

Dear Garces Families,

Garces has recently agreed to allow a new sport onto campus beginning this coming fall of 2017, lacrosse. This letter is written to introduce myself, the local lacrosse organization that stands with me in this endeavor, and of course, the sport itself.

While lacrosse is a well-established sport mostly in the Northern and Eastern states, it is quickly becoming one of the most popular sports across the rest of the country. As you probably know, the sport originated with the Native Americans in New England and the modern game is played on a rugby or football field. The sport is popular because it combines many attributes of other sports. Well prepared lacrosse players develop eye/hand coordination associated with baseball, the endurance of rugby, the spatial awareness of basketball, the physicality of football, and the value of teamwork as is critical in all these sports.

I have a solid background in lacrosse. I played in high school and college. I have been formally trained as a lacrosse coach and currently coach lacrosse teams as a Level I and Level II male coach (as certified by the US Lacrosse Association). I am also pursuing my Level I female training. My approach to coaching emphasizes conditioning, teamwork, and athletic development.

Two years ago, in 2014, I formed a nonprofit athletic association known as the Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League (BYLL), in which I am the President. BYLL has a very committed and active Board of Directors who have worked very hard to train coaches, recruit players, and establish multiple youth teams (U11, U13, U15) and an adult non-competitive weekly scrimmage for the players' fathers.

BYLL's youth program was designed to train and prepare youth players for high school competition. Many of the kids who started two years ago are now old enough and experienced enough to step up to high school competition. As a member of the Garces Rams athletic community, I am very excited about bringing my well rounded, highly competitive, Christian athletes to Garces where they will excel.

The new Rams Lacrosse team will compete as a club sport, and we have calendared the season so as not to conflict with Rams Football, as many of the same players will be on both teams. Football and lacrosse have a lot in common when it comes to the physicality, endurance, strength, foot work, eye/hand coordination, and speed needed for both sports.

The Rams Lacrosse team has been invited to be a member of the Pacific Lacrosse League. This is a highly competitive non-CIF league made up of teams in Southern California. The teams in the Rams' division are in Camarillo, Santa Clarita, and Pasadena. We look forward to hosting five games this spring. League play begins on February 25 and culminates with the playoffs in late May.

I very much look forward to building a lacrosse program at Garces. If you have any questions please email me at [andrewz@sunviewvineyards.com](mailto:andrewz@sunviewvineyards.com).

Go Rams!!!

Andrew Zaninovich