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Superintendent of Schools  
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Deputy Superintendent  
**Teron D. Sharp, CAA**  
District Athletic Director and PE Teacher Support

August 20, 2020

Dear Public High League Families and Staff and Stakeholders of Saint Louis Public Schools:

On behalf of SLPS and the PHL, I am pleased to announce the return of athletics for the students in our in district. Barring any additional challenges presented by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, SLPS student-athletes will be able to compete this year with specific safety guidelines in place.

The decision to move to remote learning prompted the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) to take action to grant districts relief from prior restrictions. On August 5, 2020, MSHSAA announced it had amended its bylaws to allow virtual learning districts to participate in athletics/activities. Moreover, on August 13, 2020, MSHSAA announced that schools/districts, that determined it would be safer not to participate in sports at this time, could hold traditional fall sport competitions during a modified spring season.

As a result of this change, the PHL will move our traditional fall season to the modified alternate season. This means that both fall and spring alternate seasons will occur in the spring and continue into the summer months as follows:

- Fall competitions will occur March 12-May 1, 2021
- Spring competitions will occur May 14-July 10, 2021

Unless schools within our district notify the PHL Office, they will automatically be placed in the spring modified alternate season. It is our plan to successfully and safely offer sports during the alternate seasons, but this decision will be contingent on the number of participants and individual schools' preferences within our district.

While we recognize the importance of athletics/activities to the overall mental and physical health of our students, our primary focus has been on getting school started (Monday, August 31, 2020) safely and successfully in every way. Nevertheless, we are encouraged and look forward to offering activities/athletics to our students. Putting safety first, our participation in organized play will help ensure that students within our district have the opportunity to strengthen and hone their skills in competition and take advantage of all that athletics/activities can bring.

It is important to know that our decision to engage in organized sports, much like all others over the past several months, is conditional upon the information and guidance we get from the St. Louis City Department of Health (DOH). Until we can safely make the return to brick-and-mortar classrooms, it is our intent to work cooperatively with the DOH and with staff, parents, partners and volunteers to bring back all the educational

supports and services our students need—one step at a time. We will keep you informed as we expand opportunities over the coming weeks.

Today, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to safely bring sports and related benefits and opportunities back to our athletes. There will be more information to come. Please continue to look for updates at [www.slps.org](http://www.slps.org) and on the PHL twitter page @PHLATHLETICS.

Sincerely,

*Teron D. Sharp*

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