

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



BUILDING SKILL.

BUILDING COMMUNITY.

BUILDING COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE.

WHY THIS CONVERSATION

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN CENTRAL MN



UNTAPPED COMMUNITY PASSION

Soccer already has deep energy and interest within the STRIDE community. This partnership creates a way to channel that passion into a more intentional, structured developmental pathway for students and families.

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY

This opportunity is strengthened by the fact that key facilities are already in place, including turf space, indoor training capacity, and room for future growth. The foundation exists to move from vision to implementation in a practical way.

SCHOOL-DAY ACCESS, COMMUNITY-WIDE IMPACT

By embedding development into the school day while aligning with CMYSA's broader programming, this model expands access, reduces barriers, and strengthens the overall soccer pipeline in Central Minnesota.



THE VISION

DAILY DEVELOPMENT. LONG-TERM IMPACT.

01

K-4: EMBEDDED IN THE SCHOOL DAY (VIA PE FRAMEWORK)

Students would participate in soccer-based instruction as part of the regular school experience through the PE framework. The focus at this level is building comfort with the ball, coordination, movement, teamwork, confidence, and a genuine love of the game in a fun and inclusive way.

02

5-8: ELECTIVE ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

As students grow, the program would place greater emphasis on technical refinement, game awareness, spacing, decision-making, communication, and competitive readiness. Older students would experience more structured development that helps prepare them for higher-level play and deeper involvement in the sport.

03

YEAR-ROUND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED BY FACILITIES

With existing turf space, indoor training capacity, and room for future field expansion, the program has the physical infrastructure to support regular and meaningful development across grade levels.

GOAL: BUILD A CLEAR K-8 DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE CONNECTED TO THE BROADER SOCCER COMMUNITY

The 5 Pillars

Balanced Player Development Model



- **Fun & Community**
Create a positive, inclusive environment where students enjoy the game and build strong relationships.
- **Skill Development**
Build fundamental and advanced technical abilities through consistent, structured practice.
- **Tactical Understanding**
Develop decision-making, positioning, and game awareness as players grow.
- **Health & Wellness**
Promote fitness, coordination, and lifelong healthy habits through movement and activity.
- **Competitiveness**
Foster effort, resilience, and a growth mindset while introducing age-appropriate competition.



DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRESSION

**K-2: CONFIDENCE,
COORDINATION, JOY**



**3-5: SKILL REFINEMENT,
DECISION-MAKING**



**6-8: TACTICAL PLAY,
LEADERSHIP, SYSTEMS**

Outcome: Players develop correctly, not just early



How It Works

Clear Division of Roles

This partnership is built on clear alignment, not overlap. STRIDE Academy leads the day-to-day implementation by embedding soccer development into the school schedule, providing facilities, staffing, and resources. CMYSA complements this by offering guidance on player development, supporting coaching alignment, and maintaining leadership of recreational and competitive programming outside the school setting. Together, this creates a connected system that strengthens both organizations while keeping roles clearly defined.



STRIDE
ACADEMY

- DAILY INSTRUCTION
- STAFFING AND FUNDING
- FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
- FALL SCHOOL PROGRAMMING



- DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE
- COACHING ALIGNMENT
- TALENT PIPELINE CONNECTION
- REC + COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING

What CMYSA Gains

Why This Matters for CMYSA

- Expanded participation base
- Stronger early development pipeline
- Better-prepared players entering programs
- Increased regional competitiveness
- Greater visibility and reach



**BOTTOM LINE: BETTER
PLAYERS, MORE
PLAYERS, STRONGER
PROGRAMS**



What STRIDE Gains

Why This Matters for STRIDE

- Distinctive, high-interest programming
- Increased enrollment appeal
- Strong school identity
- Structured athletic development for students

STRIDE
ACADEMY



What Families Gain

Why This Matters for Kids & Families

- Daily access to skill development
- Reduced barriers to participation
- Clear pathway from beginner → competitive
- Stronger connection to community soccer



What This Is NOT

- Not replacing Physical Education
- Not only for elite players
- Not competing with CMYSA
- Not creating a financial burden for CMYSA



LONG-TERM VISION

WHERE THIS CAN GO

- Fully aligned K–12 development pipeline
- Strong feeder into CMYSA programs
- Future high school program
- Long-term: competitive MSHSL team



BUILT THE RIGHT WAY FROM THE GROUND UP

Timeline

Proposed Next Steps



April 2026

- Alignment and planning with CMYSA
- **Formal approval by STRIDE Academy and CMYSA Boards**
- Post and hire 2.0 FTE Soccer Coach Positions (PE Licensure)



May 2026

- Launch community communication and begin an advertising campaign
- Enrollment and awareness push for 2026–2027



June–July 2026

- Curriculum development and scope/sequence design
- Finalize developmental progression, instructional priorities, and program structure



September 2026

- Program launch (or phased rollout if needed)

WHAT WE'RE ASKING



CMYSA BOARD CONSIDERATION

- INTEREST IN STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
- WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE ON DEVELOPMENT MODEL
- PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION MOVING FORWARD





A SHARED OPPORTUNITY

- STRIDE brings access, facilities, and daily structure, financial committment
- CMYSA brings expertise, pathway, and community leadership

Together, we can give more kids a place to play, a path to grow, and a community to belong to through soccer.

