

# BUCKS BULLETIN

**SIGN OUR  
PETITION TO  
PROTECT  
GIRLS'  
SPORTS &  
LOCKER  
ROOMS**



**SCAN OR VISIT  
PROTECTBUCKS.COM/PETITION**

**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING  
THIS IMPORTANT  
EFFORT!**

## “SHE’S WORTH PROTECTING,” SAYS MOTHER OF LOCAL FEMALE HS WRESTLING PHENOM

On May 16th, 2023, Central Bucks School District approved girls’ wrestling in all three of its high schools. This came one day prior to the historic PIAA vote that would sanction girls’ wrestling to make it an official high school sport come the 2023-2024 school year. Pennsylvania female high school wrestlers would officially have their own all-female teams and moreover, their first ever girls’ high school wrestling championship in 2024. For many female wrestlers like my daughter, this news was both incredible and long awaited. Finally, a safe space for girls wrestling in high school.



Jillian Needham, Mother of CBSD's 1st Female Wrestler



Photo Courtesy of Jillian Needham

My daughter started wrestling at the age of nine. She is currently sixteen and a junior at Central Bucks. She made history becoming the first starting female wrestler in her middle school, then continued forward, becoming the first ever female wrestler at her high school. Throughout the years, girls’ wrestling began to build, becoming one of the fastest growing sports in history. Gaining traction in school districts across the country, we waited not so patiently for Central Bucks to jump in the ring and form an all-girls team for high school.

However, as the number of girls joining grew, the physical size of the boys they would soon be up against grew as well. Gaining strength, height, and wingspan, we knew come high school the male competition would become dangerous for my daughter. Yet, she strived to compete. She competed at the high school level being the only female on the all-boys wrestling team. We ended her first season with a broken leg and surgery on her knee, as well as other injuries.

We began to believe this may be the end of high school wrestling for her, if the only option was to wrestle boys. The basic biological difference is just that... female and male wrestlers are simply different.

Thankfully, Central Bucks jumped on the band wagon and made history. The journey these ladies have endured to get to this point was no easy feat. My daughter’s story is proof of why sports teams should be based on biological sex, like in the proposed policy our school board is considering. Girls like my daughter finally have a chance to proceed with their dream of wrestling safely in high school against other biological females. To simply want a fair shot in a sport they love, in a high school they attend, is worth protecting. And so is she.