

# An Insight into MCPS Athletics

Summer 2020–21 ♦ Issue 12



*“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

virtual delivery of the entire program during the first semester, to the final spring state competitions in June, we collectively championed our commitment to our charge of **We CAN, We WILL, We R.A.I.S.E.!** As we head into the summer, we will build on our momentum to springboard our program into the fall season. On July 1, 2021, MCPS Athletics will return to typical operations, including [out-of-season rules and regulations](#), along with any applicable safety protocols in the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. plan](#). Be sure to check the [MCPS Athletics website](#) for the latest information and updates. We look forward to another amazing year of MCPS Athletics next year – in the meantime, have a safe and relaxing summer!

Together #WeRAISE MCPS Athletics! – Jeff

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

**We Can, We Will, We RAISE**

Congratulations to Mrs. Robin McCue, Administrative Assistant, Athletics Unit, who was recently named



recipient of the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) Distinguished Service Award! Mrs. McCue’s passion for both MCPS Athletics and student-athletes continually exemplifies the vision,

mission, and RAISE core values of the MCPS athletics program. Her commitment to service and excellence is second to none, as she interacts with high school athletic directors, middle school athletic coordinators,

principals, coaches, parents, and students to support the overall mission of MCPS athletics. MCPS athletic fans will attest that Robin is the heartbeat of the MCPS Athletics program. Congratulations Mrs. McCue on a well-deserved recognition! #WeRAISE



### Congratulations!

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

#### CMAA

- Mr. Jared Fribush, James Hubert Blake HS

#### CAA

- Mr. Jason Campbell, Northwest HS

### ATHLETICS SPECIALISTS’ SPOTLIGHT

#### MCPS Athletics Year End Reflections



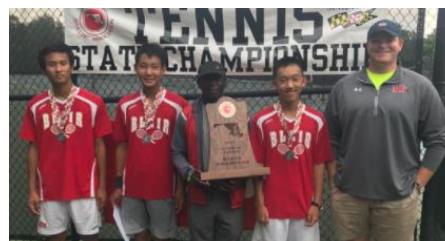
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCPS Athletics family continually embraced the **We Can, We Will, We RAISE** mindset with high school athletics specialists, sport directors and middle school athletic coordinators,

connecting over 12,000 student-athletes with coaches during the fall semester

virtual athletic seasons. As the Athletics Unit kicked off a virtual speaker series, members of the Student-Athlete Leadership Council (SALC) served as moderators for numerous guest speakers. In addition, under the leadership of Ms. Amanda Twele, John F. Kennedy High School, Athletics Specialist, the inaugural “Women in Sports Speaker Series” debuted along with “A Conversation About Privilege, Race, and Equity” presented by the MCPS Athletics Equity and Social Justice Committee and the MCPS Minority Scholars Program (MSP).



The COVID-19 Task Force met regularly throughout the school year to guide the safe return of in-person programming for MCPS athletics, documented in the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Plan](#), culminating in MCPS teams



participating in spring county championships and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) state championships. MCPS Athletic Trainers were reinstated to high schools providing the much needed support for student-athletes as they engaged in reconditioning for the

first time in over a year. The MCPS Athletics Unit worked collaboratively with MCPSTV, athletics specialists, coaches, student-athletes and the SALC to create public service announcements regarding the [safe return to play](#) and the [Return to R.A.I.S.E.](#) Lastly, school administration and coaches honored the Class of 2021 during senior ceremonies across all twenty-five high schools.

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

## 2021 Minds in Motion Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Miss Maryam Higazi, Sherwood High School, and Mr. Vaibhav Jah, Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, who were selected as MCPS recipients of the **2021 Minds in Motion Scholar-Athlete Scholarships**, sponsored annually by the Allstate Foundation and presented by the MPSSAA. Miss Higazi is a four year member of the Warrior's volleyball and track & field programs. Maryam's favorite high school athletics memory is winning the MPSSAA 4A North Region Volleyball Championships in a close 5 set match versus Howard High School. She will attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and major in biology and pre-physical therapy. Mr. Jah is a four-year member of Colonel's baseball program. Vaibhav's favorite high school athletics memory is defeating Rockville HS in an extra-innings, 1-0 nail biter. He will attend the University of Virginia and major in Biology, French and Francophone studies.



## National Student Leadership Summit

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) is hosting a Virtual National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS), August 8–10, 2021, from 12:45 pm to 3 p.m. The NSLS will focus on relevant and contemporary issues facing high school students who are participating in interscholastic athletics and activities. The cost of the online NSLS is free, but students must [register](#) for the event.

## 2020–2021 Spring Champions

In spring 2021, MCPS athletic teams won a total of 34 championships, including three state championships, five state finalists, four state semifinalists, three county championships, and 20 regional championships. In addition, 42 MCPS student-athletes won individual state championships during the spring 2021 season. Congratulations!

### MCPS 2020–2021 County Champions

Sport	School	Coach
Allied Softball	Damascus	Megan Stultz
Boys' Volleyball	Clarksburg	Dawn Dickinson
Coed Volleyball	John F. Kennedy	Dennis Lopez

### MCPS 2020–2021 State Champions

Sport	School	Coach
4A Baseball	Sherwood	Sean Davis
4A Girls Track & Field	Walter Johnson	Tom Martin
4A Tennis	Montgomery Blair	Peter Lynch and David Ngbea

## Middle School Athletics

The Middle School Athletics Workshop was conducted June 21–23, 2021. The primary focus of the workshop was to prepare and plan for the upcoming school year by generating the 2021–22 middle school athletic schedules and producing the Middle School Athletics Handbook. Athletic schedules are posted on the MS Schedules webpage of the MCPS Athletics website.



# Coaches' Corner

## Fall Athletic Season

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) fall interscholastic athletic teams may begin practices on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Though it is not mandatory that fall teams begin practice on August 11, 2021, all teams must begin practices by Saturday, August 14, 2021. Teams may distribute equipment on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

## Fall Preseason Meetings

The coaches' preseason meetings for cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, pompons, boys' and girls' soccer, and girls' volleyball will be held Tuesday, August 10, 2021, via Zoom at 4:30 p.m. All coaches will attend the general session in addition to their respective sport-specific session. Athletic trainers are encouraged to attend the general session as well. The team handball preseason meeting will be held Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., via Zoom.

The athletic trainers' preseason meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, via Zoom at 2:00 p.m.

## Professional Development for Coaches

All coaches, athletics specialists, athletic coordinators, and athletic department personnel must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online course entitled [COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators](#) prior to the start of in-person activities and/or the season.

The [Fall Rules Clinics](#) for MPSSAA sports are available through [NFHSlern](#).



## 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 eleven CMAA's, fourteen CAA's, one RMSAA, and seven RAA's. **#WeRAISE**

