

October 17, 2025

Dear Cheltenham Community:

I am writing with an important message regarding our Cheltenham High School football program.

Today, the district received anonymous information regarding allegations of hazing in the football program. This information is deeply concerning and, if substantiated, wholly inconsistent with our values as a district. The safety and welfare of our students is, and will always be, our highest priority. The district has engaged an external investigator to lead an investigation into allegations we received today.

The Cheltenham High School football season is being temporarily suspended as of today. Tonight's game versus Truman at Springfield has been postponed.

While I recognize that this decision deeply affects our students and families, the allegations deserve and require this immediate and decisive action. We recognize that this communication will likely prompt many emotions and questions, and we remain committed to safety and transparency in all communications. You should expect an additional update from the district as to the status of this matter by early next week.

We appreciate your patience and support while we process and respond to the information received.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brian W. Scriven
Superintendent of Schools

October 19, 2025

Dear Cheltenham Community,

It is with tremendous disappointment that I am writing to share that after significant consideration, the district is suspending the Cheltenham High School Football season for the duration of the season due to allegations and reports of assault and hazing within the program.

We fully understand this decision will bring a range of emotions and opinions, and we are very sensitive to those most directly impacted, including our students and their families, as well as students and families participating in our high school pep band, color guard, drumline and cheerleading programs.

We have been working throughout the weekend to move as quickly as possible on a district-led investigation of these allegations, have been coordinating with local police, and been in contact with the Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney's office. Based on the information we have at this time, and after deep consideration and reflection, it is our professional and ethical duty to make this decision in alignment with our core values of prioritizing student safety and well-being.

I want to provide as much information as possible while also protecting the confidentiality of this investigation, which will continue this coming week. Here are some of the details that brought us to this decision point:

- Approximately three weeks ago, the district received an allegation of assault against a student in our locker room. We immediately reported this to the Cheltenham Township Police Department and followed all legally mandated procedures to investigate the alleged incident, which we believed to be isolated. CTPD began its own investigation.
- Last week, we received additional information, some of which was anonymous, that indicated multiple team members may have engaged in hazing and rough, physical contact that could constitute assault. While some of the information was anonymous, multiple reports and information indicated that hazing and/or inappropriate physical conduct may be occurring more broadly in the program. That additional information brought us to the decision on Friday afternoon to temporarily suspend the season and work as swiftly as possible to learn more.

- This weekend, we have worked diligently and as quickly as possible to communicate with all students and families impacted, facilitate interviews between an external investigator and team members and coaches, and ascertain whether these allegations warrant a cancellation of the season. We have also closely coordinated with law enforcement and understand there is a possibility, based on their investigation that began three weeks ago, that charges could be pending against some students.
- Because we are already deep into the football season, we are facing a very short deadline of October 20 (tomorrow) by which we must decide whether play can continue and whether we can reschedule Friday's missed game. Considering the information in front of us, as well as the time required to fully investigate this issue with fidelity, it is with great regret that we feel we simply cannot allow the season to continue and also uphold our ethical responsibility and our promise to prioritize student safety and welfare.

We remain extremely sensitive to the ways that this decision, and the attention it will draw, will impact our entire school community. Hazing is considered a very serious and significant issue in school athletic programs. We ask for patience and respect for our obligation to thoroughly investigate. We also ask that our school community not rush to judgement against the football team, our student-athletes or coaches.

The district will also begin to discuss ways to recreate "Senior Night" for the football players and cheerleading, pep band, color guard and drumline members who did not participate in that important tradition due to this cancellation. We will do our very best to involve students as we develop new plans to honor our seniors.

On Monday, the school's counselors, psychologist, and district social workers will be available to provide support to students and staff. If you have any questions or would like to speak with someone, please contact the counseling office at 215-517-3782.

As a parent, educator, former coach and student-athlete, I am troubled by this matter on numerous levels. This decision is not one that was made lightly. I will continue to communicate as openly as possible as we work through this in the coming days and weeks. We must move forward as a district and school community committed to student safety and respect, and do all we can to uphold those values.

We are working closely with the Cheltenham Township Police Department and have been in close communication with the Montgomery County District Attorney's office.



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Dr. Brian W. Scriven, Superintendent
ShaVon Savage, M.S.Ed., J.D., Assistant Superintendent

Respectfully,

Dr. Brian W. Scriven
Superintendent of Schools