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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Consistent with New York State requirements and district policy, the Harrison Central School District implemented a concussion assessment program as part of our sports clearance process. The program is called ImPACT, which stands for Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing. This program is a computerized exam that establishes a cognitive baseline measure to aid in the assessment of a head injury. Athletes will take an initial baseline test prior to the season. If a student is believed to have suffered a head injury, he or she will retake the exam and the results will be compared to the baseline test results to help determine (a) the extent of the injury, and (b) when the injury has healed.

The ImPACT study is widely recognized as an industry standard toward identifying and better managing concussion-type injuries. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Sport Concussion Program is the founding group of this program and software. The exam has gained recognition around the world and is being utilized by such organizations as the NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, Olympic Organizations, Professional Automobile Racing and many major colleges and universities.

The exam takes about 40 minutes to complete and is non-invasive. The program is a computer-based program that measures an athlete's memory, reaction time, processing speed, and concentration. It is a simple, non-invasive test to administer and most of the athletes enjoy the challenge it gives their brain.

If a concussion is suspected, the athlete is re-tested on ImPACT prior to their return to play and the results are evaluated by a neuropsychologist, who is an expert in Impact interpretation and is hired by the District for this express purpose. The school district physician consults with the neuropsychologist to determine the student's level of cognitive function and readiness to return to play. If the retest results are similar to the baseline results, it is a first indication that the athlete's brain is beginning to heal. The student must also pass the "return to play protocol" which is attached. The information can be shared with your medical provider(s) so that a sound decision can be made as to when return-to-play is appropriate and safe. In keeping with district policy, Dr. Samantha Lowe, the school district physician, will assess the results and make the final determination if/when a student is can return to play.

This program gives us the best available information in preventing brain damage that can occur with multiple concussions or complication of an otherwise "mild" or "simple" concussion. The administration, coaches, athletic training, and health services staff are committed to prioritizing the health and well-being of your child.

If you are interested in reviewing information about ImPACT, please feel free to visit the ImPACT website at www.impacttest.com If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact: Chris Galano, Athletic Director at 630-3125; Lisa Arlotta, High School Nurse at 630-3123; or Susan Fiorenza, Middle School Nurse at 630-3046. Please complete the enclosed ImPACT Evaluation Permission Form and return to the Athletic Office prior to testing.

Chris Galano
Athletic Director

Dr. Samantha Lowe
District Physician

Lisa Arlotta
High School Nurse

Susan Fiorenza
Middle School Nurse