

Hello Shiloh Families,

We hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy. We wanted to give you an update on the latest happenings regarding our extracurricular athletics. Our next season of athletics is boys and girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and cheer.

Shiloh Middle School will continue to wait for official guidance from the IDPH, IHSA, SIJHSAA, and partnering Belle-Fair Conference schools regarding a final decision whether volleyball, basketball, and cheer will take place this season. The Illinois Department of Public Health lists basketball as a High Risk Sport, volleyball as a Medium Risk Sport, and competitive cheer being a Low Risk Sport.

The Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association (SIJHSAA) is awaiting the final decision from the IDPH regarding a start date for basketball, and volleyball, however the Belle-Fair conference has made the decision to delay the start of basketball season. There is a tentative start date of **March 1st** for all basketball and cheer related activities; however, this is tentative and based on the IDPH's final decision. If the SIJHSAA is allowed to start basketball and cheer activities, Shiloh Middle School will review those guidelines as well as any other guidelines set forth by the Belle-Fair Conference and make a decision that will keep our students safe and healthy.

Volleyball will continue to aim for a tentative start date of **January 4th**. Once again, Shiloh Middle School will review any guidelines to make a decision that will be in the best interest of our students and families.

If volleyball activities are allowed to take place, we will hold tryouts for our boys and girls volleyball teams on **January 4th and 5th**; times will be confirmed after an official decision has been made. Games are set to begin on **January 21st**.

If basketball and cheer activities are allowed to take place, we will hold tryouts for our boys and girls basketball teams and cheer teams on **March 1st and 2nd**; times will be confirmed after an official decision has been made. Games are set to begin on **March 11th**.

Student athletes **must have a current physical** on file with their school; without a current physical, your student will not be permitted to take part in the tryout process. As COVID-19 continues to make it difficult to see a physician without a scheduled appointment, it is very important that your student schedules their physical with your family physician or medical provider as soon as possible.

Students need to be in **good academic standing** for the tryout process. It is very important that your student stays on top of their schoolwork.

Students will also be required to sign a "Hold Harmless" waiver, agreeing to the risks associated with COVID-19. This waiver will be finalized and sent out to families after the final decision has been made.

I hope that this email brings a beacon of hope that we will work towards an athletic season for our students. Extracurriculars are an important aspect of students' experience at our Middle School and it is our hope that we will be able to provide this opportunity for our students this year. As news and updates continue to reach us, we will continue to update you as well. If you have any questions at all, please email Sarah Shelton, our Athletic Director, at sshelton@shi85.org. We hope to see you very soon!

Sincerely,

Dale Sauer
Superintendent