

Giddings Independent School District

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March 21, 2019

To the Supporters of the GHS Baseball Team:

As you probably already know, there was a fire at the Giddings High School baseball fieldhouse early on the morning of March 20, 2019. The team suffered a major loss of equipment and uniforms, and the building was a total loss. The district has already had a tremendous outpouring of support from people in our community and from others around the state to help the team recover from this event. We appreciate the support that has been offered to GISD and our student-athletes. Our current focus is providing our team the best season possible; we are already in the process of purchasing the equipment necessary to continue our great 2019 season. We are also committed to ensuring all donated funds go toward replacing the student-athletes' personal equipment.

Giddings ISD has an insurance policy that covers district property. The building and contents of the building that are owned by the district such as uniforms, shoes, baseballs, bats, and pitching machines will be replaced by this coverage. The district will use budgeted funds to meet the deductible of the policy.

All donations and money raised through fundraisers will be used to replace the athletes' personally-owned equipment including gloves, bats, sunglasses, etc. Any money that remains after student equipment has been replaced will be donated directly to the baseball program. A process has been developed to ensure that we are in compliance with local, state, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) requirements. The process has been carefully vetted to ensure that our student-athletes do not jeopardize their amateur status and it does not result in the forfeiture of games. Funds will be deposited into an account at First National Bank. Donations can be made at either the Giddings ISD Administration Building (2337 N. Main, Giddings, TX 78942) or directly at First National Bank (108 E. Austin St., Giddings, TX 78942). Checks should be made out to *Buffaloes Rising*. A committee of community members will oversee the account and disbursement of funds to athletes or athletes' parents in a carefully monitored process. The coaching staff will meet with athletes and their parents to explain this process.

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the outpouring of generosity shown to the GHS baseball team and our GISD family. We are never surprised by the willingness of Giddings and the surrounding communities to step up to the plate and help those in need. An early morning fire may have taken a building and some equipment from us, but it gave us strength, perseverance, and a new sense of community. We are confident the GHS Baseball Program will overcome this tragedy and rise from the ashes to be even stronger. There has never been a time when we were more *PROUD TO BE A BUFFALO*.

With Gratitude,

The Giddings ISD Administrative Team