An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Winter 2020–21 ♦ Issue 10



"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 – Despite the challenges and obstacles created by COVID-19, student-athletes, coaches, athletics specialists, athletic coordinators and stakeholders across MCPS Athletics continue to thrive. I

continue to be amazed by the resiliency of our student-athletes and the commitment and dedication of all those who support them. The fall and winter virtual seasons have provided meaningful and engaging opportunities for student-athletes – from conversations around race, equity and social justice, to the Women in Sports Series, to the Careers in Sports Series, each session has allowed for student-athletes to expand their experiences in sports and beyond. As we head towards second semester, please know the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics continues to plan for the safe return of in-person activities, which will commence when health metrics allow and in alignment with the return of students to schools. We will provide ongoing updates on our website and social media platforms. In the meantime, we look forward to a successful spring virtual season that will run through January 22, 2021. I wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season and all the best as we head into 2021!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics! - Jeff

COACHES' CORNER

We Can, We Will, We RAISE

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the <u>R.A.I.S.E. Reimagined</u> framework, middle and high school coaches in the MCPS Athletics program continue to embrace a positive mindset founded on the following charges:

We CAN – MCPS coaches continue to focus on what **CAN** be done throughout the pandemic, to elevate student-athletes.

We WILL – MCPS coaches continue to be innovative and create the GREATEST possible experience for our student-athletes throughout the school year.

We RAISE – MCPS coaches continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to our R.A.I.S.E. core values of MCPS Athletics.

Professional Development for Coaches

All coaches, athletics specialists, athletic coordinators, and athletic department personnel must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online course entitled COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators prior to the start of in-person activities and/or the season.



The Fall and Winter Rules Clinics for MPSSAA sports are available through NFHSlearn.

ATHLETIC SPECIALISTS' SPOTLIGHT

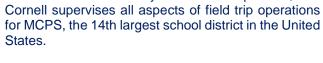
Maryland State Athletic Directors Association (MSADA) Award Winners

The Maryland State Athletic Directors Association announced two MCPS award winners: **Ms. Anne Rossiter**, currently Compliance Specialist for Systemwide Athletics, was named the **Maryland State Co-Athletic Director of the Year** and **Ms. Georgia Cornell**, long-time Senior Field Trip Coordinator in the MCPS Department of Transportation, was awarded the **Distinguished Service Award** for her unwavering support of the MCPS Athletics program. We look forward to celebrating them at the 2021 MSADA Conference in April!

Ms. Rossiter was recently named the Compliance Specialist for the MCPS athletics program. Ms. Rossiter previously served as the athletic director at Northwest High School. During her tenure as athletic director, Ms. Rossiter led the Jaguars' athletics program to success in all aspects of program operations.



Ms. Cornell has served MCPS for the past 47 years, all of which have been in the department of transportation. During that time, she has spent 30 years as the senior field trip coordinator for the school system. In this position, Ms.





Georgia Cornell's commitment to service and excellence is second to none. With the sheer number of buses running on a daily basis, the transportation operations for field trips run smoothly and efficiently. In the rare instance of an issue, Ms. Cornell is quick to troubleshoot and find a solution, keeping buses rolling

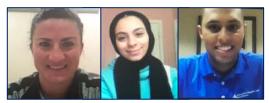
so the games may go on. In doing so, one can see her smile over the phone, as her positive energy can be felt by all who are fortunate to interact with her.

All in the MCPS Athletics Nation unanimously agree that Ms. Cornell exhibits an unwavering dedication to MCPS athletics and takes prides in ensuring that each and every bus arrives on time to safely transport student-athletes to their destination. Ms. Cornell exemplifies the vision, mission, and R.A.I.S.E. core values of the MCPS athletics program.

Students Who R.A.I.S.E.

MCPS Athletics Launches Speaker Series

During the fall virtual athletic season, representatives from the Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) served as moderators for the MCPS Athletics speaker



series. Miss Marvam Higazi, High Sherwood School SALC representative, made history moderating the first webinar in the speaker series, "Reconditioning the Fall Athlete" with Ms. Katie Brodka, Manager Athletic of

Services, Medstar Health Medicine, and Mr. Darin Moore, Athletic Training Program Supervisor, Adventist Health Care. **#WeCAN**, **WeWill**, **WeRAISE**

In addition, the following SALC representatives moderated webinars during the fall virtual athletic season:

| SALC Representative | High School | Speaker Session |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Mr. Arvinder Singh | Paint Branch | RAISE Your Game Mr. Alan Stein, Jr. |
| Miss Elise Kinyanjui | Montgomery Blair | Finding Your Cool Ms. Joanna Lohman |
| Miss Senys Ramirez-Cisneros | Northwood | What is Your Why? Mr. Omari Pearson |
| Mr. Tyler Chapman | Walt Whitman | Defining Leadership Ms. Deb Hult |
| Miss Chiamaka Nwankwo | Watkins Mill | COVID-19 & Athletics Mr. Alan Stein, Jr. |

B.R.I.D.G.E.S. for Coaches & Student-Athletes

B.R.I.D.G.E.S. for
Student-Athletes:
A Conversation About
Privilege, Race & Equity

Presented by the MCPS Athletics Equity and Social Justice
Committee with student guest moderators from The Minority
Scholars Program (MSP)

The MCPS Athletics Equity and Social Justice Committee collaborated with the MCPS Minority Scholars Program (MSP) to facilitate the inaugural "A Conversation about Privilege, Race, and Equity" session for hundreds of student-athletes and coaches. The conversations focused on fostering positive athletic experiences and removing barriers

to ensure equitable and inclusive programming that unifies MCPS schools and supports social justice in the global community. Thank you to all the coaches and student-athletes who shared their voice in these conversations.

Women in Sports Speaker Series

Under the leadership of Ms. Amanda Twele, Athletics Specialist, John F. Kennedy HS, along with fellow colleagues, Ms. Rita Boule, Montgomery Blair HS, Ms. Gina Grubb, Poolesville HS, Ms. Lisa Magness, Watkins Mill HS and Ms. Heather Podosek, Paint Branch HS, MCPS Athletics unveiled the *Women in Sports* speaker series in late October. The first of a two-part series, featured MCPS alumni and their experiences with athletics after graduating high school. The "Next Level Athlete" series was moderated by Miss Bami Odubayo, John F. Kennedy HS, and featured the following MCPS alumni:

- Ms. Amy Defnet Poolesville HS, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Field Hockey
- Ms. Hope Gouterman Sherwood HS, University of Maryland Soccer
- Ms. Dominique Wright John F. Kennedy HS, US Naval Academy Lacrosse, Track & Field
- Ms.Thea LaFond John F. Kennedy HS, University of Maryland Track & Field, 2016 Summer Olympian

R.A.I.S.E. Outs!

Miss Caroline Orza, Bethesda-Chevy Chase SALC representative and Mr. Vaibhav Jah, Magruder SALC representative, participated with Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Jason Campbell, Athletics Specialist, Northwest High School, and Mr. Haroot Hakopian, Girls' Soccer Coach, Winston Churchill High School in creating a promotional video for the Virtual Athletic Seasons. Check it Out!

Shout Out to the following SALC representatives for being featured in the NFHS <u>Spread the Change</u> nationwide challenge on promoting social justice:

- Miss Bami Odubayo, John F. Kennedy HS
- Mr. Arvinder Singh, Paint Branch HS

Congratulations to the following Athletics Specialists for earning the Certified Master of Athletic Administrator designation National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association (NIAAA):

- Mr. Dan Feher, Springbrook HS
- Ms. Heather Podosek, Paint Branch HS
- Mr. Andy Wetzel, Walt Whitman HS

Congratulations to the following MCPS coaches for being selected as the 2019–20 NFHS Maryland State High School Coaches of the Year.

The recipients of this year's awards are:

Girls' Cross Country

Mr. Herb Tolbert, Gaithersburg HS

Girls' Lacrosse

Ms. Jennifer Holiday Mohr, Quince Orchard HS

Girls' Soccer

Mr. Haroot Hakopian, Winston Churchill HS

Softball

Mr. Louis Hoelman, Montgomery Blair HS

Girls' Swimming

Mr. Jon Leong, Poolesville HS

Boys' Basketball

Mr. Darnell Myers, Springbrook HS

Boys' Golf

Mr. Randy Berger, Gaithersburg HS

Boys' Soccer

Mr. Eric Cava, Gaithersburg HS

Boys' Swimming & Diving

Mr. Chris Tappis, Winston Churchill HS

Boys' Tennis

Mr. Jasen Gohn, Walt Whitman HS

Did You Know...

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) provides four levels of certification for both high and middle school athletic administrators, including the Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA), Registered Middle School Athletic Administrator (RMSAA), Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA), and the Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA). Currently, MCPS is employing eight CMAA's, twelve CAA's, one RMSAA, and seven RAA's. #WeRAISE



