

Proposal to Name the Haddam-Killingworth High School Baseball Field in Honor of Coach Mark Brookes

Submitted to:

Haddam-Killingworth Board of Education
Regional School District 17

Submitted by:

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Date:

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Introduction

The HKHS Administration respectfully proposes that the Haddam Killingworth High School baseball field be officially named “**Mark Brookes Field**” in honor of Coach Mark Brookes’s extraordinary 50- year commitment to our school and community.

In alignment with Regional School District 17 Board of Education policy regarding the naming of school grounds , this proposal is submitted for the Board’s consideration and final determination. We recognize that the naming of school facilities is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated a broad-based, long-term impact on the District and its community, and we believe Coach Brookes exemplifies this standard at the highest level.

As the founding and sole head coach of the HK baseball program since its inception in 1976, Coach Brookes has embodied dedication, leadership, and excellence, profoundly shaping generations of student-athletes and contributing meaningfully to the identity and pride of Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Background and Achievements

- **Founding Coach:** Established the H-K baseball program in 1976, leading the team through its first varsity season in 1977.
- **Career Wins:** Achieved 743 (and counting) career victories, ranking second in Connecticut high school baseball history.
- **Consistent Excellence:** Guided the team to 45 consecutive state tournament appearances since 1978, without a single losing season during that span.
- **Championship Success:** Secured the program’s first state championship title in 2023 with a 6–2 victory over Coventry.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Played a pivotal role in developing the baseball facilities, including the construction of dugouts, press box, and concession stand.
- **Mentorship:** Coached three players who advanced to professional baseball careers and has mentored countless student-athletes who have gone on to become coaches and leaders at all levels.

Community Impact

Coach Brookes's influence extends well beyond the baseball field:

- **Educational Commitment:** Retired as a teacher in 2011, yet continued coaching, demonstrating unwavering dedication to the development of HKHS students.
- **Alumni Engagement:** Maintains strong and lasting relationships with former players, many of whom return annually for alumni games, an enduring testament to his impact.
- **Family and Community Presence:** His wife, Raye, has been a constant and valued presence, supporting the program through her consistent attendance and contributions, including operating the concession stand and helping foster a strong sense of community.

Conclusion

Naming the baseball field after Coach Mark Brookes would be a meaningful and lasting tribute to his half-century of service. It would appropriately recognize an individual whose contributions reflect the values, traditions, and sustained impact outlined in Board policy.

This proposal is submitted with full respect for the Board of Education's authority to make final determinations regarding the naming of school grounds and approval of all related signage . We also recognize the significance of such designations and the Board's intent that naming occur infrequently and on a limited basis, further underscoring the distinction of this honor.

"Mark Brookes Field" would stand as a symbol of dedication, excellence, and community, serving as an inspiration for current and future HKHS students.

We respectfully request the Board's consideration of this proposal.