

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Chicago Public Schools' Office of Sports Administration is pleased to open student registration for the new Elementary School Sports Program – the official interscholastic league play for CPS 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics. *Registration forms to sign up by Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> are included in this packet.* The program will officially launch with Winter Boys and Girls Basketball in January 2017. Practices will occur 2 times per week at your child's school starting the week of January 9<sup>th</sup> and the first game will be on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

In order to increase athletic participation across the district, the program will follow an inclusive model. There will be no cuts or tryouts to join teams, but rather multiple teams will be established to accommodate student interest.

The Elementary School Sports program will use a conference structure to foster a sense of community between elementary schools that are geographically near one another. Games will take place on weekends with the hope that it will be easier for family and friends transport children, attend games and take part in game day activities. Most games will be hosted by neighborhood high schools, providing students and families and opportunity to get to know their neighborhood schools and ease the elementary to high school transition.

To help deliver the expanded program, CPS is partnering with the Chicago Park District. The Chicago Park District will provide staff to coach teams and officiate contests. The Park District will also provide additional facilities to accommodate the anticipated volume of students and program size.

As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to get involved in the program. Information enclosed will include the process to become a coach and/or game day volunteer (e.g., timekeeper).

Enclosed in this packet, you will find the following forms and information:

- 1) Student Information Form
- 2) Consent and Release Form
- 3) Elementary School Sports Program Overview
- 4) Transportation Information
- 5) Important Dates for Winter 2017

Please review the packet carefully and, if you choose to register your student, fill out the two forms completely and accurately. Registration and consent forms must be received by your child's school **no later than Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016** if your child wants to participate in Winter Basketball. Following registration, more detailed information will be sent home including instructions for getting involved as a coach or game day staff, game/practice schedules, team rosters, your child's coach's contact information and conference shuttle schedules. If you have any questions, please contact your school's Elementary School Liaison, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Randy Ernst

Executive Director, Office of Sports Administration



# Elementary School Sports Program Student Information Form

## Student Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (Circle one):    Male            Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Documentation

In order to participate in the Elementary School Sports Program, students must meet the district's Physical Examination requirement. The requirement is that a Physical Examination must be completed within one year prior to entry to:

- Preschool and kindergarten (physical exam and lead screening through age 6)
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade (ages 5, 11, 15 for un-graded programs)
- Any student entering CPS for the first time

Please indicate any medical conditions or allergies staff should be aware of during program activities:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian and Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name (Primary Contact): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Elementary School Sports Program Student Information Form

### Athletic History

Has the student played sports at a CPS school prior to this season?  Yes  No

If so, what grade(s) was your student in when they participated? \_\_\_\_\_

If your student played a sport at CPS previously, please list the sport(s). \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the student's approximate basketball skill level for his/her age:

Beginner (little to no experience)  Intermediate (some experience)  Advanced (organized experience)

### Conference Shuttle Interest

Please review the *Transportation Information* included in this registration packet. As a reminder, parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to transport their children to and from games.

How often do you expect your student to use the provided conference shuttle?

- Frequently (almost every Saturday)
- Occasionally (3-5 Saturdays)
- Rarely (1-2 Saturdays)
- My student will not use the conference shuttle to get to weekend games.

### Student T-Shirt Size

Please select one of the following:

- Youth Small  Youth Medium  Youth Large  Youth Extra Large
- Adult Small  Adult Medium  Adult Large  Adult Extra Large  Adult Extra Extra Large



## Elementary School Sports Program Consent and Release Form

I give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ print student name \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Elementary School Sports Program for the Winter 2017 season. I understand and accept all risks inherent in participating in an Elementary School Sports Program.

I release, relieve, discharge, and hold harmless the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board), its officers, Board members, employees, agents and representatives, from any and all liability or claim of liability, whether for personal injury, property damage, or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the Elementary School Sports Program.

I further release, relieve, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the Chicago Park District, its officers, Board members, employees, agents and representatives, from any and all liability or claim of liability, whether for personal injury, property damage, or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the Elementary School Sports Program

I authorize program personnel, including Board employees, Chicago Park District staff, volunteers, or chaperones to act for me in any emergency, accident or illness involving my child. I further agree that the Board and its employees, volunteers, chaperones, program personnel, as well as the Chicago Park District and its employees, are released from any and all liability or claims for taking such action.

Should my child use the Conference Shuttle to get to and/or from games, I assume full responsibility to provide adult supervision during my child's walk to and from the pickup/drop off location and until the bus arrives.

I assume full responsibility for the actions of my student while participating in the Elementary School Sports Program.

I confirm that my child meets CPS' Physical Examination requirement and has proof of a current Physical Examination on file at the school.

I affirm that my child has no chronic medical, physical or mental condition or disability which has not been stated in the medical certificate or which could make participation in the Elementary School Sports Program inadvisable.

I may revoke this permission in writing only.

I affirm that I have read this Parental Consent and Release of Liability in its entirety, that I understand each of the terms hereof, and that I agree to be fully bound hereby.

**Parent/Guardian Name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (signature)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Elementary School Sports Program

CPS is excited to launch a new Elementary School Sports Program – the official interscholastic league for competitive afterschool sports at CPS. Through this new program, more 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to develop the values, skills and abilities that are essential for success such as sportsmanship, teamwork, problem-solving, and self-confidence. By harnessing the power of community and sport, this program provides a safe, structured and positive environment for all CPS 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn and develop through athletics.



The program was successfully piloted in the 2015-16 school year. Community-based conferences for league play were established in three networks. During the pilot, CPS 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders from three different networks played basketball and soccer with dedicated coaches and, on weekends, students and families came together for games at their neighborhood high schools and local parks. The pilot received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, coaches, school administrators, families, and community members:

“I was admittedly skeptical about the new basketball format but have received outstanding feedback from schools about how it has **transformed some student behaviors and engagement.**”

~ Network Administrator

“Because you can always play and you’re always put in, **it helped with my self-confidence** that I could do this – I was a player”

~ Pilot Student-Athlete

“**It’s competitive but also they’re here to have fun.** I think everyone got that vibe – it was just a really fun atmosphere”

~ Athletic Director

“I can’t say enough about this program. My **students were more focused and did better on assessments** and in their classes”

~ Pilot Principal

“Since we started this program, our kids that had behavior problems improved by over 50%. Attendance went up as well. **We have kids now that are interacting with each other that wouldn’t talk before.** This is something we use as an incentive for kids.”

~ Pilot Coach

“It **brings students, mothers, fathers and teachers here together as a family**”

~ Pilot Coach

# Elementary School Sports Program

## Guiding Principles



### Inclusive Model

- There will be no-cuts or tryouts to join teams, but rather multiple teams will be established to accommodate student interest.
- A minimum playing time requirement will ensure all team members have the opportunity to practice and play.

### Community-Centric

- Conferences comprised of elementary schools that are geographically near each other will be established to foster a sense of community.
- Contests will be held at neighborhood high schools or local parks on weekends to drive engagement and involvement.
- High school students, family, and community members will be encouraged to volunteer as game day staff.

## Program Benefits



- ❖ All 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in participating will have the opportunity to be a part of a team, work with caring coaches to develop athletic skills and cultivate positive life lessons.
- ❖ Participating students and families will establish familiarity and relationships with neighborhood high schools, easing the transition from elementary to high school.
- ❖ More students will be prepared for the rigor of high school athletics.
- ❖ Weekend games and community conferences will bring neighborhoods together in a positive way and enhance school pride.
- ❖ The program will be centrally funded through public-private partnerships, allowing more schools to participate and CPS to keep more resources in the classroom.

## Important Facts



- **Winter 2017 Sport:** Boys and Girls Basketball
- **Practices:** Two times per week before and/or afterschool at elementary schools.
- **Games:** One game per week will take place at nearby high schools on Saturdays.
- **Dates:** The first week of practices will be January 9, 2017 – January 13, 2017. The first game of the regular season will be on Saturday January 14, 2017. The first game of the post-season will be March 4, 2017.

# Elementary School Sports Program Transportation Information



## Game Day Transportation

Parents, guardians and other family members are strongly encouraged to transport student-athletes to and from games. Games will mostly take place on Saturdays at neighborhood high schools to make transporting students to and from games as easy as possible. However, CPS recognizes that situations arise in which alternative options may be required.

In the event that parents, guardians or other family members are unable to transport a student to or from games, a Conference Shuttle will be available. The Conference Shuttle will be a CPS-approved bus shared amongst all the schools in a conference (approximately 7 schools geographically near one another). Please note the following regarding the conference shuttle:

- **Shuttle Schedule** – On a game day, the shuttle will follow a route that picks up students at conference elementary schools, drops off students at the conference high school (or other game location) and vice versa. The shuttle schedule will be determined based on the game schedule and will be published prior to the first game. Students taking the shuttle should plan to arrive at their pickup location 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.
- **Student Riders Only** – The Conference Shuttle will be exclusively for CPS 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders who participate in the program. The shuttle will not transport parents, guardians, other family members or friends.
- **Supervision** – It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide adult supervision during a child's walk to and from the pickup/drop off location and until the bus arrives. Elementary schools will serve as bus-stops for the conference shuttle. Though elementary schools will be pickup/drop-off locations for the shuttle, they will not be open on game days for this program. CPS has arranged for a CPS Security Guard to serve as a chaperone on each Conference Shuttle so students will be supervised during their ride.
- **Rider Behavior** – All riders of the Conference Shuttle are expected to abide by CPS' Student Code of Conduct. Bus service is provided to students that act responsibly while using the bus service. Due to safety concerns, the privilege of bus service may be suspended or removed when student management on the bus becomes an issue.

## Afterschool Practices

Parents and guardians will be responsible for arranging transportation home from afterschool practices for their child.

## Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS)

If a student is in a temporary living situation and qualifies for the STLS Program, contact the STLS Liaison at your school to discuss your child's participation in this program and opportunity for transportation assistance.



# Elementary School Sports Program Important Dates for Winter Basketball 2017

Student Registration Opens.....November 7, 2016

Student Registration Closes.....November 16, 2016

First Week of Practice.....January 9, 2017 – January 13, 2017

Regular Season Game Days\* .....January 14, 2017

January 21, 2017

January 28, 2017

February 4, 2017

February 11, 2017

February 18, 2017

February 25, 2017

First Day of Playoffs.....March 4, 2017

Potential Additional Rounds\* .....March 11, 2017 and March 18, 2017

*\*Depending on the number of students that register, some games may take place on alternative dates. A detailed game schedule will be sent home and published after registration closes.*