



MCPS ATHLETICS

RETURN to R.A.I.S.E.

Update—May 7, 2021

Dear MCPS Community:

The MCPS athletics program is in full swing - today is opening day for spring sports, while winter engagement for returning seniors and the middle school winter/spring combination season begin next week! We appreciate the collective efforts across the program to our safety protocols and procedures. Following are the updates and reminders for this week.

Spring Sports and Winter Engagement Competition Guidelines

Competition guidelines for spring sports and winter engagement opportunities are available [here](#). These guidelines are a supplement to the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#). All sports and activities will comply with the latest Montgomery County [Board of Health Regulation](#), the MPSSAA [Winter](#) and [Spring Sports Bulletins](#), and MCPS guidelines that have been established through the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. Two spectators will be allowed per student-athlete, if facilities allow, per the approved [spectator plan](#) for MCPS Athletics.

Spring Schedules

Schedules for spring sports have been updated and are available on [countysportszone.com](#). Please be sure to visit the website, as several changes were made to accommodate all schools and programs in order to maximize participation opportunities. Information regarding the postseason and state competition (June 7-19) will be communicated when confirmed after May 19, 2021.

Winter Engagement and Senior Showcases

Winter engagement opportunities for returning seniors will begin next week. An overview of the engagement plan is available [here](#). Coaches will be communicating directly with student-athletes to provide practice and scrimmage locations and logistics. Following two weeks of practices, senior showcase scrimmages will occur during the week of May 24 for basketball and wrestling. Thank you sport directors and coaches for your efforts in organizing these opportunities for our student-athletes.

Middle School Athletics

The fall season sports of cross country and softball are in the books. Next week, the winter/spring combination season begins! The season (boys' & girls' soccer and basketball) will occur May 11-27, 2021. Program offerings continue to be virtual, in-person or hybrid (a combination of in-person and virtual), depending on the availability of coaches and the registration of student-athletes. All in-person programming and activities will continue to occur in alignment with guidelines and protocols approved by the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. More information is available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#). Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletic coordinator](#) (AC) or coach.

Collective Commitment

We must continue to demonstrate a collective commitment to our [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#) COVID-19 protocols and procedures. Student-athletes must do their part and hold each other accountable, coaches must enforce expectations and support student-athletes, and athletics specialists, athletic coordinators, and other staff members need to support the overall administration and operations of the program. Additionally, we need the continued assistance of the community to promote safety protocols throughout the remainder of the school year.

Communication and Resources

Our 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 on a weekly basis through each school's athletic department and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#). The [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#) provides operating procedures and safety protocols that are being utilized; the plan has been updated for the spring season and winter engagement opportunities.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator \(AC\)](#), or coach.

Montgomery County Public Schools