

An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Winter 2021–22 ♦ Issue 14



“Leading from the heart builds relationships and relationships are the core of leadership!”

~Deb Hult

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

Director’s Message

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

COACHES’ CORNER

Fall County Championships Update

During the Fall 2021 postseason, MCPS successfully piloted implementation of county championship games in field hockey, boys’ and girls’ soccer, and girls’ volleyball. Congratulations to the following high schools for winning county championships!

- **Field Hockey**
 - Winston Churchill
- **Boys’ Soccer (co-champions)**
 - Walter Johnson
 - Northwest
- **Girls’ Soccer**
 - Thomas S. Wootton
- **Girls’ Volleyball**
 - Thomas S. Wootton

As part of the pilot implementation, county championships will also be conducted for basketball, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Feedback will continue to be collected throughout the school year.

Spring Preseason Coaches’ Meetings

The high school spring preseason coaches’ meetings will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, via the MCPS Zoom platform. A general session for all spring coaches will be held from 3:30–4:30 p.m. followed by sport-specific breakout sessions from 4:30–5:30 p.m.

MPSSAA Hosts Rules Interpretation Clinics



Coaches are highly encouraged to complete the MPSSAA online rules interpretation clinic for their respective sport. Additional information can be found on the

[MPSSAA Rules Interpretation Clinics](#) webpage of the [MPSSAA](#) website.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS’ SPOTLIGHT

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

Athletic Program Updates

Save the Date!

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](#).

- The Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries (PE-22) winter weekend session is being held February 26th-27th and the New Coaches Seminar will be February 24th.
- **Spring Online Registration** for high school athletics will open on January 31, 2022 via the myMCPS Parent Portal.
- **Spring Online Registration** for middle school athletics will open on February 1, 2022 via the myMCPS Parent Portal.
- The MCPS **Pompons** Championship Competition will be held at Montgomery Blair HS on February 5, 2022.
- The MCPS **Bocce** Championship Tournament will be held at Paint Branch HS on February 5, 2022.
- The MCPS **Wrestling** Championship Tournament will be held at Gaithersburg HS on Friday, February 18 and Saturday, February 19, 2022.
- The inaugural MCPS **Basketball** County Championships will be held at Richard Montgomery HS on February 23, 2022.
- Refer to the [MPSSAA Website](#) for region and state finals dates!

#WeRAISE

Coaches, student-athletes, athletic directors, 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](#).



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, **Varri 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](#)

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