

Athletics

The Central Colorado Athletic League (CCAL), to which our middle school belongs, continues to work within constraints imposed by government officials to try to provide access to extracurricular programs for our students. We have received many questions regarding the status of our athletic programs for the remainder of the school year. Recent increases in the level of restrictions are preventing us from conducting extracurricular team programs. We feel it is important for our stakeholders to understand the restrictions we are currently navigating as we attempt to provide opportunities for our students to participate in extracurricular activities.

Although we are not officially affiliated with the Colorado High School Athletic Association (CHSAA), agreements made between CHSAA and our government officials hold sway over how we conduct our programs at the middle school level. CHSAA does act as a form of “lobbying arm” for the school athletic community, and they are afforded more access to government officials than individuals. Early winter sports are not going to be permitted to begin on Jan. 4, as had originally been agreed and scheduled on the CHSAA 2020-21 sports calendar. See the latest release from CHSAA at the following link: <https://chsaanow.com/2020-12-07/season-b-sports-delayed-as-statewide-covid-cases-rise/>

The El Paso County Public Health Department has released updated guidance for K-12 schools choosing to continue in-person learning. Contained within this document is a section specific to extracurricular activities. See the link below for more information:

http://www.monumentacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/El-Paso-County-Public-Health-In_person-Guidance-Dec-1.pdf

There is also an attachment that describes capacity restrictions at the various color levels now being used by local governmental organizations. Local Athletic Directors are using this chart to determine if any after-school practices are allowed. There has been some confusion as to which section school athletic teams fall under, but for purposes of “open-gym” workouts most seem to feel the “Gyms/Fitness” section is most appropriate. This would allow us a maximum up to 10 athletes in the gym at a time. We are currently designated as “Red” in El Paso County. Please see the following link for reference: <http://www.monumentacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Capacity-Restrictions-11.20.20.pdf>

Data provided by El Paso County shows that Youth Sports/Activities have not been a significant source of Covid-19 outbreaks. See a recent news article and visit the El Paso County Public Health Website for more:

- <https://krdo.com/news/top-stories/2020/12/07/restaurants-not-at-top-of-el-paso-county-outbreak-sources/>
- <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>

The Central Colorado Athletic League (CCAL) is hopeful that a mid-January meeting between CHSAA and Governor Polis’ office will result in an agreement that will allow high school athletics to resume as early as late January or early February. Should that occur we feel it is likely that we will also be able to resume offering our formal athletic programs. CCAL has again reworked the calendar for our abbreviated seasons to ensure most of our available programs will be available to our students during the second semester, although calendar constraints will result in shortened and occasionally overlapping seasons. Visit www.monumentacademy.net/athletics for an updated calendar that simply gives timeframes for specific programs. Specific schedules will be reworked and communicated soon in hope we will be able to go forward. Thank you for your support.