

The first sportsmanship summit for the 2017-18 school year was held on November 21st at the Eagle Point Plaza in Hale. Ryan Parkinson, his wife, Joe Kimmerer and the Hale student athletes organized and put together one of the best if not the best sportsmanship summits we have had as a North Star League. Almost 75 student athletes, coaches and ADs took place at the event that began with a scavenger hunt to get everyone involved with meeting other school students early. The items that were on the human scavenger hunt that needed to be asked were definitely "ice breakers". Groups were randomly pre-assigned and after getting to know each other, the student athletes filled out an individual survey. The 20 question survey asked the students on how their schools participated in dealing with sportsmanship, cheers, fan behavior, treatment of officials, etc. The questions were tallied and percentages were found for the questions and will be related to the ADs on how their schools were rated on sportsmanship behavior in the eyes of our league representatives. After the surveys, the groups went to the gym area and participated in some "timed" activities to see which group mascot was the "best. Activities included pulling Kleenex from a tissue box, passing a hula hoop down the line without losing contact, bumping a volleyball into a "rack", and communicating with your blindfolded partner and walking on the floor without stepping on the obstacles (mine field without being blown up). Oscoda's representatives and athletic director discussed some of what they learned after attending the MHSAA sportsmanship summit in Lansing. Students also took a survey on some other "sportsmanship thoughts" such as league mission statements, criteria for all conference awards, expectations, etc. After lunch, the student athletes and ADs were very fortunate to have a key note speaker talk on motivation. Johnny "D" – the Motivational Cowboy.....spoke to the group for almost an hour and without a doubt was the highlight of the day. Johnny D speaks all over the country, originally from the Detroit area, and basically wanted to come and speak to our group. As he said in his talk, money was not an issue but he thought what we were doing as a league was worth the trip. Nominated for 4 grammy awards, Johnny was not our normal guest speaker. "How are you doing today – OUTSTANDING and thank you so much for asking". His message about being the best and spreading some joy with simple acts of kindness definitely made an impact on our student athletes. We will need to work hard with future sportsmanship summits to make them as interesting and successful as Hale did.