

Dear Supporters of Taunton Tigers Hockey,

Welcome to a special year in Taunton High School Hockey history! The 2021-22 marks the 50th year of the Tiger Hockey program; the Golden Anniversary. Taunton Hockey has not always been synonymous with winning like other prestigious high school programs, but its history is nonetheless still important to its players, coaches, alumni, fans, and community.

Fifty years is a long time; much longer than even I have been alive. The sustainability of the Taunton program through the ups and downs it has experienced is an accomplishment in and of itself. The program has seen several challenges that have pushed it on the brink of elimination, but the community members have always rallied to keep it alive.

The benefits of youth and high school sports for young student-athletes is invaluable. The lifelong connections that have been made for young athletes competing as Tigers is still prevalent years later with adult friendships and continued mentorships. In an era where youth participation numbers and public funding are dropping while costs continue to rise, the average family is finding themselves priced out of these opportunities for their children

The last two years have been a difficult time for people, and I would be remiss in failing to mention the emotional distress that has been brought upon our community, especially our young people. The world we once knew has changed and the challenges that we continue to face are new territory. It is more important than ever for our young people to have opportunities, like the great game of hockey, to have an outlet; a chance to be social, a chance to learn, a chance to grow, a chance to develop purpose, and a chance to create the memories that we were able to create once before.

This year's THS alumni game featured players from the best and worst teams in Taunton history. Never once was an award, a record, or a score shared amongst members during the event. The memories discussed were the little things that made the moments together as a team special. The shared comradery came from a commitment to one another above all, regardless of the game's outcome.

"Enjoy the Journey" has been a staple motto within my coaching philosophy. It is the little moments every day that get remembered long after the playing days end. Be present in each moment, find joy in the day-to-day grind, and relish the time you have with those that you consider special, teammates included.

It is through life's toughest challenges we discover who will be there to lift you up and support you in those moments. As we embark on this season, we pay homage to all members of the Tiger Hockey family and their efforts that have made this season possible for today's players.

On behalf of the Taunton High School Hockey Program, and this year's coaching staff, I would like to thank the Face-Off Club, the parents, the families, the Alumni, and the local community of Taunton for its support of young hockey players! I look forward to a great and productive season.

Sincerely,

Kris Metea

Head Coach

Taunton High School