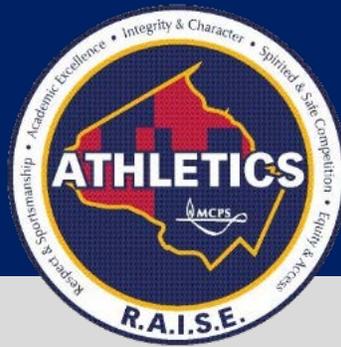


# An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Winter 2019 ♦ Issue 2



*“Positivity is like a boomerang.  
The more we put it out there, the  
more it comes back to us.”*

– Jon Gordon

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

### Director’s Message

MCPS Sports Nation – We are at the halfway point of our athletic calendar and, similar to halftime of a game, this is the perfect time to pause and reflect on our **goals and initiatives**. Our student-athletes and our R.A.I.S.E. core values form the core of our program. In this regard, thanks to the collective efforts of you, we successfully launched our **Promoting a Positive Culture** presentation, which is now delivered at the start of each season. Additionally, this past fall, we engaged our leaders across MCPS athletics in two unique professional development opportunities, as **high school athletic directors** met with **middle school athletic coordinators** and MCPS athletic directors hosted a retreat with athletic directors from **Frederick County**. Both provided unique opportunities for our leadership to further their efforts in serving coaches, student-athletes, and their broader school communities. As we open the second half, we strive to start strong with the unveiling of an enhanced systemwide plan and template for **afterschool supervision** and building the foundation for a **student-athlete leadership council**. Thank you for your ongoing efforts on behalf of our student-athletes. We look forward to a strong finish! Together **#WeRAISE** MCPS Athletics! – Jeff

### COACHES’ CORNER

#### Promoting a Positive Culture

The MCPS athletics program is committed to providing student-athletes with a safe and respectful environment consistent with our R.A.I.S.E. core values and mission of the MCPS athletics program. Prior to the start of each season, MCPS coaches convene team meetings to discuss the promotion of a positive culture and review **resources** regarding hazing, harassment, and bullying included in the newly enhanced **MCPS Student-Athlete Health and Safety PowerPoint**.

#### New R.A.I.S.E. Banners!



New banners promoting our R.A.I.S.E. core values have been unveiled in our high school gymnasiums. Middle schools will be receiving banners later this year!

#### Spring Preseason Coaches’ Meetings

The spring preseason coaches’ meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at Northwest HS. A general session for all spring coaches will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the auditorium followed by sport-specific breakout sessions from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### ATHLETIC DIRECTORS’ SPOTLIGHT

#### Highlighting our Supervision Action Plan

An action plan enhancing the supervision of student-athletes across the MCPS athletics program is being designed with principals and athletic directors at the annual joint meeting of MCPS principals and athletic directors on January 17, 2019. Athletic directors and coaches are expected to know and effectively implement strategies that will ensure the appropriate supervision of student-athletes before, during, and after athletic contests, practices, and team activities. This includes implementing systems and procedures that ensure that facilities are supervised and safe, while setting expectations for student-athletes and parents to support the supervision plan.

#### The Doctor Is In!

Jeffrey K. Sullivan, director of systemwide athletics, successfully defended his dissertation *“The Impact of Athletic Participation on the Academic Performance and Persistence to Graduation of African American and Latino Male Urban High School Student-Athletes.”* Dr. Sullivan graduated in December 2018 from Howard University with a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Educational Administration. Congratulations Dr. Sullivan!



#### Remember the Alamo!

Dr. Sullivan, Ms. Kathy Green, athletics specialist, and several MCPS athletic directors, recently attended the National Athletic Directors Conference in San Antonio, 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 afterschool supervision to artificial turf. Ms. Green moderated a session on “Integrating Student Media in Athletic Department Productions.”



### Seasonal Health & Safety Tip

Did you know that **Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)** is a type of highly contagious skin infection that does not commonly respond to antibiotics? For more information, be sure to visit the **health & safety page** on the MCPS athletics website!

# Alumni Who R.A.I.S.E.

## Player, Coach, Official

Ms. Izzy Kessler, 2014 graduate of Bethesda Chevy Chase (B-CC) High School, served as team captain of the varsity bocce team, which won the 2013 MCPS Bocce Championship and the 2014 Special Olympics Maryland State Tournament. After graduation, Ms. Kessler's competitive spirit and passion for the sport of bocce quickly excelled her into a successful coaching career at her alma mater, B-CC (1 county and 3 state championships) and then at Walt Whitman High School



(1 division and 1 county championship). The next phase of her professional career has brought her into officiating. Izzy states, "after four years of playing and four years of coaching, I thought I would stay involved in the sport through a new angle by becoming a referee. As a player, I had to focus on my own performance, as a coach I concentrated on my team's performance, now, as a referee, I focus on both teams and both coaches, so I am seeing the game of bocce from a new perspective!" To learn more about Izzy's journey from student-athlete, to coach, to official, be sure to watch and share our latest episode of [MCPS Sports Insight!](#)



Want to join Izzy in the officials' ranks? The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is currently registering officials in numerous sports. If you are interested in officiating public high school interscholastic athletics, are at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate, the opportunity is only a [click away!](#)

# Save the Date!

- The Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries (PE-22) winter session begins January 31, 2019.
- **Spring Online Registration** will open on February 1, 2019 via the MCPS Parent Portal.
- The MCPS **Pompons** Championship Competition will be held at Montgomery Blair HS on February 2, 2019.
- The MCPS **Bocce** Championship Tournament will be held at Paint Branch HS on February 9, 2019.
- The MCPS **Wrestling** Championship Tournament will be held at Gaithersburg HS on Friday, February 15 and Saturday, February 16, 2019.

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

CPR/AED training sessions for MCPS middle school athletics have been scheduled with Rescue One for February 12, 27, and 28, 2019. Coaches should consult with their athletic coordinator for registration details.

The boys' and girls' soccer coaches' meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2019 at CESC; the meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Opening day of the winter season for middle school athletics was January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Winter sports include boys' and girls' basketball. Schedules are available on the MCPS website on the [middle school athletics web page](#). Good luck to all teams this season!



## Did You Know...

MCPS Fall 2018 athletic teams won a total of 71 championships, including three state championships, 12 district or regional championships, 45 division or county championships, and 11 sectional championships. **Quince Orchard** won the 4A Football State Championship, **Walt Whitman** won the 4A Boys' Soccer State Championship, and **Northwest** won the 4A Girls' Volleyball State Championship for a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! Additionally, **Obsaa Feda (Northwood)** won the 4A Boys' State Cross Country Championship and the **Poolesville** High School cross country team won the MPSSAA Sportsmanship Award! [#WeRAISE](#)

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