



PENN WRESTLING CLUB

P.O. Box 292 • Osceola, IN 46561-0292

website: www.pennwrestling.org

Dear Penn Wrestling Club Parent:

The Indiana General Assembly meets in a long session this year, which started on January 5, 2011. This year is especially important to our schools because legislators will be building the state's biennium budget that includes funding for public education. It is important that our legislators understand that their decisions directly impact our schools.

You may wonder, "why is the Penn Wrestling Club contacting me regarding this issue?" As you know, the Penn Wrestling Club benefits greatly from using the Penn High School wrestling facility as well as the use of the P-H-M Middle Schools to promote club activities. Many of the benefits of the Penn Wrestling Club are derived directly from the P-H-M school district. P-H-M has been a great friend and partner to the Penn Wrestling Club. Without the support of P-H-M, Penn Wrestling Club dues and fees would be much higher. The Penn Wrestling Club is the largest USA club in the United States, we had over 400 kids participate in our elementary program in November, 2010, and we have more than 200 club wrestlers. In the future, we are looking to expand our wrestling room to a size that is commensurate with the number of our wrestlers and the quality of our program.

Unfortunately, currently the P-H-M School District only receives \$5,010.00 per student from the State of Indiana, which is well below the state average of \$5,724.00 per student. Some school districts in the state receive much more than \$5,724.00 per student. We need to ask our state legislators to support closing this funding gap to create a more equitable distribution of dollars. This will not only benefit your child in the classroom, but this can also benefit extracurricular funding.

We have enclosed a listing of our local state legislators whose position on this issue is pivotal. Please write an individual letter or email to each legislator using the following message points:

- Currently P-H-M receives per student funding of \$5,010.00 which is well below the state average of \$5,724.00. Please support closing this funding gap to create a more equitable distribution of dollars.
- Excellent schools support economic development and P-H-M schools play an important role in the quality of St. Joseph County. We believe that P-H-M deserves fair funding.
- Thank you for your hard work and commitment to public education and P-H-M schools.

The larger the stack of letters that our legislators can wave in front of their fellow legislators on the floor of the House or Senate, the more persuasive they might be convincing their fellow legislators to vote in favor of Fair Funding. Message points and letterhead will also be available on our website at www.pennwrestling.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Hildebrandt, President
Penn Wrestling Club