

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

September 2, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Fall Sports and Instrumental Music Courses (07-14-20-01-E)

During the *Recovery of Education Plan* discussion, Board members requested information regarding the following:

Question E

Mrs. Smondrowski requested that staff establish a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that can be disseminated to parents regarding the current plan, including the handling of fall sports and instrumental music courses.

Response

In early July 2020, staff in the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools (OTLS) collaborated to create guidance documents to encourage robust activities, opportunities for student engagement, and rigorous instruction. At its August 6, 2020, meeting, Mrs. Shella B. Cherry, director, Student Leadership and Extracurricular Activities; Dr. Randy J. Rumpf, supervisor, Pre-K–12 Fine Arts; and Dr. Jeffrey K. Sullivan, director, Systemwide Athletics, presented a draft overview to the Board of Education. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will offer a robust extracurricular activities program during the first and second semesters of the 2020–2021 school year. Virtual experiences will be featured during the first semester and in-person engagement, if health metrics allow, will be featured during the second semester.

OTLS staff currently is crafting a memorandum for principals that will outline procedures for stipends, engagement expectations, and administrative processes for the 2020–2021 school year. A teacher work group has been convened to create sample alternative options for extracurricular activities. Once approved, OTLS staff will include FAQs documents for all stakeholders.

Currently, as part of the Fine Arts curriculum, draft instructional guidance for instrumental music has been developed in collaboration with teacher work groups as part of the [Virtual Fine Arts Instructional Guidance for 2020-2021](#). As part of the guidance document, FAQs will address

elementary beginning instrumental music; secondary ensembles; sharing of class sets of guitars and piano; collection, cleaning, and distribution of instruments; and suggested activities to approach instruction beyond the large ensemble performance experiences.

Information regarding systemwide athletics, including FAQs, is available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) page on the MCPS website. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletics Association will release further guidance on the two-semester model of operations for interscholastic athletics. The Reimagineers of MCPS Athletics are in full swing designing all aspects of the virtual experience during the first semester—design teams consist of athletics specialists, sport leaders, student-athletes, and coaches. During the planning phase, every coach in systemwide athletics will be invited to participate in the planning and design of the experience. A survey, which has been released to the MCPS sports community, will capture feedback regarding ideas, speakers, and desired experiences during the virtual semester. Registration for the fall season began the week of August 24, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Niki T. Hazel, associate superintendent for curriculum and instructional programs, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools, via e-mail.

JRS:JSW:NTH:smw

Copy to:

Executive Staff
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