

MCPS Athletics
FIRST SEMESTER – MIDDLE SCHOOL VIRTUAL ATHLETICS ENGAGEMENT
Quick Reference Guide

The middle school interscholastic athletics program is available for all students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, and consists of three virtual sport seasons, following the traditional order of the sport seasons.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VIRTUAL SEASON OVERVIEW		
Fall Season	Winter Season	Spring Season
September 21 – October 9, 2020	October 26 – November 20, 2020	November 30 – December 18, 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Country – Coed Softball – Boys' Softball – Girls' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball – Boys' Basketball – Girls' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer – Boys' Soccer – Girls'
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY WINDOW		
Monday – Friday: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.		

The middle school virtual athletic seasons consist of a modified version of the high school seasons and includes two student-athlete and coach engagement sessions per week, for a total of six engagement sessions over the course of three to four weeks. The engagement sessions are scheduled to occur on Tuesdays and Thursday's, fifteen minutes post duty day for staff.

Fall Season Sessions	Winter Season Sessions	Spring Season Sessions
September 21 – October 9, 2020	October 26 – November 20, 2020	November 30 – December 18, 2020
1. Tuesday, September 22	1. Tuesday, October 27	1. Tuesday, December 1
2. Thursday, September 24	2. Thursday, October 29	2. Thursday, December 3
3. Tuesday, September 29	3. Thursday, November 5	3. Tuesday, December 8
4. Thursday, October 1	4. Tuesday, November 10	4. Thursday, December 10
5. Tuesday, October 6	5. Tuesday, November 17	5. Tuesday, December 15
6. Thursday, October 8	6. Thursday, November 19	6. Thursday, December 17

This calendar allows students and staff three weeks to start the school year and prepare for the start of the first season. There is also a two week transition period between each season.

Virtual Seasons – Structure

Each of the engagement sessions includes curricula and programming to 1) promote the MCPS Athletics R.A.I.S.E. Core Values, 2) instill sport-specific knowledge and strategies, and 3) include academic check-ins. In addition, MCPS athletics will host a variety of systemwide guest speaker series throughout the seasons.

Session #	R.A.I.S.E. Session	Time (min.)	Sport-specific Session	Time (min.)
1	Respect and Sportsmanship	20-30	Sport-specific / Academic Check-in	20-30
2	Integrity and Character	20-30	Sport-specific / Academic Check-in	20-30
3	Academic Excellence	20-30	Sport-specific / Academic Check-in	20-30
4	MCPS Guest Speaker – R.A.I.S.E. Core Values			60
5	Equity and Access	20-30	Sport-specific / Academic Check-in	20-30
6	MCPS Guest Speaker – R.A.I.S.E. Core Values			60

Virtual Seasons – Engagement of Activity Plan 2.0

The Middle School Engagement of Activity Plan 2.0 is used to assist coaches with implementing the Middle School Engagement of Activity 2.0 (MS-EOA) framework, which provides guidance for conducting athletic activities during the virtual-only educational model for distance learning. Coaches will document specific engagement activities that will be used to support the physical, mental and social-emotional well-being of

students in the MS-EOA 2.0 Plan. The Middle School Engagement of Activity Plan 2.0 should be completed and submitted to the athletic coordinator within three days of the culmination of the virtual season.

The Middle School Engagement of Activity Pre-season Planning Tool frames the organization and planning of engagement prior to the virtual athletic season. The pre-season planning tool will assist coaches with completing the MS-EOA 2.0 plan. The plan should include systemwide, schoolwide, sport/extracurricular and team/club specific engagement activities. Coaches should complete and submit the Middle School Engagement of Activity Pre-season Planning Tool to their respective athletic coordinator no less than three days prior to the start of the virtual season.

The following resources are intended to assist coaches in completing the High School 2.0 EOA Plan.

1. [MS EOA 2.0 Plan and Resources](#)

2. [MS Coaching Resources](#)

Virtual Seasons – Coaches Resources

All middle school coaches conducting a fall, winter, or spring virtual athletic season during semester one of the 2020–2021 academic year, will have access to the [MS Virtual Seasons 2020](#) shared Google folder. The MS Virtual Seasons 2020 shared Google folder contains various kinds of resources to assist coaches with implementing engagement activities during the virtual season.

Virtual Seasons – Athletics Registration

All students participating in the fall, winter, and spring virtual seasons, as part of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program, must complete the online registration process. Registration is done electronically through the school’s specific athletics registration links posted on the school’s website. Students and parents/guardians who have difficulty with registration should contact the athletic coordinator at the local school.

Due to the strenuous nature of selected activities, each student is encouraged to consult their physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. Parents/legal guardians authorize and consent to their child’s participation in interscholastic athletics and sports and assume the risk of any injuries that may occur while participating in virtual athletic activities. During any live engagement, parents/guardians and students must ensure that surroundings are free of obstacles and that an appropriate plan is in place on how to access help in the event of an emergency.

Student-athlete participation in the first semester of virtual seasons does not guarantee or impact placement on a team roster during second semester.

FALL VIRTUAL SEASON	
Date	Athletics Registration Communication
August 28, 2020	Athletic Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement on Website • Connect Ed • Twitter
August 28 – September 16, 2020	Athletics Registration Window
September 16 – September 19, 2020	Coach Welcome Email
WINTER VIRTUAL SEASON	
Date	Athletics Registration Communication
October 8, 2020	Athletic Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement on Website • Connect Ed • Twitter
October 8 – October 20, 2020	Athletics Registration Window
October 21 – October 23, 2020	Coach Welcome Email
SPRING VIRTUAL SEASON	
Date	Athletics Registration Communication

October 28, 2020	Athletic Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement on Website • Connect Ed • Twitter
October 28 – November 17, 2020	Athletics Registration Window
November 23 – November 24, 2020	Coach Welcome Email

Athletics Coordinator Expectations

1. Promote the Virtual Athletics Program through messaging and social media as champions of **We Can, We Will, We RAISE.**
2. Manage the registration process for each season.
3. Provide coaches with the registration information for all students in their respective program.
4. Ensure that coaches are aware of systemwide preseason meeting expectations.
5. Conduct local school preseason meetings with coaches.
6. Conduct local school meetings with students, and parents/guardians in alignment with school-wide operations and meetings (ie. orientations, back to school nights, etc.)
7. Provide on-going support for their assigned sport for the duration for the virtual experience including attending the sport specific systemwide pre and postseason meetings.
8. Support coaches throughout the virtual experience with technology and other matters related to student engagement.
9. Submit the number of students participating in each team/sport to the Athletics Unit.
10. Supervise and monitor the delivery and operations of the virtual athletics program.
11. Submit a final roster of students who successfully complete the season in each team/sport to the Athletics Unit.

MCPS Certificate of Student Engagement

MCPS will award and recognize secondary students for participation in the MCPS Athletics and Extracurricular Activities during the virtual first semester. The level of certificate will reflect the number of activities students successfully participate in as follows:

- **MCPS Bronze Certificate of Student Engagement:** 1–3 various athletics and/or extracurricular activities
- **MCPS Silver Certificate of Student Engagement:** 4–6 various athletics and/or extracurricular activities
- **MCPS Gold Certificate of Student Engagement:** 7+ various athletics and/or extracurricular activities

Coaches are expected to track attendance and submit a roster of students who have completed the virtual engagement sessions at the end of the season.