

Johnstown Youth Athletic Association

To All Parents and Participants:

On behalf of the JYAA Executive Board Members, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Johnstown Youth Athletic Association and the many sports programs we offer.

The Belt Field facility covers over 32 acres and is privately owned by the Johnstown Youth Athletic Association. The park is not in the city limits of Johnstown, we do not receive any tax dollars to maintain the park or run the sports programs. The youth league is a not for profit organization and all proceeds from fundraisers and participation fees go into purchasing equipment and maintaining the facility.

The JYAA has been a part of the Johnstown Community for over 30 years starting with baseball and softball programs and has added football, basketball, cheerleading, and soccer over the years. This youth league program has experienced a steady growth of about 10%-12% a year over the last five years and our fall sports programs are now the largest. With over 400 participants in the, football, soccer and cheerleading programs, the fall sports are a very busy time of the year.

As we continue forward with our Youth League Program, we can't forget those who laid the groundwork to get us where we are today. There are too many volunteers to name individually, so I would like to thank those of you who volunteered countless hours in building the wonderful facility we have today. There are however two foundations that have provided funding to the facility over the years and I would like to thank both the Chambers Foundation and the Mary E. Babcock Foundation for their generosity. I would also like to invite those of you who have children participating in our programs today to get involved with JYAA. We have many projects requiring volunteers to complete and only a loyal "hand full" of people willing to help.

Finally; due to the vastness of our facility we have been experiencing a rash of vandalism at the park over the past few years. Most recently the playground equipment was destroyed, along with several other items at the park. Graffiti has been spray painted on the baseball dugouts and the walking path. The increased vandalism only takes away from our funds to repair the damage, rather than spend it on our sports programs. This park is your park; if you witness any destructive behavior at the park please contact the Licking County Sheriffs Department immediately. The youth league will prosecute to the full extent of the law those who would destroy our property.

Thanks again for your participation, enjoy the park, have fun, and get involved, this will make Belt Field one of the best facilities in Central Ohio.

Bob McCollum
President