

Bass Fishing Proposal
McHenry District 156

Dear Dr. Lane and McHenry District 156 Board Members,

Please accept this as a formal request to pilot a Bass Fishing Club at McHenry High School. This year the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has instituted a Bass Fishing State Tournament. This will be the first high school sanctioned tournament of its kind in the nation. This proposal, with the Board's approval, would provide an opportunity for the students, both male and female, at McHenry High School to be able to participate in a new activity and new state tournament. Last spring Bass Fishing was added to the district Sport/Activity Interest Survey. This survey gives the underclassmen a chance to rank, in order of their preference, the activities and sports in which they are most interested in participating. The results of the survey found that Bass fishing ranked as the 5th highest in the students first preference out of the 35 activities listed in the survey.

This club would meet at least bi-monthly for meetings and activities under the supervision of two of our science teachers, Mr. Mike Quinett and Mr. Elliot Dungan, who already have expressed interest in co-sponsoring this club. The benefits of such a club could be far reaching not only in the recreational aspect of the sport of Bass Fishing, but would also benefit our students in the academic realm as well. The following is a short list of the academic material that can be taught through the McHenry Bass Fishing Club:

Physics:

- Teach how different gear ratios in fishing reels work to help reel in line quicker or slower depending on the ratio. 6:3:1 v 5:3:1 reels.
- Determine how the length of a rod changes how easy or hard it is to land a fish.
- Determine how different action rods have an affect on tackle action and hooking a fish.
- Learn to determine how different pound fishing line is rated for different size reels and how to determine which different pound test must be used for each of the different size fish that will be caught.
- Learning how a depth finder works to locate fish.
- Learning how a boat displaces water to make it float.
- Learning how a boat moves through water with ease.
- Friction and resistance caused by reeling in a fish.

Chemistry:

- pH of the water
- Pollutant effects

Earth Science:

- Geological make-up of the lake
- Moon phases
- Tide phases

Biology/Zoology:

- Learn how to handle a fish without causing any damage.
- Reintroducing a fish properly to the water to make sure it will survive.

- Learn how fish live/interact with their environment.
- Learn how and when fish spawn.
- Learn what attracts fish to fish different baits, lures, and colors.
- Determining what time of the day and what season to try to catch Bass.
- Learning basic water safety skills.

Mathematics:

- Calculating total poundage of fish caught from weights taken when fish is caught.
- Learn how to calculate the total fishable area of a lake.
- Estimating depth of the lake by how deep the anchor or cast goes.

Common Boating Knowledge:

- Boating Etiquette
- Boating Safety
- Survival Skills
- Equipment Maintenance (boat and motor checks, reels, rods...)
- Trip planning (cost, packing, food, transportation)
- State and Local fishing rules and regulations
- Fishing Vocabulary

If approved, this club would begin in November of 2008 with organizational meetings and activities and conclude with McHenry High School participating in the IHSA Bass Fishing Tournament which is to be held in April and May of the 2008-2009 school year. At the end of this school year the Bass Fishing Club will provide the Board with a report on the club's activities and accomplishments in hopes of establishing Bass Fishing as a recognized activity for McHenry District 156.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Potthoff, CAA
Athletic Director
McHenry District 156