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## Park Hill School District

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Beginning the 2023-2024 school year, Park Hill School District will use a new concussion management software called Sway. Sway is an application-based program utilized by many professional, collegiate and high school sports programs across the country to help assess and manage head injuries. Sway will replace our use of the ImPACT Applications, which we have used for several years.

Sway is different from ImPACT in that it is administered on a mobile device, as it uses the device's accelerometer to measure reaction time and balance errors. It combines objective balance measures using accelerometer sensors that are already built into your mobile device and cognitive measures used to support healthcare professionals in performing accurate and informed evaluations.

Sway is available on both the Apple iOS and Android operating systems. **The app will have to be downloaded prior to administration of the baseline testing session.** We want to assure you that your student-athlete's data is not stored on their phone. As soon as they complete their baseline test, it is stored within the servers of Sway, and only the school's athletic trainers can assess that data.

The Sway testing procedures are safe and non-invasive. An app-based baseline test will be given to student-athletes before beginning athletic practices. This test is completed on a mobile device and includes modules involving balance, memory, reaction time and impulse control. **It, however, is not an IQ test.**

We are excited to implement this program because it allows us to better assess for concussions during a game or event. If a head injury occurs or a concussion is suspected, the student-athlete will be required to retake a test. The preseason and post-injury data will be used to help evaluate the injury. Information gathered can also be shared with a physician treating the injury. The test data provides qualified health professionals with the information needed to determine when an injured athlete may safely return to play. You can learn more information about Sway by visiting: <https://swaymedical.com>.

Park Hill School District administration, coaching and athletic training staff continuously strive to keep your child's health and safety at the forefront of the athletic experience. If you have any further questions regarding this program, please contact your school's athletic department.

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