

The Facts About Turf

Investing in Our Children, Our Community, Our Future \$3.7 Million Capital Campaign



In May 2011, the Elizabethtown Area Education Foundation, in partnership with the Elizabethtown Area School District, and with the help of over 40 volunteers, launched the **Investing in Our Children, Our Community, Our Future \$3.7 Million Capital Campaign**. The Campaign's goal is to raise private money through individual and business contributions that will be used to improve school district athletic facilities with no impact on the District's millage rate.

Increased Field Usage

- **Synthetic turf can be used year-round, nearly around-the-clock with no rest to the field – this increases practice time and game time.**

- Cancellations due to inclement weather (rain, snow, or ice) and/or a poor playing surface are reduced significantly with use of artificial turf.
- Currently 17 fall and 15 spring sports, as well as a multitude of other groups including physical education classes, the high school marching band, and community associations use District fields.

Safer Playing Conditions

- Ideal solution for our overused athletic fields where the fields can lack grass in large areas and become unsafe due to a rock hard or dirt playing surface.
- All 11 school district athletic directors we spoke with said they felt strongly that severe injuries to their student-athletes were reduced since the installation of their turf field(s). All 11 said they would install more fields if they could.



- **New England Journal of Medicine – over a 5-year period of competitive play, significant reduction in the incidences, type, and severity were observed for the better when playing on artificial turf.**

Financial Benefits of the Capital Campaign

- **NO IMPACT on the millage rate - the purchase of artificial turf will be funded through private donations. (no tax dollars going to turf, no new school district debt, and District fund balance left untouched).**

- More bang for the buck in man hours - roughly 660 hours are needed to care for each of the 2 fields annually or about \$20,000 in salary.

While turf fields are not no maintenance at worst they are low maintenance, which allows grounds staff to be more productive in other areas of the campus.

- Nearly \$30,000 in combined savings annually for grass seed, paint, weed control, and top dressing.
- The capital campaign allows the Foundation to receive gifts-in-kind for the construction work and potentially get a better price for the installation of artificial turf than if funded by the District.

Community Benefits

- **More reliable and consistent use of District fields by community groups like the Elizabethtown Boys Club and Rheems Athletic Association.**

- Recreational tennis in E-town is preserved, as the District's tennis courts are the only public courts in town.

Environmental Advantages

- **Reduced water usage (\$\$\$) – roughly 25,000 gallons of water are put on each of the two fields 2-3 times a week from June to August (modest-sized, in-ground swimming pool takes roughly 22,000 gallons of water).**

- Average household in America uses about 130,000 gallons of water a year – District uses roughly 150,000 gallons a week for 2 fields during peak watering season.

Benefits of Athletics

- Athletics provide a strong foundation on which to build a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle.
- **Students who participate in athletics learn valuable life lessons such as leadership skills, time management, self-discipline, teamwork, and relationship skills.**

A Players' Perspective on the Value of Sports

On August 25, 2011, the Elizabethtown Area School District and nearly 100 former field hockey players will honor to Jane Hoover, long-time field hockey coach for the district and member of the EASD Athletic Hall of Fame. As part of the celebration, Coach Hoover's former players were asked to share a written message to Coach Hoover. Below is just a small sampling of the comments that reflect the powerful influence athletics can have on a young person's life.

Gwen (Goodling) Shenk, Class of 1976

My love for field hockey eventually lead me to degree in health and physical education...after 30 years of teaching at the high school level, I am now teaching health and physical education majors on the college level.

Cheryl Thompson, Class of 1979

You made me work so hard – pushing me beyond what I thought I could do. I learned a lot about myself thanks to you!

Cathy Miller, Class of 1975

You have been an amazing influence in my life and the lives of all your “girls.” You not only taught us to be great hockey players, but also to be good sportsmen, team players, to have work ethic, to be ladies, and to aspire to be the best we can in every aspect of our lives!

Lois Herr, Class of 1959

You taught me discipline that stayed with me in college hockey and in every area of my life...learning skills, working together, practicing, and building stamina. We worked hard for you and thus for ourselves. We played hard and we played fair. You wanted our best – all the time – and that matters so much.

Marti (Kuhn) Adams, Class of 1962

Growing up our school years were filled with academics, athletics, and social interaction with our peers, steered along the way by our teachers and administrators. Spanning the years as our hockey coach, you had a profound influence on who we became, how we conducted ourselves in life and we continue to “pay it forward many times over.

Brenda (Carl) Hanna, Class of 1957

You have been an inspiration to me in so many ways! Thank you for all the lessons you taught me not only as a teacher hockey, and cheerleading coach, but as a human being. You taught us perseverance, endurance, and team spirit. My children and grandchildren have heard about your leadership qualities as I tried to instill in them this kind of character.