

An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Spring 2023 ♦ Issue 19



“Sports do not build
character, they reveal it.”

- John Wooden

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

Director's Message

MCPS Sports Nation – As we enter the final quarter of the school year, we have much to celebrate in MCPS Athletics! To begin, I am so proud of our Student-Athlete Leadership Council for producing a series of public service announcements, as part of their annual service project. We appreciate the efforts of our student leaders and Ms. Kathy Green, systemwide athletics specialist, for her work with the council and the production! We are continuing our advocacy for funding in the Fiscal Year 24 budget for athletic trainer positions and look forward to enhancing the sports medicine program across MCPS Athletics. Finally, we celebrate the countless individuals who support our student-athletes and program and champion our R.A.I.S.E. core values – from our coaches, athletics specialists and athletic coordinators to our Department of Athletics, administrators, athletic trainers, officials, booster clubs, parents/guardians, and fans – we are blessed to have our dedicated and spirited MCPS Sports Nation! Thank you for all that you do!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics – Dr. Sullivan

COACHES' CORNER

First Fall Practice Date

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) fall interscholastic athletic teams may begin practices on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. Though it is not mandatory that fall teams begin practice on August 9, all teams must begin practices by Saturday, August 12, 2023. Teams may distribute equipment on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Fall Preseason Coaches Meetings

The fall preseason coaches' meetings will be held Tuesday, August 8, at Watkins Mill High School. All coaches will attend the general session in addition to their respective sport-specific session.

Fall varsity coaches are expected to attend the preseason coaches' meeting for their sport. Attendance for varsity coaches is mandatory; attendance for junior varsity is optional but strongly encouraged.

Fall Athletic Trainers Meeting

The athletic trainers' preseason meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at Watkins Mill High School.

Athletic Leaders Spotlight

Hall of Fame Inductee

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) recently announced that former Col. Zadok Magruder Athletic Director Mr. Karl Heimbach will be inducted into the NIAAA Hall of Fame. The NIAAA Hall of Fame was created to honor retired athletic administrators who had exemplary careers in athletic administration both prior to as well as after the formation of the NIAAA. The induction ceremony occurs in conjunction with NIAAA National Conference in December. #WeRAISE



Athletic Director of the Year



Mr. Ed Dalton, athletics specialist at Clarksburg High School, is the recipient of the MSADA 2023 District 2B Athletic Director of the Year award. Recipients of this prestigious award are selected by the collective voice of all twenty-five athletics specialists.

Congratulations to Ms. Heather Podosek, Athletics Specialist at Paint Branch High School, for being selected as the 2022 MSADA

State Co-Athletic Director of the Year.

Mr. Dalton and Ms. Podosek will receive their award at the MSADA State Conference Banquet on Saturday, April 29, 2023. #WeRAISE



Welcome to the AD Family!

MCPS Athletics is excited to welcome the following new athletics specialists to the AD family.

Mr. Joseph Collins – Gaithersburg Ms. Dessalyn Dillard – Paint Branch
Mr. Larry Hurd – Walter Johnson Mr. Bill Toth – Walt Whitman

Student-Athlete Voice is Heard!

The Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) elicits student-voice regarding the administration of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) interscholastic athletics program to cultivate a countywide athletics community that promotes the R.A.I.S.E. core values of MCPS



Athletics. Recently, SALC in collaboration with MCPSTV, created public service announcements (PSAs) to promote various aspects of programming; including:

- National Girls & Women in Sports Day – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Why I Play – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- National Athletic Training Month - [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



Stay tuned for additional upcoming PSA's from SALC! **#WeRAISE**

Save the Date!

SPRING COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL:

May 9, 2023, at James Hubert Blake HS, 7 p.m.

GYMNASTICS:

MCPS VARSITY MEET

• May 9, 2023, at Walt Whitman HS, 6 p.m.

MCPS VARSITY B MEET

• May 11, 2023, at Springbrook HS, 6 p.m.

LACROSSE:

May 8, 2023, at John F. Kennedy HS

• Girls – 5:30 p.m. / Boys – 7:30 p.m.

ALLIED SOFTBALL:

May 11, 2023, at TBD, 5:30 p.m.

TENNIS:

May 11, 2023, at 3:15 p.m.

• Boys – Walter Johnson

• Girls – Paint Branch

TRACK & FIELD:

MCPS VARSITY MEET

• May 9-10, 2023, Seneca Valley HS, at 4 p.m.

MCPS VARSITY B MEET

• May 13, 2023, Albert Einstein HS, at 10 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL – BOYS' & COED:

May 16, 2023, at Quince Orchard HS

• Coed – 5:00 p.m. / Boys – 7:00 p.m.

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

Officials Appreciation Week

Thank you to coaches and student-athletes across MCPS Athletics for celebrating Officials Appreciation Weeks throughout the year, most recently for winter officials. **#WeRAISE**



Middle School Athletics

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

Did You Know...

MCPS Winter 2022–2023 athletic teams won a total of 65 championships, including six state championships, four state finalists, 16 district or regional championships, 37 division or county championships, and two state sportsmanship awards. Bocce State Champions include the Blue Division, **Thomas S. Wootton**, Red Division **Winston Churchill** and the Green Division, **Northwood**. **Walt Whitman** won the 4A/3A Boys' State Swimming Championship, **Walter Johnson** won the 4A/3A Girls' State Swimming Championship, **Rockville** won the 3A/2A/1A Boys' State Swimming Championship and **Damascus** and **Richard Montgomery** won the State Sportsmanship Award. **#WeRAISE**

#WeRAISE

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**.

