

Dear Trojan families,

Since our last communication in July from TVS PE/Athletics, plenty has changed in the professional, collegiate, and interscholastic sports world. We appreciate your patience as we carefully and programmatically navigate the seemingly ever-changing information received from our local health and government agencies. We are pleased to now be able to share with you the following information to assist you in preparing for the upcoming fall.

## **Middle School PE and Athletics**

Understanding this year is by no means normal, we eagerly anticipate the start of fall MS athletics. Our goal is to begin MS strength and conditioning on September 8, followed by phased-in Return to Play progressions, with competitions starting in late September or the first week of October. Our department has been and continues to work in conjunction with our local fellow SPC schools to assess best options for the start of MS athletics, while also considering a reasonable and realistic playing schedule. We anticipate making a determination and finalizing plans just before or immediately after Labor Day, following further evaluation to the start of the US athletic season and current local health considerations.

With an eye towards starting the school year safely, and a focus on keeping everyone healthy and ready to go for athletics when we return from Labor Day, no organized activities (PE, athletics, or otherwise) will be scheduled or available after school from August 24 through September 4.

***Seventh (7th)- and eighth (8th)-grade students will be dismissed for the day to depart campus at 2:45pm.*** Departure locations will be communicated to you next week from our Middle School administration. Please contact Mr. Jeff Snyder, head of Middle School, should this departure time present a challenge.

## **Return to Play Protocols**

TVS Athletics has been working diligently to develop thoughtful and responsible Return to Play protocols for the safety of our students, coaches, and extended community. These protocols were created based on the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), and the University Interscholastic League (UIL). TVS Return to Play protocols are following guidelines meant to help TVS navigate the “opening up” of facilities and re-engage our athletic community. The document can be found here: [Return to Play](#). Please note that this document is subject to change.

As an extra layer of mindfulness and awareness, our fall program directors are in the process of developing sport-specific social distancing and safety protocols. This information will be kept by the coach and me (athletic director), and continually will be open to review as we learn more about COVID-19 from our local health agencies.

## **US Athletics and TLC Trojans**

TVS Athletics' Return to Play re-entry phases have been modified slightly from the original dates posted in July. These changes allow for an extended acclimation period for students, teachers, and coaches, with regard to the new normal and safety protocols within the academic and athletic settings. Strength and conditioning will be extended through the month of August. Below are the adjusted dates (for US athletics only):

Phase 1: August 17-31 (strength and conditioning, outdoors only). Football may wear helmets

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beginning Aug. 31 while completing the final day of S&C.

Phase 2: September 1-September 4 (sport-specific, individual drills). This means no contact, no 1 v 1 or similar competition, no scrimmages, no face-to-face drills, and continuing to keep a six-foot bubble at all times.

Should things continue to proceed in a positive direction due to demonstrated safety and social distancing in Phases 1 and 2, then we proceed to Phase 3.

Phase 3: September 8 (full practice, contact, team scrimmage allowed). Teams may begin conducting full practices, following best implementation practices according to each sport.

TLC Trojans: In full support of every Trojan having the opportunity to appreciate, experience, and enjoy all that TVS has to offer in creating one's own memories, students who have opted to participate in the Trojan Learning Connection (TLC) are welcome to participate in Trojan athletics. Those who choose to participate in athletics will be held to the same standards of accountability as any member of the team. The coach of a sport a student may be interested in can provide full details the student will need to know to participate as a member of that team.

The major points of this letter will be included in the FAQs as a quick reference in the future. TVS Athletic coaches, staff, and administration are excited to see our students back in action this 2020-2021 school year. Thank you again for your patience and we look forward to cheering on our Trojans soon!

**Go TROJANS!**

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