

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Your school is currently implementing an innovative program for evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). In order to better manage concussions sustained by our students, your school has partnered with Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine to use a software tool called ImPACT™ (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). ImPACT™ is a computerized exam developed by concussion experts at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and is used in many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to assist with the diagnosis and management of head injuries. Neurocognitive tests such as ImPACT™ are the “gold standard” in recognizing and managing head injuries. Additional information about ImPACT™ can be found at www.impacttest.com.

Your school is asking middle school students to take the computerized baseline exam. This test is set-up in a “video game” type format and takes about 30-45 minutes to complete. The ImPACT™ test is a baseline physical of the brain. It tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration, but it is not an IQ test. The ImPACT™ test is non-invasive and poses no risks to your child.

If your child suffers a head injury and a concussion is suspected, your child will be referred to a physician at Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine for an evaluation and a referral to a specialist as indicated. The certified athletic trainer will administer a post-injury ImPACT™ test. Following test administration, the student will be evaluated by a physician who will provide information regarding return-to-learn/play. Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine will maintain your child’s pre and post-injury test data, on a secure server maintained by ImPACT™. Your child’s test data will only be available to Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine except as described below. If your child suffers a head injury, you will be contacted with additional details about how to proceed.

Your child’s test data may be made available to persons other than the physician or clinician evaluating your child, as follows:

- The physician evaluating your child may choose to make your child’s test data available to other health care providers who are being consulted regarding the treatment of your child.
- Your child’s test data may also be utilized by St. Joseph’s Hospital/Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine to treat other athletes with similar head injuries or in studies conducted by St. Joseph’s Hospital/Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine on head injuries.

Your child’s health and safety are at the forefront of the student athletic experience, and we are excited to implement this program. If you have any further questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact me via email erin.hoepfner@hshs.org or via phone 618.806.8038.

Sincerely,
Erin Hoepfner
HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Athletes Advantage