



MCPS ATHLETICS

R.A.I.S.E. Update

August 11, 2022

Dear MCPS Community:

The fall sports season and 2022–2023 year of MCPS Athletics are officially underway! As we get started, here are some important program updates and reminders:

Certified Athletic Trainer Shortage

There has been a significant shortage of certified athletic trainer candidates (ATCs) that has impacted MCPS and school systems across the state and beyond. When the fall season began on August 10, only 14 of 25 high schools had an assigned certified athletic trainer. During the course of the summer, we have been able to secure 3 vendors, who have agreed and been approved to provide an athletic trainer at 23 of our high schools – MedStar (12 schools), Pivot (6 schools), and ATI (5 schools). This process of assigning schools was done through an equity lens, to ensure coverage across MCPS high schools to the extent possible. Unfortunately, we still have two schools – Albert Einstein and Northwood – that have not been assigned a vendor. Vendors are working tirelessly to hire the remaining positions and we continue to engage in dialogue with vendors and providers about covering the remaining schools. Vendors or interested community members who have contacts should contact [Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan](#), director of systemwide athletics or [Mrs. Angela McIntosh-Davis](#), director of procurement.

MCPS is working with vendors to provide maximal coverage at the schools without an assigned trainer. Schedules will be communicated to athletics specialists, with priority to high contact/risk sports and games over practices. While ATCs are an invaluable resource to our program, our coaches are trained in health and safety protocols and equipped to act as first responders, when needed. We appreciate the efforts of coaches and athletics specialists who will step up to the challenge of serving our student-athletes. Athletics specialists will be providing updates and coverage schedules throughout the season. More information can be found in this [FAQ document](#) on the MCPS Athletics webpage. We are hopeful that we can have ATCs in place at all 25 schools as soon as possible and appreciate the support and understanding of our MCPS Athletics community.

High School Fall Sports Registration

Fall sports tryouts/practices have started! If you are still interested in participating, please check with the school athletics specialist or coach (depending on start date and interest). Registration for high school fall sports is completed through ParentVUE. Details regarding tryout/practice logistics are available through the local school and team(s). Systemwide resources are available on the [MCPS Athletics webpage](#).

Middle School Fall Sports Registration

Registration for middle school fall sports will open through ParentVUE on **August 15, 2022 at noon**. [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](#).

Health & Safety - Fall Heat Plan & Hydration

Students, coaches, and parents/guardians should review and become familiar with the [Health & Safety](#) webpage for MCPS Athletics. The MCPS [Fall Heat Plan](#) will guide operations during the opening weeks of the fall season and has been updated this summer to align with new guidance and state law. Additionally, [information and resources](#) are available regarding proper hydration and weather guidelines. Please note the [enhanced language](#) and guidelines regarding temperature and heat index.

Schedules

All schedules have been released for the 2022–2023 school year. High school schedules are available at 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