

Potential Boys Golfers:

Hopefully, all of you have been working on your individual games and are ready to compete at a high level. Please review the following information and let Mr. Hessler or Mr. Smith know if there are any questions or concerns. I appreciate your patience and understanding during this summer of transition and wish each of you the best for a great year. In order to have a legitimate shot at competing for the WPIALs and beyond, it will require serious dedication to the development of your game. I would encourage anyone thinking of making the Varsity team to be playing competitively this summer, either locally or nationally.

On that note, we will again be offering the **Mark Hessler Golf School** at Pine Creek and Pittsburgh National prior to tryouts. Camp will take place August 9 and August 10 from 10:00 a.m. – Noon at Pine Creek and August 11 and 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00pm at Pittsburgh National Golf Club. The camp will be run by Head Golf Professional Mark Hessler and his team. This is available for any prospective golfers, both JV and Varsity. The camp is **NOT** mandatory and attending it will not affect your chances of making the team. However, if you are new to the game and playing competitively, it is strongly encouraged. The fee will be \$350 for the week. For golf camp please RSVP to Mr. Hessler at 412-527-7913 ASAP with the name of the student a phone number where he can reach them; or you can contact Mr. Smith at ksmith@shadysideacademy.org. More information will be sent out to those who are interested.

Tryouts for the Varsity team will be held at Pittsburgh National Golf Club on Monday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m and Tuesday, August 17 at 8:00 a.m. Depending on numbers, there will potentially be a cut after the 1st day. The format will be medal play and there are no guaranteed spots. At the end of the three-day tryout, the **top nine scorers plus ties** will be selected for the Varsity team. *Note that the WPIAL only allows 8 golfers for home and away matches, so if there is a tie for the final spot rotations will be necessary.

If you would like to play Pittsburgh National Golf Club over the summer for a practice round, please call 724-265-4800. For a discounted rate tell them you are with Shady Side Academy and trying out for the team. The tryout for the JV/Developmental teams will take place on Monday, August 23 at Pittsburgh National Golf Club starting at 9:00 a.m. It is expected that anyone trying out for the golf team is familiar with USGA's Rules of Golf and with golf etiquette.

As a component of this, anyone trying out is expected to wear proper golf attire. This comprises knee length shorts or pants, collared shirt, golf shoes, and a belt. T-shirts, denim, athletic shoes, cargo shorts are not permitted. Golf can be a tremendously frustrating sport, especially when you have expectations for yourself during a tournament. However, it is unacceptable to behave in a manner that does not reflect the guiding principles of SSA. Any inappropriate behavior may result in disqualification from tryouts or the team. If you are named to the team, it is expected that you will be present for every practice and match, barring extraordinary circumstances. A more specific letter of expectations will be handed out when the season commences.

The Athletic Department has asked me to remind you that the school and the PIAA regulations require that your health form be turned in before the start of the pre-season. Failure to do so will mean that you will be unable to participate in the qualifiers. Call the Athletic Department if you have any questions or visit the SSA website. We look forward to a successful season full of low numbers and teamwork. Please dedicate yourselves this summer so we can reach our goals this fall!

Mark Hessler
Varsity Boys Golf Coach