MCPS Sports Nation – Thank you for an amazing fall season! I am so proud of the achievements of our student-athletes and coaches and your collective commitment to the health and safety across our program. As we are now six weeks into the winter season, as COVID-19 cases have risen, I am calling on each and every individual across our program to recommit to the procedures and protocols in our Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan and Spectator Guidelines. As we head into winter break and into 2022, we will rely on everyone doing their part to keep our student-athletes competing and the program moving forward. The COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics, with direct support and guidance from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, will continue to ensure the latest protocols and procedures for our program. We look forward to a successful 2022! I wish you and yours happy holidays! Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics! – Jeff

Sullivan named President-Elect
Congratulations to Dr. Jeff Sullivan, director, systemwide athletics, for being voted as the next President-Elect of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association by the Board of Control. Dr. Sullivan will begin his two-year term in June 2022.

State Sportsmanship Award Winners
During the fall state championship season, the Gaithersburg HS boys’ and girls’ cross country teams were recipients of the Class 4A State Cross Country Sportsmanship Award (third consecutive), Poolesville HS boys’ and girls’ cross country teams were recipients of the Class 2A State Cross Country Sportsmanship Award, and the Walt Whitman HS Girls’ Soccer team was the recipient of the Class 4A State Girls’ Soccer “Steve Malone” Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations to Gaithersburg, Poolesville, and Walt Whitman high schools! #WeRAISE

MCPS Athletics Represents Nationally
Dr. Sullivan, Ms. Kathy Green, systemwide athletics specialist, Ms. Anne Rossiter, compliance specialist for systemwide athletics, and several MCPS athletics specialists, recently attended the National Athletic Directors Conference in Denver, Colorado, sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). MCPS staff engaged in various sessions on topics ranging from Title IX compliance to recruiting and retaining quality coaches to mental health for student-athletes. Mr. Jason Woodward, athletics specialist, Sherwood High School, taught a Leadership Training Course, “Quality Program Award Certification” and Ms. Green presented a session on “Developing a Student-Athlete Leadership Council.”

Officials’ Appreciation Week
MCPS Athletics celebrated Fall Officials’ Appreciation Week, October 18-23, 2021. MCPS Athletics Nation recognized the efforts of individuals who serve our student-athletes, ensuring the games are played! Thank you officials! #WeRAISE
Return to R.A.I.S.E. – Winter Season Programming

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 COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. The latest version is always available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#).

The COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics will continue to evaluate and implement the latest safety measures. Updates and guidance from the Task Force will continue to be provided and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#).

MCPS Athletics Piloting Digital Ticketing Service

MCPS Athletics is piloting an online ticketing platform for all athletic events during the winter season. [GoFan](#) offers fast and easy access to tickets for high school events, and allows fans to enter games quickly and safely. For the winter season, the following ticketing adjustments have been made:

- There is now only one ticket price across all events: $5 for all spectators 11 and older (cash price is $5/ticket; the GoFan price is $4, plus a $1 convenience fee)*
- All children 10 and under will now be admitted free with a paying adult.
- Middle school students must purchase a ticket and be accompanied by a paying adult.
- Senior citizens over the age of 62 are still admitted without charge to regular season contests.
- Current and retired MCPS employees (and one guest) are still admitted free to regular season contests, per existing COVID-19 protocols and space availability.
- MCPS and Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association passes will be honored, per existing COVID-19 protocols and space availability.

Schools can also choose to accept cash at the door. In instances when GoFan will be exclusively used, schools will let their communities know in advance. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase season tickets. For the winter season, the cost is $40 for adults and $24 for students. Information on season tickets is available at the local school.

Season tickets are valid for the home school’s regular season events only. More information is available in the [Winter 2021-2022 Spectator & Game-Day Guidelines](#).

Middle School Athletics

Opening day of the winter season for middle school athletics is January 6th. Winter sports include boys’ and girls’ basketball. Schedules are available on the MCPS website on the [middle school athletics web page](#).

Rescue One will conduct CPR/AED training sessions for middle school coaches on March 1, 2, 3 and 7, 2022. [Registration information](#) can be found on the [Systemwide Safety Programs](#) webpage.

The boys’ and girls’ soccer coaches’ meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2022, via the MCPS Zoom platform, at 3:30 pm.

Did You Know…

MCPS Fall 2021 athletic teams won a total of 80 championships, including four state titles, eight state semifinal appearances, 22 regional championships, 43 division or county championships, and three student-athletes won individual state championships. [Walter Johnson](#) won the 4A Girls’ State Cross Country Championship, [Quince Orchard](#) won the 4A State Football Championship, [Poolesville](#) won the 2A/1A Boys’ State Golf Championship, and [Walt Whitman](#) won the 4A Girls’ Soccer State Championship! Additionally, [Varr Higgins](#) (Bethesda-Chevy Chase) won the 4A Girls’ State Cross Country Championship, [Daisy Dastrup](#) (Poolesville) won the 2A Girls’ State Cross Country Championship, and [Olivia Cong](#) (Poolesville) won the 2A/1A Girls’ State Golf Championship! #WeRAISE

#WeRAISE @MCPSAthletics @mcpsAD