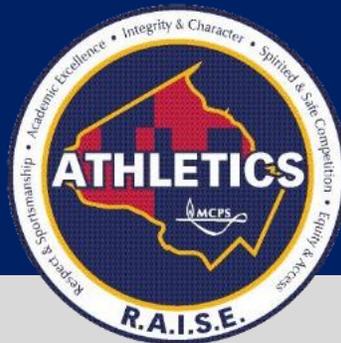


An Insight into MCPS Athletics

FALL 2020 ♦ Issue 9



*“INJUSTICE anywhere,
is a threat to JUSTICE
everywhere.”*

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Director’s Message

MCPS Sports Nation – To begin, I hope you and yours are safe and well and that your school year is off to a great start! While we continue to face challenging times, I am inspired by the collective efforts of stakeholders across MCPS Athletics, as we have reimagined the experience for our student-athletes during the upcoming school year. The virtual delivery of our program was created by our design teams of R.A.I.S.E. Reimaginers, who used feedback from our survey, input from coaches, and, most importantly, student voice to shape virtual activities and experiences. We look forward to the return of in-person engagement for our student-athletes, when health metrics allow and in alignment with MCPS operations. More information will be shared real-time, as we prepare for the in-person formal seasons during the second semester. Please know our paramount priority is the health and safety of our student-athletes and stakeholders. Finally, we are excited to debut committees that will assist in enhancing operations across our program, including our Equity and Social Justice Committee. This committee of self-named “change agents” has begun their efforts by designing experiences during the virtual seasons for students to engage and support our efforts around equity, social justice, and anti-racism across MCPS Athletics and beyond. We look forward to this engagement and the rest of the opportunities for our student-athletes to excel during the school year. We invite you to join us in embracing our mindset of We CAN, We WILL, We R.A.I.S.E.!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics – Jeff

COACHES’ CORNER

MCPS R.A.I.S.E. Reimaginers – Thank you!

During the summer, the MCPS Athletics Unit convened a group of individuals to plan and develop the virtual seasons. We recognize the enormous efforts that our athletics specialists and coordinators, sport directors, district reps, coaches, and members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Council have made on creating the greatest virtual experience for all of MCPS Athletics. The group was named the MCPS R.A.I.S.E. Reimaginers! Thank you to all the Reimaginers for supporting student-athletes during the pandemic. #WeRAISE

Guest Speaker Series

The R.A.I.S.E. Reimaginers recognized the importance of addressing the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of students-athletes. They developed a series of guest speakers, including the following individuals. The Systemwide engagement portion invited the MCPS athletic trainers to discuss “Reconditioning the Athlete”, as well as hosting Alan, Stein, Omari Pearson and Deb Hult, who are nationally known motivational speakers. The Equity and Social Justice Committee is also designing activities for all MCPS athletes. Sport-specific engagement features officials, college coaches, as well as former athletes engaging with our athletes. MCPS also developed a Career in Sports and a Women in Sports series to broaden our horizons and enhance our core values. Together #WeRAISE

R.A.I.S.E. Reimagined

We CAN, We Will, We R.A.I.S.E.

During the 2020–2021 school year, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) athletics program will be administered virtually and in-person, if state and county health metrics allow. [The R.A.I.S.E. Reimagined plan](#) provides MCPS athletics stakeholders with guidance on implementing the virtual athletic seasons during semester one of the virtual-only educational model for distance learning. In addition, MCPS Athletics will align with the non-athletic extracurricular activities to recognize secondary students for commitment in participation in a wide range of MCPS Athletic and Extracurricular Activities. Students will be recognized for various levels of commitment, as outlined below, with the **MCPS Certificate of Student Engagement**.

Type of Certificate	Description
 MCPS Bronze Certificate of Student Engagement	Students successfully participate in 1-3 various athletic and/or extracurricular activities
 MCPS Silver Certificate of Student Engagement	Students successfully participate in 4-6 various athletic and/or extracurricular activities
 MCPS Gold Certificate of Student Engagement	Students successfully participate in 7+ various athletic and/or extracurricular activities

Virtual Seasons - Athletic Registration

All students participating in the fall, winter, and spring virtual seasons, as part of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program, must complete the online registration process. Registration is done electronically through the school specific athletics registration link posted on the school’s website or through the [High School Registration Links](#) or [Middle School Registration Links](#) posted on the [MCPS R.A.I.S.E. Reimagined webpage](#).

COVID-19 Updates

MCPS is working collaboratively with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), with guidance from the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS), the Maryland State Department of Education, and state and local health officials to safely return student-athletes to the playing fields. In the meantime, check out the COVID-19 updates on the [MCPS Athletics webpage](#).

MCPS ATHLETICS LEADERS SPOTLIGHT

Save the Date!

NIAAA Recognizes Dr. Sullivan

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) recently recognized Dr. Sullivan as the recipient of the Maryland State Award of Merit. This award is presented to an NIAAA member who demonstrates outstanding leadership, **meritorious service** and achievement in the vocation of interscholastic athletics administration. Congratulations Dr. Sullivan! #WeRAISE



MCPS Athletics Announces Hiring of Compliance Specialist



MCPS Athletics is proud to announce the selection of Ms. Anne Rossiter as the Compliance Specialist for the MCPS athletics program. Ms. Rossiter joins the systemwide Athletics Unit after serving as the athletic director at Northwest High School for the past eight years. In her new role as Compliance Specialist, Ms. Rossiter looks forward to championing equity and social justice across the

MCPS athletics program and supporting school-based staff members with ensuring compliance with MCPS and MPSSAA procedures and regulations. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Ms. Rossiter as the new Compliance Specialist for MCPS Athletics!

MCPS Athletics Unveils the Together We R.A.I.S.E. Distributed Leadership Model

The Together We RAISE Distributive Leadership Model debuted during the Annual High School Athletics Scheduling workshop held via Zoom this past July. Athletics specialists and coaches launched several **new** committees, designed to enhance the excellence, efficiency, and energy in the delivery of the interscholastic athletics program. The Equity and Social Justice won The new committees are (drumroll please):

- After-school Design Team
- Athletics Specialist Standards
- Coaches Task Force
- Competitions and County Championships
- COVID-19
- Equity and Social Justice
- New Athletics Specialist Mentoring Committee
- Professional Development and Meetings
- Promotions and Social Media
- Sportsmanship
- Technology Innovation



Stay tuned for committee updates in future editions of the We R.A.I.S.E. Report.

- High School Fall Virtual Season begins 9/14/20 and finishes 10/16/20.
- Athletics Registration for the High School Fall Virtual Season closes on 9/9/20.
- Middle School Fall Virtual Season begins 9/21/20 and finishes October 9, 2020.
- Athletics Registration for the Middle School Fall Virtual Season closes on 9/16/20.
- The Student-Athlete Leadership Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, September 9, 2020 via Zoom at 3:30 p.m.
- The Fall Middle School Coaches Preseason Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2020 via Zoom.
 - Softball Coaches – 3:30 pm
 - General Session – 4 pm
 - Cross Country Coaches – 4:30 pm
- PE-22 Care and Prevention Course will take place virtually on 11/7/20 and 11/8/20. New Coaches Seminar will take place virtually on 11/4/20 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Be sure to check out the [MCPS Athletics Webpage](#) for more information on MCPS Athletics!

#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

MCPS Athletics is excited to welcome two new athletic coordinators for the 2020-2021 academic year: Mr. Isaiah Chambers, Briggs Chaney and Ms. Jamie Kaufman, Forest Oak. Welcome to the MCPS Athletics Family!

Thank you to the following athletic coordinators for serving as design team leads for the R.A.I.S.E. Reimagineers:

- Ryan Bingaman (Silver Creek) & Kim Gerrie (Poole MS)–Cross Country
- Eric Franklin (Argyle) and Jacqui South (Shady Grove)–Softball
- Brendan Flanagan (Parkland), Kristin Pierse (Wood), Emily Reuter (North Bethesda)–Basketball
- Melanie Brouillard (Rocky Hill) and Mike Endler (Sligo)–Soccer