



PURPOSE FOR SEPARATION OF RECREATION & MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

1. Fulfilling our Mission:

- As is publicly stated, we are designed to offer recreational, fitness and leisure opportunities primarily for community members that are adults or in 6th grade or younger.

2. Less is More:

- We offer 150+ programs to the community. It is our goal to ensure each of those programs are extremely beneficial for participants. Expanding into middle school sports programming hurts our ability to do that. Additionally, doing so hurts the development of our ZPS varsity because 6th grade and younger participants in our sports programs wouldn't get the proper oversight to ensure each program is leading to improvement, skill development, and having fun. We believe the adages of "*less is more*", and "*when you say yes to one thing, you say no to many other things*" apply here. We are narrowing the focus of what we do as a department to ensure that all we do is done at a very high level, rather than adding more to our plate and not being able to ensure all programs are effective and beneficial.

3. Philosophical Differences Between Competitive and Recreational Activities:

- Recreation programming and middle school programming have philosophical differences. Recreational is intentionally all-inclusive (no cutting) and not about wins-losses. Middle school athletics is the beginning of cutting based on skill and the emphasis on wins and losses. Mixing the two is a conflict of interest, and confusing for parents, coaches, and participants.

4. Consistency and Fairness

- We have said "no" to housing numerous middle school programs being housed under the recreation department. Saying "no" to those while still offering others isn't fair to those that we have said no to. If we would say "yes" to adding one middle school program, we would have no choice but to say "yes" to all others that requested to be under our direction and oversight. Doing so would contradict our desire to narrow the focus of what we do as a department to ensure that all we do is done at a very high level, rather than adding more to our plate and not being able to ensure all programs are effective and beneficial.

5. Clarity for the Community:

- Non-ZPS kids can participate in all of our programming. Posting a middle school program in our brochure would be confusing for non-ZPS community members.

