

September 29, 2016 10:31AM

## Fall sports underway at Patton Junior High

At Patton Junior High School, extracurricular activities provide opportunities for extension of special interests and abilities.

Christopher Burnett | Staff Writer

At Patton Junior High School, extracurricular activities provide opportunities for extension of special interests and abilities. Included are academic and special interest clubs, student government and athletics. There are a wide variety of interscholastic sports offered for boys and girls in grades seven through nine.

During a break in the action of a girls volleyball meet Sept. 26, Patton Principal and Athletic Director Ryan Wiebe said the most vital aspect of extracurricular activities is a student interacting with peers in a positive and constructive group environment.

“Sports also allow our students to be involved in activities that support the school and be involved in extracurricular activities with friends,” Wiebe said. “Today we have a triangular seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball match. Turner and Warren Middle School are the other two schools participating.”

A cooperative arrangement with Leavenworth High School allows interested ninth-grade students to participate in LHS sports tryouts when Patton does not have enough students to form its own sport teams.

Wiebe said that over the next three years, Patton teams will receive new uniforms.

“Last year we purchased track uniforms and wrestling,” he said. “This year we purchased volleyball and basketball. For next school year we’ll be purchasing all new uniforms and several pieces of equipment for the football team. That will cover all of the sports that we offer at Patton for our students.”

After school in the fall, students participate in practices, matches and scheduled games related to cheerleading, volleyball and football. Student participants must also meet predetermined academic standards, and are expected to conform to acceptable behavioral guidelines. Both the Kansas State High School Athletics Association regulations and established Patton Junior High School rules mandate the guidelines and standards. To be eligible to participate, students must also pass a physical and concurrently maintain academic performance.

Parents are advised of the time commitment required of all extracurricular activities at Patton. In addition to the fall programs, winter programs include basketball and wrestling, spring programs include track and cheerleading is offered each sporting season.

The Patton Junior High School Tigers volleyball schedule included 15 matches, and the seventh- and eighth-grade football program schedule lists six games. The fall sports calendar concludes Oct. 13 with the seventh- and eighth-grade football squads competing against Turner Middle School teams at Normandy Field. And, the seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball team travels to Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner, Kan., Oct. 6 to conclude its season. Both events are scheduled from 4-7 p.m.

Complete details and an overview of the Athletic Department is available online by visiting the Patton website at <http://patton.USD207.org> and clicking the “Athletics” menu option.



PHOTO/ PRUDENCE SIEBERT, FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

Patton Junior High School eighth-grader Aiden Zielinski serves the ball during a volleyball match with Turner Middle School Sept. 26 at Patton. The Patton eighth-grade girls volleyball team lost both matches that night, but the Patton seventh-grade girls won both of their matches. Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp