

An Insight into MCPS Athletics

FALL 2023 ♦ Issue 21



*Sportsmanship
empowers everyone to
achieve high levels of
greatness.*

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

Director's Message

the leadership of Mr. Shawn Hendi, health and safety coordinator, also features a partnership with MedStar Health. Additionally, I want to commend our Student-Athlete Leadership Council, with support from Ms. Kathy Green, outreach and development coordinator and MCPSTV, for recording a PSA on expected behavior—what an amazing and powerful message! Also, we appreciate our principals and athletics specialists, who engaged in training on sport and special event risk management this summer. Finally, thank you for your continued support of our program!

MCPS Sports Nation – I hope you've had a great summer! We are excited to welcome our 25 certified athletic trainers to our high schools and debut our enhanced, innovative sports medicine program! This program, under the leadership of Mr. Shawn Hendi, health and safety coordinator, also features a partnership with MedStar Health. Additionally, I want to commend our Student-Athlete Leadership Council, with support from Ms. Kathy Green, outreach and development coordinator and MCPSTV, for recording a PSA on expected behavior—what an amazing and powerful message! Also, we appreciate our principals and athletics specialists, who engaged in training on sport and special event risk management this summer. Finally, thank you for your continued support of our program!

Together, #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics – Dr. Sullivan

COACHES' CORNER

MCPS County Championships

MCPS will conduct county championship games for the open tournament team sports of field hockey, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, softball, and boys' and girls' lacrosse. See the *Save the Date* section for dates, locations, and times of fall county championships.

SALC Welcomes Class of 2027 PSA

The MCPS Student-Athlete Leadership Council welcomes the Class of 2027 to high school this fall. Check out the Class of 2027 Welcome PSA – [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Incoming 9th graders are encouraged to get involved and show school spirit. All skill levels are welcome and MCPS Athletics Nation is here to support all students.

MCPS Coaching Vacancy Database

Montgomery County Public Schools hires innovative, diverse, and dynamic coaches to support more than 28,000 student-athletes competing across MCPS Athletics. The [High School Coach Vacancy Database](#) allows potential applicants to view coaching vacancies across all 25 high schools, prior to applying for a position on the [MCPS Careers Site](#).

Department of Athletics Spotlight

MCPS Athletics Shines at the National Student Leadership Summit

Eight members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) attended the 2023 National Federation of State High School Associations National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana. **Molly Lang** (James Hubert Blake), **Nikki Tjiputra** (Montgomery Blair), **Krishiv Gupta** (Gaithersburg), **Marisa Davenport**, **Nishtha Srivastava** (John F. Kennedy), **Folashade Epebin**, **Jackson Kaminski** (Seneca Valley) and **Andrea Eilers-Ruiz** (Walt Whitman) represented MCPS and

the state of Maryland at the conference and were able to capture some innovative leadership strategies that they will be sharing with the rest of the SALC during the school year. Way to go!



Athletics Safety Plan

The MCPS [Athletics Safety Plan](#) will continue to drive operations and procedures for athletic events, in order to promote a safe and welcoming environment for all. All varsity football games and other large events will operate in Tier 1 of the safety plan to start the fall season.

ADs & Principals Trained in Event Management

In July, high school principals and athletics specialists engaged in training for safety, security, and game administration and management, by completing the **Sport and Special Event Risk Management** course offered by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4), in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Student-Athlete Medical Advisory Committee Updates

MCPS Athletics will debut an enhanced sports medicine program beginning with the 2023–24 school year. The program will be directed by Mr. Shawn Hendi, the new Health and Safety Coordinator in the MCPS Department of Athletics, and includes a full-time certified athletic trainer in each high school, along with a partnership with MedStar Health. Stay tuned for more updates as the program evolves! #WeRAISE

Equity Engagement



Athletics specialists and Department of Athletics professional staff completed the Leadership Training Course 638: *Creating an Awareness of Diverse Groups within Athletic Programs*, offered by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Additionally staff toured the Sandy Spring Slave Museum. We appreciate the museum staff for hosting us!

Spirited Sportsmanship and Spectator Safety Week

For the 2023–2024 academic year, MCPS Athletics will conduct a “*Spirited Sportsmanship and Spectator Safety Week*”, during the first week of the fall, winter, and spring seasons, to promote our R.A.I.S.E. core values of respect and sportsmanship, and spirited and safe competition. The essence of each Spirited Sportsmanship and Spectator Safety Week will assist local school athletic departments with creating a culture of mutual respect and well-being for all athletic event participants.



Fall Officials Appreciation Week

Officiating is often referred to as a thankless avocation and MCPS athletic contests would not occur without the unwavering commitment of officials and referees. In conjunction with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), MCPS Athletics will celebrate Fall Officials Appreciation Week October 2–7, 2023. Please take time to *Thank a Ref* for letting the games go on!

#WeRAISE #ItStartsWithRespect #ThankYouOfficials

Media Protocols for MCPS Regular Season Athletic Events

Media credentialing ensures a safe environment for members of the press covering MCPS athletic events and are essential for easy identification and knowing who may be in our athletic facilities. As such, new [protocols](#) governing media coverage of MCPS athletic events went into effect on April 1, 2023.

Middle School Athletics

Welcome to the AC Family!

MCPS Athletics is excited to welcome new athletic coordinators for the 2023–2024 academic year:

- Barry Gibbons – North Bethesda
- Anthony Gomez – Forest Oak
- Jessica Shayuth – Kingsview



The [Middle School Searchable Schedule](#) allows you to search for your school’s schedule or an entire sport schedule for the county.

FALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHEERLEADING:

- October 28, 2023, at Montgomery Blair HS.
- Division III – 2:00 p.m.
 - Division II – 5:00 p.m.
 - Division I – 8:00 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY:

October 21, 2023, at Bohrer Park, 10:50 a.m.

FIELD HOCKEY:

October 23, 2023, at Montgomery Blair HS, 6 p.m.

BOYS' & GIRLS' SOCCER:

October 23, 2023, at Seneca Valley HS, Boys' 5:30 and Girls' 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

November 1, 2023, at Quince Orchard HS, 6 p.m.

CARE AND PREVENTION OF ATHLETIC INJURIES COURSE (PE-22)

The Care and Prevention Course (PE-22) will take place virtually on 11/6/23 and 11/8/23, in-person either 11/11/23 or 11/12/23. The New Coaches Seminar will take place in-person at Paint Branch HS on 11/14/23 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Check out the [MCPS Athletics Webpage](#) for more information on MCPS Athletics!

Coaches, student-athletes, athletics specialists, 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, #ItStartsWithRespect**

