



# **St. Croix Central Baseball**

Parents/Guardians of Panther Youth Baseball:

I hope this letter finds you doing well and thinking about spring. I just wanted to introduce myself and help you get to know me. My name is Tim Ponath, and I will be taking over as Head Baseball Coach at SCC. I grew up in New Richmond, but have lived in Hammond now for 17 years. I starting coaching with the rec program when my two boys started playing here. I have coached the last 3 years at SCC. I love the game of baseball and hope to continue building and running a strong baseball program.

The Central St. Croix Rec Baseball Committee was formed in 2018. Since then, great change and progress has been made in the development of a strong/competitive youth baseball program at SCC. Baseball open gyms and player evaluations have been added, as well as placement in the Metro Baseball League. I am confident that we can continue the successes of not only the rec program, but also our entire K-12 baseball program for years to come.

Player evaluations will take place this year on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12-4 PM in the high school main gym and auxiliary gym. In order to get a better evaluation of each player, we have divided our players into different sections based on age. Once all registrations are completed, players will be given a number at evaluations and complete the process.

In order to give our youth players that best opportunity to achieve success in the evaluations, we are once again offering youth baseball open gyms. These will take place every Sunday until February 23<sup>rd</sup> when we evaluate. They will run from 2:30-4 PM at the High School. The youth coaches, baseball committee directors and high school coaching staff, will run the boys through the types of drills they can expect during the evaluation day. These tend to grow in size each week and we love having the boys in the gym. It will also give the boys a better sense of confidence heading into their evaluation.

Organizationally, there have been many people involved in creating this strong format for our baseball program at the youth level. I urge you to look at the FAQ document that the baseball committee has drafted, as it outlines our new organizational structure, as well as many other questions that parents may have regarding various elements of the youth baseball program. This organizational structure will better position the baseball program for long-term success.

As we move toward the upcoming baseball season, know that we are working diligently to put your sons in the best opportunities to succeed. We are very excited about the continued direction of the youth program. We would love to see you at our open gyms, evaluations, and on the baseball diamond this year. Be on the lookout for emails coming from our baseball directors with the U9/10, U11/12, or U13/14 levels with specific information for your players, including team formation and placement. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Baseball Committee Chairman Adam Brown at [brownam11@aol.com](mailto:brownam11@aol.com) or myself at [tim.ponath44@gmail.com](mailto:tim.ponath44@gmail.com).

Panther Pride,

Tim Ponath  
SCC Head Baseball Coach