

An Insight into MCPS Athletics

FALL 2021 ♦ Issue 13



“Sports do not build character, they reveal it.”

-John Wooden.

The R.A.I.S.E. Report

Director's Message

MCPS Sports Nation – To begin, I hope you and yours are safe and well and that your school year is off to a great start! While we continue to face challenging times, I am inspired by the collective efforts of stakeholders across MCPS Athletics, to allow for a successful start to the fall season. The COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics continues to serve as the Return-to-Play committee for our program. All operations will occur in alignment with the guidelines and protocols developed by the Task Force, including our Fall Season [Spectator and Game-Day Guidelines](#). Additionally, I want to highlight the efforts of our officials' associations – please take a moment to “Thank a Ref!” Finally, I wish all of our student-athletes, coaches, and teams all the best this season!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics – Jeff

COACHES' CORNER

NEW MCPS County Championships

On a pilot basis, for the 2021–2022 school year, MCPS will conduct county championship games for the open tournament team sports of field hockey, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, softball, and boys' and girls' lacrosse. See the [Save the Date](#) section for dates, locations, and times of fall county championships.

MCPS Coaching Vacancy Database

Montgomery County Public Schools hires innovative, diverse, and dynamic coaches to support more than 28,000 student-athletes competing across MCPS Athletics. The [High School Coach Vacancy Database](#) allows potential applicants to view coaching vacancies across all 25 high schools, prior to applying for a position on the [MCPS Careers Site](#).

Athletic Leaders Spotlight

Welcome to the AD Family!

For the 2021–2022 school year, we welcome Ms. Jody Tyler to the AD family, as the new athletics specialist at Northwest High School. Ms. Tyler has been involved in MCPS Athletics in various capacities over the years, including coach, game manager, assistant athletics specialist, region tournament director, and summer workshop participant. Previously, she served as physical education department chair at Winston Churchill High School. Ms. Tyler's enthusiasm and passion for student-athletes and athletics are infectious and a welcome addition to the Northwest Athletics family.



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Thank You Officials!

Officiating is often referred to as a thankless avocation and MCPS athletics contests would not occur without the unwavering commitment of officials and referees. This fall, please take time to *Thank a Ref* for letting the games go on!

COVID-19 Updates

MCPS Athletics – Fall Season Opens

The MCPS athletics program has returned to full operations, along with procedures and protocols outlined in the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#). The most recent version of the plan, dated [August 27, 2021](#), aligns with guidelines from the [Maryland State Department of Education \(MSDE\)](#), [Maryland Department of Health](#), and the [Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association \(MPSSAA\)](#). #WeRAISE

Spirited & Safe Competition

The [Spectator & Game-Day Guidelines](#) outline the operating procedures for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) athletic events. All protocols and procedures will comply with the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#), the guiding document for MCPS Athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines have been approved by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, along with the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics.



Let the Games Go On!

Top 5 Tips to Ensure the Games Go On!

Tip 1: Vaccinations are one of the most effective strategies to protect each individual student-athlete and team, along with making sure the games go on. All eligible student-athletes are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, to maximize participation in the fall season.

Tip 2: Face coverings are not required outdoors, but persons who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings for outdoor operations of the MCPS athletics program. This applies to all stakeholders, including participation and competition. For indoor sports, masks must be worn at all times, except as noted below:

- Cheerleading – when actively engaged in stunting/tumbling.
- Gymnastics – while on apparatuses.
- Wrestling – during wrestling matches, a mask could become a choking hazard.

Tip 3: Hand hygiene is essential. Regularly washing hands with soap and water removes germs and allows for the safe use of shared items and apparatuses. All student-athletes must bring their own hand sanitizer.

Tip 4: Hydration is also essential. Student-athletes must bring their own water bottle that includes their name clearly labeled. Students are encouraged to bring a gallon of water to each session or contest, along with a towel.

Tip 5: Transportation for away contests, whenever possible, families are encouraged to transport students directly to the site. If bus transportation is used, MCPS Athletics will comply with the current MCPS safety protocols and procedures. Masks are required on buses.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORT SCHEDULES

Schedules, results and standings are available on [County Sports Zone](#). Schedules can be searched and sorted by school, by sport, or by date.

Middle School Athletics

Welcome to the AC Family!

MCPS Athletics is excited to welcome ten new athletic coordinators for the 2021–2022 academic year:

- Mr. David Quay – Benjamin Banneker MS
- Mr. Brent Davis – William H. Farquhar MS
- Ms. Catherine Brown – Gaithersburg MS
- Mr. Joseph Haren – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MS
- Mr. Michael Kistler – Ridgeview MS
- Ms. Barbara Becker – Rosa Parks MS
- Ms. Tara Whitney – Silver Creek MS
- Mr. Robert Polley – Tilden MS
- Ms. Alexis Felix – Julius West MS
- Ms. Angela Deandreis – Westland MS

The [Middle School Searchable Schedule](#) allows you to search for your entire school's schedule, a specific sport schedule by school, or an entire sport schedule for the county.

Save the Date!

FALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHEERLEADING:

October 30, 2021, at Montgomery Blair HS.

- Division I – 10:30 a.m.
- Division II – 2:00 p.m.
- Division II – 5:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY:

October 30, 2021, at Bohrer Park, 10 a.m.

FIELD HOCKEY:

October 25, 2021, at Paint Branch HS, 6 p.m.

BOYS' & GIRLS' SOCCER:

October 25, 2021, at Seneca Valley HS, Boys' 5:30 and Girls' 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

November 4, 2021, at Quince Orchard HS, 6 p.m.

PE-22 CARE AND PREVENTION COURSE

The Care and Prevention Course (PE-22) will take place virtually on 11/6/21 and 11/7/21. The New Coaches Seminar will take place virtually on 11/11/21 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENING DAY - FALL SPORTS

Cross Country, Boys' and Girls' Softball opening day is September 28, 2021.

Check out the [MCPS Athletics Webpage](#) for more information on MCPS Athletics!

#WeRAISE

Coaches, student-athletes, athletics specialists, athletic coordinators and stakeholders across the MCPS athletics program are encouraged to celebrate and promote examples and accomplishments that exemplify our R.A.I.S.E. core values. When doing so on social media platforms, users are encouraged to tag **@MCPSAthletics** and include the hashtag **#WeRAISE**.

