding schools will be creating a new conference to play in.

This move affects all sports besides football. Hoover principal Sherry Poole, athletic director Jacob Burke and head boys basketball coach Courtney Henderson agree that this move will make DMPS more competitive. This decision is intended to create an even playing field for the athletic programs, instead of playing schools that are at a higher advantage than us.

“I think this will affect Hoover in a positive way in the sense that Hoover is already in a weird spot because we only have 1,000 kids and we’re competing against schools that have sometimes 2,300 kids. In a lot of our activities, we just have difficulty having as many participants as other schools do to compete in some of those sports,” athletic director Jacob Burke said.

This decision is also believed to make student participation increase despite the level of competition changing. Moving away from competing with suburb schools will create a more competitive playing field for our players. This should make our programs gain more wins and attract more student participation.

“We are hoping as a district and as an athletic program that our numbers will go up. Kids will see more competitive games across the board, and we’ll go out there and try to get some wins,” head basketball coach Courtney Henderson said.

The way our games work may change. For example, boys basketball will have their set games and then six games at the end of season for games outside of our conference. They can play the larger suburb schools that they want to play.

Members from the DMPS community have brought up the idea that instead of leaving the conference to play at a lower level, DMPS should put money into our training and facilities. There is a committee that has been assembled to upgrade our training facilities. This group is making sure that we will have facilities that are comparable to suburb schools. The new stadium is supposed to give a better quality place to play for our

football players and give a field for our soccer players to practice in their off-season. Burke said all of this will just take time and patience.

Another concern is that certain programs won’t be able to play surrounding schools. While it is nice to play surrounding schools, it’s going to hurt our programs and our motivation if we keep playing these schools with players that have been privileged to intense training at a young age.

Overall, this should create an even competition, create winning attitude programs, and overall benefit our athletes and prepare them for when we can regularly play those bigger suburb schools that we want to play with.

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