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## **SPIRIT CLUB**

### **Kennedy Junior High School**

#### **Lisle, Illinois**

Go, team, go!! Athletes love to hear the crowd cheer as they are about to score a goal or cross the finish line. The School/Family/Community Partnership – Parent Involvement Team at Kennedy Junior High School created the Eagles’ Spirit Club during the summer of 1998 to increase school spirit. In previous years, student attendance at after school and evening events was minimal. Since the Spirit Club has been initiated attendance has skyrocketed.

The Spirit Club sells concessions at sporting events and sponsors contests and special incentives to increase school spirit. A team parent is designated for each of the sports including: lightweight football, middleweight football, heavyweight football, volleyball, cross country, boys basketball, wrestling, and girls basketball. The team parents set up and oversee selling concessions at each event for their sport. At the school’s Maroon and Gold Banquets, held prior to each season, parents sign up to work a shift for at least one game during the season.

Collaboration between the school staff, students, and families has made this practice successful. The school custodians have generated ways to make the job easier, and they help with the setup and cleanup. A regular group of students also comes to help set up and cleanup. The administration and staff enthusiastically support the Spirit Club, and the P.E. Department and coaches help out whenever and wherever needed. Two parents volunteered to run the Spirit Club for the 2001-2002 school year.

The students expect Spirit Club activities to be a part of their after-school games and events. Four other junior highs in the school district have modeled their own Spirit Clubs after The Eagles’ Spirit Club.

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