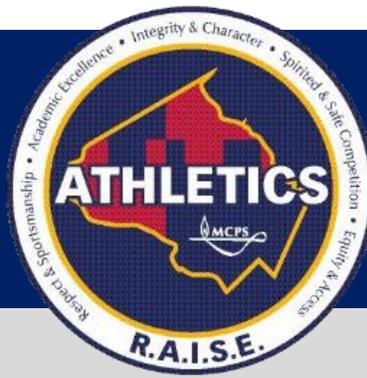


An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Spring 2020–21 ♦ Issue 11



“Leading from the heart builds relationships and relationships are the core of leadership!”

~Deb Hult

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

Director’s Message

for MCPS Athletics; this group has been meeting and planning since June 2020, to ensure that MCPS Athletics was ready to go every step of the way. We will continue to use our charge of **We CAN, We WILL, We R.A.I.S.E.** to drive program operations moving forward. The fall competition season comes to a close on April 17th, the same day the spring season begins, while we continue to plan and explore opportunities for winter sports engagement. In order to build on our momentum, we need every person to do their part—wear a mask, ensure social distancing, practice good hygiene, and make solid choices outside of athletics. We will continue to provide ongoing updates, as guidelines and operations are ever-changing. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Finally, we are excited to stream events live on the NFHS Network and appreciate the efforts of all who made this happen. I wish you and yours the best – we can’t wait to welcome everyone back to our campuses to support our student-athletes!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics! – Jeff

COACHES’ CORNER

NFHS Section Coach of the Year



Congratulations to Winston Churchill Varsity Soccer Coach, Mr. Haroot Hakopian, for being selected by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Coaches Association to receive the 2019–20 Mid-east Section Girls Soccer Coach of the

Year award. The Mid-east Section includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Coach Hakopian was recognized for his We R.A.I.S.E. philosophy of coaching and his commitment to the sport of soccer.

Spring Athletic Season

The MCPS high school interscholastic athletics spring season will begin on Saturday, April 17, 2021 and end on June 19, 2021. Online registration for the Spring Season is open; parents/guardians can register their student-athletes for athletics using [ParentVue](#).

The Spring High School Coaches’ Preseason Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021. The general session will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by the sport-specific session at 4:30 p.m.



The [Spring Rules Clinics](#) for MPSSAA sports are available through [NFHSLearn](#).

ATHLETICS SPECIALISTS’ SPOTLIGHT

Return to R.A.I.S.E.

Operation Return to R.A.I.S.E. began at all twenty-five Montgomery County Public High Schools (MCPS) on Saturday, February 27, 2021, as athletics specialists excitedly welcomed student-athletes and coaches back to campus, after almost a year hiatus. The [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#), is currently guiding the safe return of the MCPS athletics program, due to COVID-19. The [Second Semester Plan](#) provides an overview of the key information regarding program operations. Plans and



documents are updated on an ongoing basis, to ensure compliance with the latest guidance and safety protocol and procedures. In-person operations of MCPS Athletics align with guidelines and recommendations from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Montgomery County. Additional information and resources are provided on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) page of the [MCPS Athletics](#) website, to assist student-athletes, families, and coaches with supporting the safe return of in-person programming.

MCPS 2020–2021 Athletic Director of the Year



Congratulations to Ms. Heather Podosek, Athletics Specialist at Paint Branch High School, for being selected as the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association (MSADA) 2021 District 2B Athletic Director of the Year. Recipients of this prestigious award are selected by the collective voice of all twenty-five Athletics Specialists. Ms. Podosek will be recognized at the 2021 MSADA Awards Banquet held during the

Annual MSADA Athletic Directors Conference in April.

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

Power to R.A.I.S.E.



Several representatives from the Student-Athlete Leadership Council collaborated with MCPS-TV on a [public service announcement](#) highlighting the required commitment to health and safety protocol and procedures while on campus, at home and in the community. Thank you to the staff at MCPS-TV, Miss Alexis Council (Paint Branch HS), Miss Gabriella Diaz (Rockville HS), Miss Mia Friedman (Walt Whitman HS), Mr. Ismael Komora (John F. Kennedy HS), and Mr. Arvinder Singh (Paint Branch HS) for spreading the message that ALL of us have the Power to R.A.I.S.E. while returning to play in a healthy and safe way!

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, all student-athletes complete the Culture of Respect Training found in the MCPS Canvas classroom. In addition, MCPS coaches convene team meetings to discuss the promotion of a positive culture and review [resources](#) regarding hazing, harassment, and bullying included in the [MCPS Student-Athlete Health and Safety PowerPoint](#).



Aspiring High School Athletics Specialist Seminar

During the month of February, MCPS Athletics conducted the inaugural *Aspiring Athletics Specialist (AD) Seminar*, a three-hour engagement designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the high school athletics specialist positions available in



MCPS Athletics. Over thirty MCPS and non-MCPS attendees received an overview of the AD position, and networked with current athletic specialists. In addition, Mr. James D'Andrea, Principal, Northwest High School shared insight from the principal perspective on application and interviewing process; and Mr. Robert Watson, Coordinator, Teacher Recruitment and Staffing from the Department of Certification and Staffing conducted a resume writing and interviewing session.

Middle School Interscholastic Athletics Registration Update

During the second semester of the 2020–2021 school year, the middle school athletics program will be administered to the greatest extent possible, per state and county health metrics. **If health metrics allow**, activities and engagement will be offered in-person; if not, virtual engagement opportunities will be offered. Registration for the fall season (coed cross country, boys' and girls' softball) is currently being done electronically through the school's specific online athletics registration links posted on the school's website.

Students must submit a medical evaluation to participate during in-person engagement. Students submit only the last page (Clearance Form) of the [Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form \(Form SR-8\)](#) during online registration. A [list of clinics](#) providing physicals can be found on the MCPS Athletics webpage. In addition, [Care for Kids](#) is a health care program that provides access to health care services for uninsured children in Montgomery County.

Did You Know...

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) provides four levels of certification for both high and middle school athletic administrators, including the Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA), Registered Middle School Athletic Administrator (RMSAA), Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA), and the Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA). Currently, MCPS is employing ten CMAA's, thirteen CAA's, one RMSAA, and seven RAA's. #WeRAISE

R.A.I.S.E. Outs!

Congratulations MPSSAA

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) operates in conjunction with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the 24 Maryland school systems to provide interscholastic participation opportunities at 198 high schools. This year, the [MPSSAA celebrates 75 years](#) of the association. Thank you MPSSAA for the athletic opportunities provided for student-athletes and coaches over the years!



Congratulations to the following Athletics Specialists for earning the [Certified Master of Athletic Administrator \(CMAA\)](#) or [Certified Athletic Administrator \(CAA\)](#) designation from the [National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association \(NIAAA\)](#):

CMAA

- Ms. Amanda Twele, John F. Kennedy HS
- Mr. Bryan Walker, Wheaton HS

CAA

- Mr. Cliff Elgin, Damascus HS

NFHS Level 1 School Honors

Congratulations to both Northwood and Winston Churchill High Schools, for earning Level 1 status within the NFHS School Honor Roll Program. This national distinction honors the dedication and commitment that the school and coaches have to professional development and coach certification.

