

Athletic Liaison Report August 2023

The Pequea Valley Athletic Department is excited to start another school year. This year we are pushing the following theme “Season of Significance” to our coaches and athletes. We feel it is important for coaches and athletes to understand the steps that their team needs to take for each team to have a season of significance. Each team's definition of a significant season will be different but each team will have significant goals that they will be striving for this season. Another way we as an athletic department will be trying to push this idea is to help build strong leadership qualities for our athletes. We will be selecting an athlete of the week throughout the school year that demonstrates a leadership quality selected by coaches. Each athlete will be honored via bulletin boards throughout school, social media, and our monthly newsletter. We hope the athlete of the week teaches all our athletes the leadership qualities they will need to be successful on and off the field.

The last new change that the athletic department has made during the summer is to switch to a universal communication app called “Sports You” that all our coaches, teams, and families will be using. This app allows for effective and safe communication between coaches and teammates. Families may also join the team their child is on to stay connected on games and practice times. The app allows for coaches to talk to the whole team, or an individual teammate, post their season-long calendars, add team pictures or videos, and much more. We have had a great response so far this summer from our fall teams and parents and look forward to using Sport You for the foreseeable future.

Fall Teams:

Football: Our football team started their Heat Acclimation practices this past week on Monday, August 7th. We expect to have around 27 learners participate on the football team this year. Coach Choi is excited to start the year and build off of last season. We are encouraged by the numbers in midget football this year. Next year our JH football team should get a large boost in numbers from former midget players moving up to play JH football. Football will continue their pre-season next week and have a home scrimmage vs Jenkintown Saturday the 19th at 10 AM.

Boys Soccer: Boys soccer starts their season next week. Coach Martin is excited to start his second reign as our varsity head coach. Numbers are currently uncertain at the moment with only 15 signed up as of now. However, we expect numbers to increase once official practices start next Monday. The boys will have a play day Saturday the 26th that will allow them to face off against multiple schools at Lampeter Strasburg. These scrimmages will help prepare them for their first match on August 29th at Oley Valley.

Girls Soccer: Girls soccer also starts their season next week they have very strong numbers projected allowing them to have a full varsity and full JV team without having many swing players for the first time in the past couple of years. The girls have two scrimmages to help start

their season off on a good note. They will be playing at Coatesville on the 23rd and host Garden Spot on the 24th of August.

Cross Country: Our cross country team will remain strong on the girl's side as all three state qualifiers are returning this year. The boys however lost two contributing seniors and will have some underclassmen have to step up and fill their previous roles. Unfortunately, numbers continue to be low for the cross-county team however Coach Andrew and Coach Strauss do a great job at making our team competitive with the numbers we do have.

Cheer: This year we will be having a JH Cheer Program that will allow 8th graders to participate in cheer. Currently, our midget cheerleading program goes up to 7th graders. This leaves 8th graders without the opportunity to cheer. We hope this JH program grows and overall help grows our HS program in the future. Cheer is currently expecting to have over 20 athletes participate this year and will be cheering at all home and away football games.

Girls Tennis: Due to construction girls' tennis is in the same position as our boys were last spring they will be practicing at Paradise Park and playing all away games. We understand this is not the most ideal situation for our tennis program but it is currently the most practical plan due to not having a home court. Morgan Hiestand is our head coach this year and is excited to get started. They will start practices next week with their first match on August 23rd vs Garden Spot at Blue Ball Elementary.

JH Sports will all start their season's the week of August 21st. Fall JH sports consist of boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, and JH football.