



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BARRINGTON 220

Director of Athletics Mike Obsuzt

Game On

A LOOK AT THE IMPORTANCE OF AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
FOR BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS HAS PLAYED a prominent role in the Barrington area community for decades. Whether you're a team member, coach, parent, or a fan cheering for an athlete or the whole team, athletics helps build school pride, recognition, and personal character on and off the field.

Quintessential Barrington talked with Mike Obsuzt, Director of Athletics at Barrington High School, to learn about the importance of a strong athletic program, and what it will require in the future to match highly successful programs, the talent levels of Barrington 220 students, and to continue to meet community needs and expectations.

QB: *What types of athletic programs does Barrington High School offer students?*

MO: Throughout the school year, Barrington High School offers 30 education-based athletic programs for boys and girls. Of the more than 3,000 students at BHS, about a third of them are involved in our athletic programs.

QB: *How often are Barrington High School's athletic facilities being used by students and the community?*

MO: The BHS athletic facilities get a great amount of use throughout the year. Depending on the season, our stadium, main gym, pool, and Field of Dreams complex will be used from early the

morning until late in the evening. Some of our grass athletic fields get less use, due to needed recovery time after the wear and tear of a busy season. Our facilities are primarily used by physical education classes and our athletic teams. However, many youth athletic feeder programs, as well as the Barrington Park District, also use our facilities. Our stadium track is open to the public, whenever there is not a scheduled class or athletic event in the stadium.

QB: *Why are athletics so important to Barrington 220 and the community?*

MO: The mission of the Athletic Department is to "Help our team members grow as people, students, and athletes." We feel strongly that the athletic program is an extension of the academic program. Our coaches are first and foremost teachers. Lessons learned on and off the field, both individually and as a team, leave lasting impressions on everyone involved.



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QB: *What does your athletic program need to meet community needs and to continue providing students with opportunities for growth and success?*

MO: In 2008, Barrington High School opened its new stadium, which features a synthetic turf field. This turf field allows for much more use than the previous grass field. Grass fields require heavy maintenance throughout the year and are sometimes not useable after inclement weather. If we built additional turf fields, we would be able to ease demand for the stadium field and allow more teams and community programs to use them for practices and games.

In addition, I believe additional indoor gym space and a new fitness center would be tremendous assets to our students and the entire community. An additional indoor gym space could provide more court space for basketball, volleyball, and badminton. This would alleviate congestion and the need for stacked practice times in our main gym. This type of space would be especially beneficial during the busy winter season, since it would allow us to get our athletes home from practices at an earlier time. It would also provide additional indoor space during inclement weather.

QB: *What about general fitness and workouts?*

MO: The athletic program could also greatly benefit from a new fitness center. Both our current weight room and “spin” room should be at least three to four times their current sizes, to meet the needs of our student body. A new fitness center that includes exercise machines, weight machines, free weights and a dance and yoga room would help our students grow even stronger and more physically fit, which would also have a positive impact on our athletic programs.

QB: *How could the recent Blueprint 220 initiative take Barrington 220 athletics to that next level?*

MO: We are excited about the possibility of where Blueprint 220 solutions can take our athletic programs. One key area of focus of the Blueprint 220 initiative is “Physical Activity and Wellness”. The goal is to create improved facilities that match the talent level of our student athletes and meet community needs. I would encourage everyone in the Barrington area community to attend a Barrington 220 athletic event this school year to understand the value of athletics in our schools and our community. 