

Only a handful of KCMSD student athletes have earned Division I football scholarships out of high school the past decade, but that might change, thanks to the Junior Player Development program that started last Tuesday at the Manual football field.

Sponsored by the NFL and the Kansas City Chiefs, the Junior Player's Development program (JPD) is an introductory/developmental youth tackle football program for boys and girls ages 12-14. The program is designed to teach every participant, every position, through a step-by-step progression of skill instruction packaged in a re-adaptive, fun and entertaining manner.

All participants receive counseling through a life skills/character development curriculum to be incorporated throughout all on-field activities. Every week a different life skill message is designated as a theme for that particular week. Each theme is addressed through the context of football. Instructors will make connections between life skills as they are applied in football as well as other areas of life, especially school, at home and in the community.

The month long free camp features 130 boys and girls, all from middle schools throughout the district. They are receiving instruction from selected high school and middle school coaches from the Kansas City Missouri School District. The Kansas Chiefs will periodically send various players and coaches to the site to work with the students. At the conclusion of the camp, the students will head out to the Chiefs practice field for a scrimmage in which each team will have a Chiefs player as their coach.

Patrick C. Rowles
Athletic Assistant/Public Relations