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## MCPS ATHLETICS

### R.A.I.S.E. Update

September 1, 2022

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Dear MCPS Community:

Thank you for a successful fall preseason. As we gear up for opening night on September 2, here are some important program updates and reminders:

#### **Spirited Sportsmanship & Spectator Safety Week**

Beginning this year, MCPS Athletics will be celebrating [Spirited Sportsmanship & Spectator Safety Week](#) during the first week of each season. This week will highlight our R.A.I.S.E. core values, including respect, sportsmanship, and spirited and safe competition. We invite all of MCPS Sports Nation to join us in proactively celebrating the positive aspects of participation and expectations for those who attend our events. Information has been sent to schools for planning and participation and additional resources will be available on social media - @MCPSAthletics.

#### **Certified Athletic Trainer Shortage**

MCPS has secured vendors to provide an athletic trainer for all high schools; however, as of September 1, only 16 of 25 high schools have an assigned athletic trainer. Vendors are continuing to work tirelessly to hire the remaining positions. Interested community members who have contacts should contact [Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan](#), director of systemwide athletics or [Mrs. Angela McIntosh-Davis](#), director of procurement. We are hopeful that we can have athletic trainers in place at all 25 high schools as soon as possible and appreciate the support and understanding of our MCPS Athletics community.

#### **Transportation**

MCPS buses are available for teams to utilize throughout the season for off-site games or events, assuming there are available drivers and buses and based on the game time. It is important to note that, due to buses making runs afterschool for students, buses are not available during the hours of 1:35-4:35 p.m. from Monday-Friday. This constraint, along with the convenience of leaving later and coming home earlier, results in instances when parent or student drivers may be preferred. If parent or student drivers are being considered for transportation to off-site events, each student's parents/guardians have the option to opt out of allowing their student to drive with parent or student drivers. Parents are required to select which mode(s) of transportation they consent to allowing their student-athlete to utilize during the season. This information is used to assist in the decision-making process. Ultimately, the decision on the mode of transportation is made utilizing a collaborative process based on the availability of buses and the consent and preferences of parents/guardians for each team. Transportation to and from practices is the responsibility of each student-athlete and family. Please consult your coach or athletics specialist for additional information.

#### **Tickets & Season Passes**

Tickets for MCPS athletic events are sold through [GoFan](#). The cost for admission is \$5, which includes convenience and processing fees. Schools are utilizing digital ticketing to the extent possible; however, some schools may offer a cash option.

Season passes are available at the local school and encouraged for all spectators planning on attending multiple events. Prices for the fall season are \$30 for adults and \$18 for students (convenience fee may be assessed if purchased electronically).

If student-athletes or parents/guardians require additional support regarding the cost of admission, they should consult with their [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#). We appreciate your support of MCPS Athletics!

### **Student-Athlete Leadership Council**

The Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) will kickoff on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The purpose of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) is to 1) elicit student-athlete voice regarding the administration of the MCPS interscholastic athletic program; 2) cultivate a countywide athletics community that promotes the RAISE core values; and 3) involve student-athletes in leadership roles at MCPS countywide athletic events. SALC is composed of two student-athletes from each of the twenty-five high schools, meeting bi-monthly to discuss the administration of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program.

### **Middle School Fall Sports Registration**

Registration for middle school fall sports is open in ParentVUE and is now translatable in all languages! [Tryouts and practices](#) for middle schools start on **September 13, 2022**; details regarding tryout/practice logistics are available through the local school and team(s). Systemwide resources are available on the [MCPS Athletics webpage](#).

### **NFHS Book Study - Diversity & Equity Initiatives**

A four-week national book study discussing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) will be conducted via a virtual webinar series by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) from October 19 to November 9. Registration for this first-ever free national initiative is open now through September 15 at [meetings.nfhs.org/NFHSNationalBookStudy/](https://meetings.nfhs.org/NFHSNationalBookStudy/).

To register and to learn more about the NFHS National Book Study, its authors and master facilitators, please visit [meetings.nfhs.org/NFHSNationalBookStudy/](https://meetings.nfhs.org/NFHSNationalBookStudy/). Questions regarding the book study may also be directed via email to [nfhsbookstudy@nfhs.org](mailto:nfhsbookstudy@nfhs.org) or by phone to (317) 822-5715.

### **MPSSAA Welcome Statement**

Please see this [welcome statement](#) from the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association!

### **Schedules**

All schedules have been released for the 2022-2023 school year. High school schedules are available at [countysportszone.com](https://countysportszone.com). Middle school schedules are available [here](#).

### **Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan Operations**

The [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan](#) will continue to drive program operations in regard to COVID-19 procedures and protocols. The plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Student-Athlete Medical Advisory Committee for MCPS Athletics. The latest version is always available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage.

### **Communication and Resources**

Our Student-Athlete Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC) for MCPS Athletics will continue to evaluate and implement the latest safety measures. Updates and guidance from the SMAC will continue to be provided and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) and [Health & Safety](#) webpages for MCPS Athletics. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator](#) (AC), or coach.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support of our student-athletes and MCPS Athletics!

Montgomery County Public Schools