



SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY

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Recently, several media outlets have run stories regarding the use of athletic fields in the City of Pawtucket. The City of Pawtucket is currently involved in a lawsuit brought by the RI ACLU regarding the question who may use city-owned fields.

Some of the media coverage has misrepresented the position of Saint Raphael Academy. We are not named in the lawsuit and we have refrained from commenting on it. We would, however, like to make it clear that Saint Raphael Academy does not seek, nor do we expect, exclusive or privileged access to any field. We apply for permission to use fields, just as any other organization or citizen might do. Far from having exclusive rights to a field, in fact, our football team has practiced on two *different* fields during the last two years, as directed by the city.

Any suggestion that the Academy expects or requests priority treatment is false. We operate on the understanding that public fields are available for use by all citizens—not simply schools, but other athletic and civic organizations as well. We are happy to abide by the policies of the City of Pawtucket as they schedule those fields.

Michael Sweeney
Academy Principal