

# An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Summer 2020 ♦ Issue 8



*“INJUSTICE anywhere,  
is a threat to JUSTICE  
everywhere.”*

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

### Director's Message

African Americans face every day in our society, along with other underserved populations. However, my message here is one of hope and inspiration. Together, across MCPS Athletics and beyond, we can successfully navigate these waters to weather the storm of COVID-19 and dam the current of institutional racism and completely change the mindset and practices in our world. I will continue to champion our core values across all of MCPS Athletics and support equity and social justice for ALL students, with particular focus on our underserved and marginalized students and populations. In regard to COVID-19, we will continue our ongoing efforts and unwavering commitment to planning a safe return for our student-athletes, coaches, and all stakeholders across our program. The *Return to R.A.I.S.E.* strategic plan will continue to guide our efforts through this transition. Please know our paramount priority is the health and safety of our student-athletes and stakeholders. Finally, I want to thank our student-athletes for your resiliency – we find strength and hope in you – and want to congratulate our graduating seniors! I wish you all the best!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics – Jeff

### COACHES' CORNER

#### Spring Coaches – Thank you!

We recognize the positive impact that coaches have on the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of students during the disruption of school operations due to COVID-19. In response, MCPS middle and high school spring sport coaches connected with student-athletes using the Engagement of Activity (EOA) Plan, to capture and share their actions, strategies and supports during the Continuity of Learning time period, caused by COVID-19. Thank you to spring sport coaches for supporting student-athletes during this pandemic. #WeRAISE

#### Coaches, Equity, and Social Justice

Coaches have unique opportunities to support students, their families, and communities, by using the athletics platform to engage in conversations and actions surrounding issues of equity and social justice. Coaches play an integral role in supporting the well-being of students – as athletes and as upstanding members of the community. Coaches are encouraged to review and utilize the resources distributed by the [MCPS Equity Initiatives Unit](#) including the most recent resources [An Educators Guide to this Moment](#) and [LGBTQ+ in MCPS](#). ALL means ALL in MCPS Athletics! Together #WeRAISE

### Seasonal Health & Safety Tip

MCPS is working collaboratively with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), with guidance from the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS), the Maryland State Department of Education, and state and local health officials to safely return student-athletes to the playing fields. In the meantime, check out the COVID-19 resources on the [MCPS webpage](#).

### ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' SPOTLIGHT

#### Call to RAISE Responsiveness for Equity and Social Justice

While the efforts of the MCPS athletics program have focused recently on the engagement of student-athletes and the safe return of athletics as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, recent events in our country remind us that there are other important issues affecting all of our lives and the lives of our students and their families. These events have once again forced us to see the pervasive injustice, inequality and hate that African Americans face every day in our communities. During times like these, MCPS Athletics pledges to rise and take action to support our students and families, particularly our students of color, and be champions of our R.A.I.S.E. core values of respect, integrity, character, and equity. The MCPS Athletics program has and will continue to champion the belief that ALL means ALL.

#### 25 Days of Giving Campaign

In response to the COVID-19 closure of MCPS schools, the cancellation of the spring athletics season, and the newly instituted social distancing guidelines, Mr. Marco Fuggitti, Athletic Director at Northwood High School, kept the MCPS athletics community engaged in a *25 Days of Giving Campaign* using various social media outlets. Each of the twenty-five high school athletic directors designated a charity/fund to receive \$1 donations on a specific day in April. The *25 Days of Giving Campaign* generated close to \$15,000 across twenty-five charitable organizations. Thank you Mr. Fuggitti for unifying all twenty-five MCPS athletic communities during this unprecedented time.



### MCPS 2019–2020 Athletic Director of the Year



Congratulations to Mr. Mike Hayes, Athletic Director at Rockville High School, for being selected as the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association (MSADA) 2020 District 2B Athletic Director of the Year. Recipients of this prestigious award are selected by the collective voice of all twenty-five athletic directors. Mr. Hayes will be recognized at the April 2021 MSADA Awards Banquet.

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

# Save the Date!

## 2020 Minds in Motion Scholarship Winners



Congratulations to Miss Joanne Liu, Thomas S. Wootton High School, and Mr. Reece Petrolle, Damascus High School, who were selected as MCPS recipients of the **2020 Minds in Motion Scholar-Athlete Scholarships**, sponsored annually by the Allstate Foundation and presented by the MPSSAA.



The MPSSAA honored both Miss Liu and Mr. Petrolle, by asking them to share their voices regarding the impact of athletic participation on their high school experience. Find their stories in the first-ever commemorative booklet, **MPSSAA 2020 Minds in Motion Scholarship Recipients**. #WeRAISE

**All dates are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

- National Student Leadership Summit will be held July 20 – July 22 on a virtual platform. Students should register no later than July 3, 2020. All students, coaches, and administrators are welcome to participate.
- Fall online registration for high school athletics will open on July 20, 2020, via ParentVue.
- The Fall Preseason Coaches' Meeting will be held on August 11, 2020, at Northwest High School.
- High school tryouts for the fall season may begin Wednesday, August 12 and must begin by August 15, 2020. Check with your local school athletic director for tryout dates, times, and locations.
- Middle school tryouts for the fall season begin on September 8, 2020.

## Inaugural Student-Athlete Leadership Council Wrap Up

The Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) held a virtual End-of-Year Celebration to unveil the inaugural SALC pin and recognize the academic and athletic accomplishments of the thirty-two SALC seniors, many of whom will extend their athletic careers at the collegiate level. In addition, Mr. Andrew Warner, Executive Director of the [MPSSAA](#), shared academic and leadership opportunities at the state level, and provided an update on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [MPSSAA](#). Lastly, Mr. Omari Pearson, President of [Passion to Purpose](#) shared an inspirational message on short and long-term educational, career, and life goals called "MCPS-Got Dreams."

Dr. Sullivan expressed appreciation to Ms. Green for her efforts in launching and leading the inaugural SALC. Ms. Green offered her sincere thanks to Ms. McCue and Mrs. Robinson for all the "behind the scenes" work to ensure the success of meetings, and to the following Athletic Directors for their contributions to the inaugural SALC:

- Ms. Rita Boule, Montgomery Blair High School
- Mr. Bryan Blessing, Einstein High School
- Ms. Gina Grubb, Poolesville High School
- Ms. Heather Podosek, Paint Branch High School
- Ms. Anne Rossiter, Northwest High School
- Mr. Al Lightsey, Thomas S. Wootton High School



Be sure to check out the [MCPS Athletics Webpage](#) for more information on MCPS Athletics!

# #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](#).



## Middle School Athletics



The Middle School Athletics Workshop is scheduled for June 17–23, 2020. The primary focus of the workshop is to prepare and plan for the upcoming school year by generating the 2020–21 middle school athletic schedules and producing the *Middle School Athletics Handbook*.

Congratulations to Mr. Jeff Fritz, Athletic Coordinator at Robert Frost Middle School, for earning his [Accredited Interscholastic Coach \(AIC\)](#).

## Did You Know...

For the 2020–2021 school year, including the fall and winter seasons, MCPS athletic teams won a total of 207 championships, including 11 state championships, 7 state semifinalists, 44 district or regional championship, 75 division or county championships and 110 MCPS student-athletes won individual state championships. [#WeRAISE](#)

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