

The Athletic Department



Dear Agnes Irwin Families,

We write with an important update from the Inter-Academic Athletic League (Inter-Ac) Heads of School regarding Upper School fall sports. The Inter-Ac released the following statement today:



Inter-Academic Athletic League Statement October 16, 2020

Given current low rates of community transmission in our area, the Inter-Ac is planning a modified non-championship fall sports schedule for football, boys and girls soccer, field hockey, boys and girls cross country, girls tennis, boys water polo, volleyball, and boys golf.

In recent months, health experts studying youth sports have observed that there has been little evidence of the transmission of the virus occurring because of on-field contact. Rather, it occurs on the sidelines when safety protocols are not followed, in locker rooms, and at team social events. This new information has influenced the Inter-Ac schools' analysis of the risk-benefit of a fall competitive season.

Individual schools may choose in which sports they will participate without consequence from the league. Additional information about schedules, health and safety protocols will be forthcoming, including the possibility of extremely limited numbers of spectators at venues. Should current trends reverse and numbers of infections spike, this plan will be revisited.



We are excited to provide this opportunity for our Upper School fall student-athletes and look forward to the girls enjoying the physical, social and emotional benefits of team sports at school. Please take note that AIS will be closely following local, regional and national guidance on sport participation and will be constantly evaluating the feasibility and practicality of participating in Inter-Ac fall sports. Endeavoring to provide the option for in-person education for our entire community of learners will remain our priority while we strive to offer the benefits of team sports for our Upper School students.

Beginning Monday, October 19th, Upper School fall teams will begin practicing every afternoon, Monday through Friday, in anticipation of a three-week competitive season beginning on Saturday, October 31. Each fall sport, including Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball, will hold tryouts and conduct team placements during the first part of the week. Practice schedules for next week will be posted to the Athletics section of the website today. As soon as competition schedules are available, they will be posted to the website. To allow our fall athletes to commit to their season, we will not hold any winter or spring sport practices during the fall practice and competition season. Upper School student-athletes who have signed up for a fall sport team will be contacted directly via email to confirm their participation in the fall season.

Middle School fall sports will continue to practice from 3:00-3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, through November 6. The Middle School winter intramural season is planned to begin on November 16.

Sincerely,

Sally Keidel, Head of School
Courtney Lubbe, Athletic Director