

October 6, 1939

Dear Fellow Faculty Members:

Doubtless you have noticed, along with the rest of us, the great poverty of play facilities for our children here in the city of Lawrence. With that idea in mind, the Department of Physical Education desires to render service to faculty members who have children.

Our plans are not fully worked out, but our idea is to open the gymnasium on Saturday mornings to the children of faculty members. We plan to use our physical education faculty to teach your youngsters recreative games and play. If you will send to my office the names of your children, ages and sex, our faculty will outline a program for your approval. There will be no charge for any of this service.

If we can get sizeable groups, members of our women's department will teach the girls, and our staff in the men's department will teach the boys. This, of course, would not include instruction in individual sports, such as boxing, and individual tap dancing, but we had in mind such group activities as swimming, basketball, badminton, deck tennis, suffleboard, volley ball and tap dancing for the youngsters.

In case any parents should desire to accompany their children they will be welcome.

The Lawrence public schools close their gymnasiums in the high school and the elementary schools at vacation time, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have petitioned the past superintendent of schools and the members of the Board of Education to keep the gymnasiums and the playgrounds open so that Lawrence children may have a safe and wholesome place to play during vacation time under supervision. My notion is that if you parents would reflect this opinion to the members of the Board they would see the great enjoyment that accrues to children during their free time. And too, it would relieve us here in Robinson Gymnasium of having a great number of the school children of Lawrence swarm on us with play paraphernalia. There is an unwritten rule at the University which prohibits others than University students from using the facilities. The University cannot be expected to take care of the problems of the city of Lawrence in this instance, at least.

We shall be very happy to have your early response to our proposed plan so that we may work out a definite schedule.

Very sincerely yours,

David Allen

FCA:AH
CHG.

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basket Ball Coach

Yes, I agree to every bit of this. My child is in N.Y. but I'll help where I can, comming out Baumgartner