

Dear Players and Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are starting to talk about football already. This spring the St. Francis Xavier Athletic Board and football coaches met to discuss the philosophy and principles of the St. Francis Xavier Football Program. We would like to take this time to share the outcomes of these meetings with you before registration.

Our goal is to have smaller teams which means more practice time and more playing time for players. Who's the winner – the players – no matter the final score. We place a high value on playing time for each player, having players play more than one position, players becoming fundamentally strong football players, and of course having fun doing all of the above. This is not an easy task to accomplish. It is a real balancing act, but very important. To accomplish these goals we have decided to formalize many of the processes we have used in the past. Here are the major decisions made this spring:

- There will be a program play book with 12-15 plays that all players must learn. It will start with 4th grade learning 5-6 of the plays and adding plays every year. Coaches will have several of their own plays also.
- Each year every grade level will go through a draft process.
- Teams will be balanced (no A and B teams). This is required by both the leagues we participate in.
- Guidelines for team size will be: 4th grade, 30 players – two teams; 5th & 6th grades, 32 players – two teams; 7th & 8th grades, 34 players – two teams.
- Both grade level teams need to practice on the same nights, minimum of two nights each week.

We look forward to seeing you in August and have a great summer!

Tom Murphy and Jay Lengfeld

Important: Please See The Attachment Regarding Registration Instructions