

# HERSHEY TROJANS

## HERSHEY High School

HERSHEY HIGH SCHOOL HOMESTEAD RD PO BOX 898 HERSHEY, PA 17033

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Date: February 11, 2014

Subject: Hershey Junior High/Middle School Football

Issue: Hershey Youth Football Association has changed leagues for the fall 2014 season which impacts programming for our Hershey Middle School football program at the junior high/middle school level.

### BACKGROUND:

Hershey Youth Football Association (HYFA) has participated in the Lebanon Valley Youth Football League for the past several years. This league has been diminishing in size and Competitiveness of late. Further, it does not include 8th grade students. Therefore, typically, eighth graders participated on the Hershey JH Junior Varsity or JH Varsity team.

Commencing fall of 2014, HYFA will switch over to the Catholic Football Association of Pennsylvania (CFA). As seen in the league's website (<http://football-cfa.org>), the CFA is a more competitive league and the majority of the schools that Hershey plays against inter-scholastically also participate in in this league for their youth football organizations. This is the case for Lower Dauphin, Mechanicsburg, Middletown, Red Land, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, Cedar Cliff, Susquehanna Township, and others. The CFA does include 7th and 8th graders. **Therefore, these schools do not offer junior high JV teams.**

### The Plan:

The switch to the CFA has many benefits to our Hershey youth and Derry Township School District. As stated above, the CFA is more competitive and growing. This league will also provide more opportunities for our youth since they accommodate both 7th and 8th grade aged students and have more contests.

Because the CFA provides more opportunities for more of our youth and schools our junior high team(s) play against have made the switch to this League, **starting in fall 2014, DTSD will only offer Junior High varsity level football program for selected 8th graders (who exceed the weight limit for CFA participation) and 9th graders. 7th and the majority of 8th graders will be offered the opportunity to participate with the HYFA program.** With the loss of the junior high junior varsity team the District will realize a cost savings due to reduced transportation, equipment/uniforms, and officials required.

HYFA leadership and Hershey High School football coaching staff will host a meeting with interested parents on March 12th at 7pm in the Middle School LGI to discuss the various issues associated with this change in programming.