

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We wish you good health and safety during this historic time. As summer contact for Columbia Public Schools athletics and activities is set to begin on June 1, on behalf of coaches, directors and administrators it is important that we communicate with you some plans and precautions to ensure to the best of our abilities the safety and health of our students and families. All the established guidelines and protective measures have the following goals at their core:

1. Ensure the safety of all of our students and staff at all times.
2. Ensure the return to school in August to the fullest extent possible.
3. Ensure the opportunity to participate in the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons next school year.

What you can expect in the coming days and weeks is communication from program coaches and directors regarding any activity that will take place under the guidelines established by CPS and aligned with the current Boone County Health Order. As these various activities unfold, it is important to communicate pertinent information to protect the health and well-being of all parties throughout the duration of the summer months as it pertains to participation in athletics and activities.

First and foremost, we want to emphasize that any summer participation in CPS programs is voluntary. By no means is it an expectation or requirement that your child participate in any given activity. To best protect your child, any participation in a practice or competition should be to the level of your own comfort. We have provided an in-depth set of guidelines and protective measures to our coaches and directors that seeks to protect the health of all our students to the greatest extent possible.

Coaches and directors will communicate directly with families how the guidelines will impact their particular program and what measures will be specifically taken in regard to participation in their sport or activity. We want to assure you that all guidelines provided by Columbia Public Schools align with the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Boone County Health Department (BCHD), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) as it relates to sport and activity.

We request that you closely monitor the health and hygiene of your child throughout the summer months. Every student involved in a sport or activity should practice diligent hygienic habits, including but not limited to hand-washing before and after any participation, proper bathing and cleansing after any activity, and sufficient cleaning of any clothing, uniforms, or equipment related to a sport or activity. This is the most effective way to ensure that your student is safe from the contraction or spread of COVID-19.

In addition, you should also be observant for any symptoms related to COVID-19. Coaches and directors have been provided a list of “look-fors” as it relates to symptoms of the virus. We urge

you to also closely monitor your student for the presence of any symptoms that could be tied to the COVID-19 virus. We request, to the extent that you are able, to take your child's temperature prior to participation in each activity. If your child registers a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or displays any other symptoms, please keep your child at home. Coaches and directors will also be supplied with a list of screening questions that will be administered to your student prior to participation in any activity. We have instructed coaches and directors that if a student displays any symptoms or responds to screening questions indicating the presence of any symptoms related to the virus that they be sent home immediately.

All coaches and directors have also been provided a set of guidelines and protective measures that pertain to the safe practice and implementation of their sport or activity based on guidelines presented by the BCHD, CDC and NFHS. Coaches and directors will be expected to adhere to these guidelines at all times, which include but are not limited to, practicing physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, limiting the use of shared equipment, as well as the sanitation of equipment before, during, and after any activity.

The health and safety of students and staff is our top priority. Your partnership in monitoring the health and hygiene of your child will greatly assist the efforts of coaches and directors as they begin in-person activity with their program as early as June 1.

Respectfully,

CPS Athletics & Activities