

I am writing as a MVRHS alumni, parent of a current and future MVRHS student and a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation owners of Reliable Market.

It is my belief that the proposed high school field project is in the best interest of our students and athletes.

Sports have always played a large role in social and academic life at the regional high school. Sports allowed off island travel, an opportunity to see the larger world and other schools beyond our shores and make friends in other places. Living on a small island it is crucial to give our kids as many outlets to grow as possible. To also prepare them for life beyond our island. Sports teach lessons such as responsibility, commitment and comradarie. Lessons that follow them into adulthood.

I was able to personally witness this over the past year. 2020 was extradoniary in many ways and in my family's business especially. It is with great pride and gratitude that I can attest to the life

lessons high school sports impart, especially track and field. Track and field is a sport which teaches teamwork, endurance, and responsibility. It was MVRHS track and field student athletes that played a large part in keeping Reliable Market open. These students proved themselves to be dedicated, energetic and self motivated employees. We are proud and thankful to know and work with such tremendous student athletes and to support the push to give them a safe, functioning and updated facility that they deserve.

This field improvement project is necessary in order to have a track team, a sport which has even recently brought a state title to MVRHS. It allows MVRHS athletes to have an opportunity to practice and have home meets for their chosen sport. Other Cape schools such as Monomoy, Barnstable, Sandwich, Falmouth, Nauset and Nantucket have turf fields.

I can understand both sides of the natural vs turf argument. However I believe a compromise is what is needed. Compromise is another life lesson we can teach our MVRHS student athletes. It is time to move this long delayed project forward and bring the current plan into reality.

Martha's Vineyard has always strived to give our students the best possible foundation for a successful future. This field improvement project is one important step to continuing that legacy.