



JANIS E. DISMUS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

320 TYRON AVENUE, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: JOE ARMENTAL (201) 862-6047



August 12, 2020

Dear Junior Raiders Family,

Thank you for your patience during this time of extraordinary challenges for our educational community. While so many of our student-athletes experienced the disappointment of the cancellation of spring sports, our athletic department has been focused on the health and safety of the student-athletes whom we are committed to serving. As we face this new reality together, our attention will continue to be on the health and safety of all involved in our athletic family and will also include efficient and effective best practices of operating in a virtual setting. With that, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some updates regarding our middle school athletic program.

First and foremost, on behalf of our entire athletics program, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Please allow me to be among the many to encourage you to continue to practice social distancing and adhere to all CDC health and safety guidelines. It is my hope that we can be a leader in setting the social distancing standard for the rest of our City, County and State. All of us in the Raider Nation are counting on each other to do our part in defeating our newest opponent, COVID-19.

Second, as we move forward with the upcoming fall season, we have to recognize that much of what we have come accustomed to may look, feel and sound a little different. Our beloved middle school program faces a **much greater** challenge in returning to play than our high school programs due to the absence of a governing body (NJSIAA). The lack of standardization of health protocols across middle school athletics creates potential health risks for our players, coaches and spectators. As such, I am recommending that we postpone our Fall Middle School Athletics Program. At a later time in the school year, we will reassess our ability to safely and efficiently provide an educational based athletic program for the winter and spring seasons.

While this is an unfortunate decision, I am confident that we will once again return to a more traditional athletic season that highlights our athletic abilities and continues to create a proud sense of community. In order to do so, I challenge each of you humbly and confidently continue to work on perfecting the finest of details within your sport. For it is in these fine details that you will ultimately be separated from your competition. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The ultimate measure of a (wo)man is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy." I believe that these words will once again hold true for the student-athletes of Janis E. Dismus Middle School.

In closing, I look forward to beginning our school year in the safest and healthiest of ways. Once again, please continue to practice social distancing and adhere to the health official's guidance as we tackle this pandemic together. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email and be certain to follow us on Twitter @DMRaiderNation.

GO RAIDERS!

Joe Armental
Director of Athletics