

Tony Pavia
Principal

April 11, 2008

Mr. Dan Heron, Principal
Darien High School
80 High School Lane
Darien, CT 06820

Dear Dan,

Both New Canaan High School and Stamford High School where I previously worked as the principal had stadium lights, so I have a unique perspective on this issue.

I am a great supporter of stadium lights. In both schools, the lights had multiple benefits. First, from a scheduling standpoint, they allowed more time for the various teams to practice. Second, the lights also allowed youth programs to have access to a first rate playing area on which to practice and compete.

Most importantly, at both Stamford High School and New Canaan High School the lights turned games into an "event" and increased attendance, not only among fans but also among local families with young children. There was a demonstrable increase in school spirit and community spirit.

Darien has been discussing a lighted field since I worked there in the mid 1990's. The apprehension voiced was the same I heard at Stamford High School just before the lights went in at Boyle Stadium. I think all would agree that those fears were unfounded and the lights have been an unconditionally positive development for SHS. The same can be said for the lights of NCHS. In both instances the lights enhanced not only the school environment but also the sense of community in the town.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Pavia', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tony Pavia