

An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Fall 2018 ♦ Issue 1



“Three things you control every day are your attitude, your effort, and your actions to be a great teammate.” – Jon Gordon

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

Director’s Message

the level of excellence across our program. To begin, I want to commend everyone for your efforts in managing the weather during August and September. From the extreme heat to the record rainfall, we came together to promote our core values of Spirited & Safe Competition and ensure that the games would go on! Additionally, we successfully registered over 11,000 high school students for fall sports through the online myMCPS Parent Portal! I appreciate the efforts of everyone, especially our athletic directors, in facilitating a smooth transition. We were also excited to bring together our high school athletic directors and middle school athletic coordinators to kick-off the fall season and engage in an afternoon of professional development. We have an exciting year ahead, so be sure to follow us real-time on Twitter @MCPSAthletics.

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics! – Jeff

MCPS Sports Nation – We are excited to debut the *R.A.I.S.E. Report* this fall, which will serve as the seasonal newsletter for MCPS athletics! Our newsletter will provide a brief overview of all of the things we do to RAISE

Coaches’ Corner

Athletics Logo Unveiled to Coaches



Our official logo depicted above was established in 2018 and is used to promote the MCPS athletics program. It was recently unveiled to MCPS coaches at our annual preseason meetings. The design incorporates the colors and components of the Montgomery County flag, along with an outline of the county and the MCPS logo. Our R.A.I.S.E. core values are proudly displayed in the outer rim of the logo.

Winter Preseason Coaches’ Meetings

The winter preseason coaches’ meetings will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at Northwest HS. A general session for all winter 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. Attendance at countywide preseason meetings is required for all high school varsity coaches; attendance for junior varsity and/or assistant coaches is optional but encouraged.

Athletic Directors’ Spotlight

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

The R.A.I.S.E. core values of the MCPS Athletics program teach and reinforce respect, sportsmanship, academic excellence, integrity and character, spirited and safe competition, and equity and access. It is expected that team personnel and spectators reinforce these values by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. MCPS presents Sportsmanship Awards in each sport to varsity teams whose team personnel and spectators best exhibit sportsmanship over the course of the season. The school whose teams have won the greatest number of team sportsmanship awards during the course of the year will be recognized as the William “Duke” Beattie Sportsmanship award champion for that year and will receive a monetary award. A list of award winners can be found on the [MCPS Athletics website](#).



Congratulations to Northwest High School for winning the 2017-2018 William “Duke” Beattie Sportsmanship Award. The Jaguars had 17 individual teams win sport-specific sportsmanship awards. Northwest Athletic Director, Anne Rossiter, accepted the award on behalf of Northwest at the annual joint meeting of athletic directors and police personnel.

Each August, the MCPS Athletics Unit conducts a joint meeting with MCPS athletic directors and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) to discuss strategies to promote safety and security across the MCPS athletics program. The Annual Athletic Director/Police meeting provides the opportunity for athletic directors to meet with police precinct representatives to review and discuss operations plans and address community concerns that merit the attention of athletic directors. We appreciate the continued support of MCPD and our MCPS Department of Safety and Security!

Seasonal Health & Safety Tip

Did you know that symptoms of heat exhaustion include excessive sweating, weakness or fatigue, dizziness and/or confusion, clammy skin, muscle cramps, and flushed complexion? For more information, check out the [health & safety page](#) on the MCPS Athletics website!

Students Who R.A.I.S.E.

The MCPS Athletics Unit hosted both a college and high school student intern this summer. Ms. Erin Hatcher, a [Summer RISE](#) program participant and Paint Branch High School student-athlete, spent three weeks in July working for the MCPS athletics department. Currently, she is a member of the varsity cheerleading squad and track & field team. Ms. Hatcher was instrumental in providing MCPS Athletics with a student-athlete voice in various meetings.



Erin & Ben

Mr. Ben Thoms, Quince Orchard Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Track & Field alum, joined the athletics team in May. Mr. Thoms is currently a senior at the University of South Carolina, where he competes on the track & field team and majors in Sport and Entertainment Management. Mr. Thoms' capstone project was creating the R.A.I.S.E. Report. Thank you Ben!

Gwen Boe, a senior at Poolesville High School, and Justin Rahr, a senior at Magruder High school, represented MCPS athletics at the National Federation of High School's (NFHS) [National Student-Leadership Summit \(NSLS\)](#) held this past July in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is the only national student leadership summit geared towards student-athletes. The NSLS focused on relevant and contemporary issues affecting today's students in education-based athletics.



Gwen & Justin with Mr. Elliot Hopkins, Director of Sports, Sanctioning of Student Services



National Federation of State High School Associations

Save the Date!

October 5, 2018

Televised Football Game QO @ PB 6:30 pm
Tune into: Comcast 998, Verizon 10

October 17, 2018

Televised Volleyball Game Sherwood @ Damascus HS, 6:30 pm
Tune into: Comcast 998, Verizon 10

October 25 & 27, 2018:

MCPS Cheer Championships at Blair HS
• 10/25/2018 - Division III
• 10/27/2018 - Divisions II & I

October 27, 2018:

MCPS Cross Country Championships at Gaithersburg HS

November 7, 2018:

MCPS Team Handball Championships (TBD)

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.

#Integrity & Character

@WarriorResults

@BlakeAthletics

Middle School Athletics

The inaugural joint meeting of high school athletic directors and middle school athletic coordinators was held at Richard Montgomery High School on Thursday, August 30, 2018. The meeting focused on promoting the Athletic Director and Athletic Coordinator relationship to cultivate the perspectives and experiences unique to ensuring success of athletic programs within each school community. Athletic directors and athletic coordinators discussed outreach strategies to assist eighth grade student-athletes with making the transition to high school athletics.

Opening day for middle school athletics was October 3rd; fall sports include coed cross country and boys' and girls' slow pitch softball. Schedules are available on the MCPS website in the [middle school athletics section](#).



Photo credit: Gary Peters

Did You Know....

So far this fall season, 532 high school athletic contests, meets, and matches have been postponed due to inclement weather. However, through a collaborative effort led by our athletic directors, over 90% of contests have been rescheduled, with artificial turf fields hosting 155 makeup games during September. Thank you ADs and MCPS Sports Nation for your support! #WeRAISE

#WeRAISE

@MCPSAthletics

@mcpsAD