



FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Educational Excellence, Community Atmosphere, Global Vision"

FIVE MEMORIAL DRIVE
FENNVILLE, MICHIGAN 49408

9/19/2023

FHS Blackhawk Supporters,

Thank you for your continued support and investment in our athletic programs at Fennville Public Schools. With a small number of kids we have been successful in sponsoring both a JV and Varsity football team for the first 4 weeks of the season this fall. After injuries to several key players on the Varsity team, we were faced with a starting lineup which consisted of mostly Freshman and Sophomores who are undersized and do not possess the experience necessary to safely compete at the Varsity level. We simply do not have enough healthy players to continue supporting both a JV and Varsity team this season. After evaluating the entire 9-12 roster, which consists of 84% Freshman and Sophomores, the decision was made to forego the Varsity season in favor of playing out the rest of the JV schedule.

There are currently 5 Senior student athletes on the football team. One is a dual sport athlete who is also on our Varsity volleyball team, another is also a member of our Varsity soccer team. The other three Seniors will be asked to continue as members of the football team. They will be able to continue participating fully in practice and will be invited to act as assistant coaches on the sideline during the JV games. The two Juniors in the program will be permitted to play the JV contests. We will still have a Senior Night for these football players, as well as the Senior cheerleaders and members of the marching band. More information on that will be released at a later date.

The future of Fennville football is strong, with 23 underclassmen currently participating at the high school level, and similar numbers at the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade levels as well. We are confident that this we be a one-year hiatus, and we will return to Varsity play in the fall of 2024.

We will shift our focus to our Junior Varsity team and continue to prepare the younger players for the Friday Night Lights in their future.

Sincerely,

Wendell Hughes III
Director of Athletics/Community Recreation
Fennville Public Schools

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