



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

February 1, 2021

Dear Canisius Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I hope this note finds your family well. With the recent news that New York State has approved the start of the remaining winter sports today, February 1, I write to provide important information and updates. As with all information we receive, it remains a fluid situation. Things change quite often.

Basketball and hockey begin today. Wrestling has been paused until May 10. “Fall II” sports, that is, football and volleyball, begin on March 15. Spring sports start on April 17. Coaches of the respective teams will provide additional information.

As anxious as students and families have been for the start of sports, we need that energy to carry into good decision making outside of school. A common coach axiom told to athletes is “to control what you can control.” This is hugely important in our attempt to conduct sports safely. Our students need to control themselves here at school and, more importantly, away from school.

Students need to wear masks, keep distance, and wash/sanitize their hands frequently. Data shows that most COVID-19 cases are coming from social gatherings and sleep-overs. Our school has done a tremendous job in providing as safe a learning environment as possible. **For sports to start and continue, self-discipline and diligence on the part of each athlete is critical.**

The Monsignor Martin Athletic Association and Section VI have supported the NYS guidelines and will **not be allowing spectators to games**. We plan to broadcast each varsity basketball and varsity fed hockey game. We will stream each home JV and freshman basketball game. We are in the process of forming plans for the varsity club and two JV fed hockey teams’ games.

Our student-athletes will be receiving regular COVID-19 testing. It is important to understand that according to the Erie County Department of Health: **“if an athlete or coach has a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, all in-person team or group activities (e.g. practices, scrimmages, games, meetings) will be canceled for a 10-day period. As with all positive COVID-19 cases in Erie County, contact tracing will be conducted for players and coaching staff,**

and coaches and teammates identified as close contacts will be placed in quarantine.

There will be no travel outside WNY and the Finger Lakes regions. All current NYS Travel Advisory guidance for quarantine will apply to athletes, coaches and family members who choose to travel to non-contiguous states.

NYS guidelines ask that all coaches and game personnel **wear masks at all times**. Student-athletes are required to wear an appropriate cloth face covering/mask when not playing or practicing. At a parent's direction, a student may wear a mask when playing or practicing.

If a student-athlete is sick, or is around someone in the house who is sick, please stay home. Coaches will applaud you, not discipline you. Missing practice or a game is much better than having a two-week quarantine. Each individual's decisions have a far-reaching impact on his team.

The seasons are short. Tryout periods will be brief. Once play starts, the season will move quickly. It can work with everyone's cooperation.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 716.200.0241.

Thank you,

Mr. Jim Mauro
Athletic Director