

What Do Students and Parents/Guardians Need to Know?

Helpful Information for Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians
(The following information is placed on the Athletics website)

MCPS Philosophy

MCPS believes participation in interscholastic athletics supports the overall mission of the school district to ensure that every student will have the academic, creative problem solving, and social emotional skills to be successful in college and career. The MCPS philosophy of interscholastic athletics is founded in our vision, mission, purpose, and R.A.I.S.E. core values, which were established in July 2017.

Vision

We promote academic excellence, athletic achievement, positive sportsmanship, and upstanding citizenship by providing the greatest education-based interscholastic athletics program.

Mission

Every student-athlete will attain the mental, moral, physical, and social-emotional skills to excel in the classroom, community, and the realm of competition.

Purpose

To provide an innovative education-based interscholastic athletics program that maximizes diverse participation through a commitment to equity and access.

R.A.I.S.E. Core Values

Respect & Sportsmanship

Academic Excellence

Integrity & Character

Spirited, Safe Competition

Equity & Access



Tryout Dates for the 2019–2020 School Year

The following are the tryout dates/first practice dates for all fall, winter, and spring sports.

- August 14–17, 2019 – Fall Sports* (Equipment may be distributed on August 13th)
- November 15, 2019 – Winter Sports
- February 29, 2020 – Spring Sports

*Fall teams have the option of starting tryouts as early as August 14th. Teams must begin tryouts no later than August 17th.

For all sports except golf, the first contest is approximately three weeks after the first practice.

Required Reading and Required Forms

During the online registration process for athletics students and parents/guardians must review and submit the following information prior to participating in practices or tryouts. Materials and resources are obtainable on the MCPS Athletics website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics> and/or from the local school.

Required Reading:

During the online registration process, parents/guardians must review the following materials, all of which can be found on the document entitled *Required Safety-Related Forms, Documents, and Courses* under the heading of *Parents/Student-Athletes – Required Forms and Required Reading* in the *Health and Safety* section of the MCPS Athletics website.

- Concussion Information for Parents
- Baseline Testing Parent Letter
- Head's Up Concussions: A Fact Sheet for Parents
- Head's Up Concussions: A Fact Sheet for Athletes
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information for Parents
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Frequently Asked Questions.

Required Forms/Information:

The myMCPS Parent Portal incorporates all previously required paper forms and documents into an internet-based platform that you can access using your secure myMCPS Parent Portal login. The following forms are completed during the online registration process.

- *Student-Parent Participation Contract and Parent Permission.* This includes information that student-athletes and parents are required to review, including reference to the Health/Safety section of the MCPS Athletics website. This information must be submitted for each sport in which the student wishes to participate and is available in Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.
- *Pre-participation Physical Evaluation.* The Pre-participation Physical Evaluation is valid for one year from the date of the exam, and covers participation for all sports within that time period. Students submit only the last page to the school/coach (Medical Eligibility Form). Schools keep the form on file. Parents/guardians are also able to scan and upload their student's physical as part of the online registration process.
- *Emergency Medical Card.* Student-athletes and parent/guardians complete emergency medical information during the online registration process for athletics. The myMCPS Portal generates electronic Emergency Medical Cards, which are provided to coaches and should be available at all practices and contests.
- *Consent Form – ImPACT Baseline Concussion Testing.* A baseline concussion test is required for all students prior to their initial participation in the MCPS athletics program. During the online registration process parents/guardians and student-athletes indicate that they are aware of the purpose of baseline testing and that they consent for their child to undergo baseline testing.
- *Pre-participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form.* This form indicates whether the student has previously suffered a concussion.
- *MPSSAA Concussion Awareness and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgement of Awareness Form.* This form indicates that the parent and student-athlete have received information regarding concussions.
- *Transportation Form.* This form is applicable whenever students are transported to games in cars.
- *Proof of Medical Insurance.* This form is only required for football.

Information

Important information regarding athletic participation, health and safety, and eligibility is included in the following sources, all of which are obtainable from the school and/or the MCPS Athletics website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics>.

- *Student Information*. This document includes four pages from the *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook* regarding a wide range of information affecting student-athletes, including eligibility, transfer rule, ejections, drug policies, attendance, etc.
- *Health and Safety*. Parents and students are required to review the Health/Safety section of the MCPS Athletics website. The information included in this section is very important to the safety and welfare of students.
- *Student's Rights and Responsibilities*. Distributed to all students early in the school year. Includes criteria for participation and school system rules and regulations.
- *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information*. Provides information on athletic participation including eligibility requirements.

Ticket Prices/Admissions

Information regarding ticket prices and season ticket options may be found in the Events section on the MCPS Athletics website.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is a primary mission of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program. MCPS has a comprehensive Sportsmanship Award Program in which parents and spectators are included in game ratings that ultimately decide schools and teams that win Sportsmanship Awards. Information regarding the MCPS Sportsmanship Award Program can be found on the General Information for Parents page of the MCPS Athletics website. Sportsmanship fundamentals include that:

- Fan support should be positive, respectful, and appropriate to a high school setting.
- Parents discuss issues and concerns with coaches at appropriate times. Avoid times immediately before or after games. Appointments are best.
- Comments that are discriminatory in any manner are unacceptable and should be reported immediately to school personnel. If you see something, say something.
- Spectators realize that officials must make judgment calls that are invariably disliked by one half of the fans. Accepting unfavorable calls by officials can be important learning opportunity for students.

Contest Cancellation

Contests may be cancelled countywide due to inclement weather conditions, or locally at a school due to adverse field/playing conditions. Local schools can provide necessary, updated information. Generally, when schools are cancelled, all athletic activities are cancelled. Countywide cancellation information can usually be found on the MCPS website, MCPS TV, @MCPSAthletics on Twitter, or local radio and television stations.