



NORTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL  
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Andrea Castañeda, Superintendent

2/15/24

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Salem Baseball/Softball Turf Project at Willamette University. I support this project in my position as the athletic director at North Salem High School. I have a unique perspective on this project and what it could mean to the City of Salem and the student/athletes that would benefit from this project (North Salem Baseball Alum, and college baseball player).

Salem does not have a single turf baseball or softball field available for the student/athletes of Salem-Keizer School District. Because of this, Salem area student/athletes will spend nearly all of March and most of April indoors, not playing the game they signed up to play. There are many reasons why this has played out the way it has...some reasons being funding, but others being limitations to putting turf in at many of our facilities (one example...South Salem Baseball is played in a flood zone). We are really looking for an option that will serve both baseball and softball and help prevent our student/athletes from falling behind their peers around the state.

There have been a couple major byproducts of not having turf in the Salem area, and in turn, student/athletes not being able to play the games they enjoy. One has been travel and cost. As a school, we have to travel a lot in the first two months of the season in order to play games all over the state on turf. This obviously impacts many things including rest and academics. This also has impacts on our ability to hire and keep quality coaches. Another concern is the numbers of athletes playing the sports. Student/athletes have been playing less and less baseball and softball in the valley. Some of this is the sports themselves, but a lot of this, especially at North Salem, is it's no fun to be stuck in a gym constantly practicing and not getting to play. This has had a huge impact on our baseball and softball programs...with baseball being almost completely wiped out during the COVID pandemic.

I wanted to thank you all for taking the time look at this important issue and would be happy to have further conversation on any of this if you would like.

Thank you,

Brodie Cavaille

Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

North Salem HS

Class of 1998