

To: Harriton High School Boys' Tennis Candidates  
From: Jeff Rhodes, Head Coach Boys Varsity Tennis  
Date: February 12, 2021

Dear Tennis Player,

I am writing this letter to all prospective boys' tennis players at Harriton for the spring 2021 season. Hopefully this letter will address all of your needs/concerns regarding playing tennis for Harriton. If you do have questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at [rhodesj@lmsd.org](mailto:rhodesj@lmsd.org).

The season for all public-school spring sports will begin on Monday, March 8th. All practices/tryouts will be located at Harriton High School. All players wishing to play tennis this year for Harriton should be ready to begin on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Over the past number of years, tennis has been a very popular sport at Harriton as we often have 40-60 players tryout for a total of 24 spots. Although I would very much like to give everyone a spot, we have a total of 6 courts to train 2 teams. Given the limited court space and that the majority of schools we compete against carry less than 20 players, the top 24 players will be selected to be on Harriton's tennis teams this season.

#### **Before Season/Tryouts**

The tryout process is very competitive so below are some helpful tips for players:

- **Medical Form / Parent Permission Form:** Before the season begins, the school district requires paperwork to be completed by all players. Please get the necessary form from Harriton's athletic office. If you need the form, contact Mrs. Shannon at (610) 658-3976 or visit [www.lmsd.org](http://www.lmsd.org). You will need to have a physical exam **AFTER** June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020. Your physician will need to fill out the physical form upon completion of the exam. Be sure to bring the form to the doctor's office. Also, your parents will need to sign the form in several places, giving their permission for you to participate. School District and PIAA rules prohibit any player from participating until ALL paperwork is completed. Please get this completed right away so that you will be eligible to participate. Please note, players will not be able to participate in tryouts until they have submitted a complete physical form.
- **Playing tennis:** Like many sports, the more repetition one does, the better they will likely become at the sport. Playing tennis all year around is ideal but not a requirement to make the team. I highly suggest that you have 'knocked the rust off' your tennis game before trying out for the team.
- **Importance of Doubles in HS Tennis:** Players should also work on aspects on their doubles game before tryouts. The Varsity tennis team will have 3 singles players and 4 doubles players. The top 3 players on the team will play singles and the top 4 doubles teams will play doubles. All positions are won through challenge matches through a challenge ladder. All JV matches will consist of doubles only. Out of 24 players who will make the Varsity/JV teams, only 3 players will play singles. The remaining players will be playing doubles.

#### **During Tryouts**

- **Equipment needed:** All players will be asked to bring the following to practices: water bottle, tennis racket, tennis shoes, and shorts/pants with pockets.
- **Trainer:** Players who need to see the trainer during the first week will need to get to the trainer's room at least 20 minutes before tryouts.
- **Tryout dates/times:** Tryouts will take place over the first 3 days that we are able to play tennis

outside and are scheduled to begin on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Tryouts will take place at Harriton High School on the Tennis Courts. In the event that we are unable to play outside due weather, we will still have conditioning related activities indoors. If weather prevents us getting outside for a number of consecutive days, we may hold tryouts at an indoor location. All players wishing to be considered for varsity or junior varsity will need to be ready to start on Monday (3/8/21).

- **Tryout format** - Each day, tryouts will consist of a warm-up and direct competition. Coaches will monitor the courts to evaluate players while also recording results of the competitions. The three days of competition consists of half court points from the baseline, service line and then points played cross court (including serves and returns).
- **Player evaluations:** Players will be evaluated in the following categories: 1) Head to head competitions, 2) Technical/Fundamental Skills (groundstrokes, volleys, serves, returns, etc.), 3) Movement, 4) Behavior on the court and 5) Coachability.

### After Tryouts and Season

- **Player Selection** - After tryouts, I will select the top 24 players to be on tennis team for the 2021 season. Team selections are based upon the player evaluations mentioned earlier. **\*\*Attention Returning Players – Players must score within the top 24 spots to be selected for the team. If you did not play 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> singles for the majority of our matches last year, there is no guarantee that you will make the team. Please come to tryouts ready to compete!**
- **Club Tennis** – Players who did not make the team may be offered an opportunity to play club tennis at Harriton. More details will follow for those players who would be interested.

### Regular and Post Season

- **Practices and Matches:** All practices and matches are mandatory to attend. Players who miss practice or matches will have team consequences. Our entire schedule can be found on Teamsnap or through Digital Sports. I have also attached a preliminary schedule to this letter.
- **Regular Season:** The regular season begins on 3/23 against Garnet Valley HS. Our last regular season competition is scheduled for 4/29 against Conestoga HS.
- **Post Season:** In the event we make it to the post season as a team, only the Varsity team will be expected to continue to practices after 5/1. At this point, post-season for 2021 season is to be determined.

### Summary

All players must be at tryouts from the beginning. Players not attending tryouts will not be considered for either team and will not be allowed to join the team after tryouts have begun. Again, tennis is one of the more popular sports at Harriton so expect the tryout process to be competitive. Players must have a completed physical before they are permitted to participate in any tryout. All players will need a water bottle, tennis racket, tennis shoes, and short/pants with pockets. I very much look forward to our upcoming tennis season.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Regards,

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Boys Tennis Coach  
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