

Proposal to Return to In-Person Activity

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| Submitted by: | Rodney Thomas | Date: | 09/23/2020 |
| Title: | Athletics and Activities Director | School: | DHS |

Brief title this proposal can be referred to as (try to keep to 5 words or less):

Participation in GHSA Football contests.

Brief description of what is being proposed (try to keep to under 5 sentences):

Proposing that the Varsity Football team be allowed to compete in GHSA football games.

When do you propose beginning this activity in person, why do you propose that date, and what will the impact be if in-person activity is delayed until after that date?

DHS Revised Varsity Football Schedule

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| Friday, Oct. 2 | Arabia Mtn | Godfrey | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Oct. 9 | Stone Mountain | Adams | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Oct. 16 | Lithonia (HC) | DHS | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Oct. 30 | MLK | DHS | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Nov. 6 | Northview (Sr. nite) | DHS | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Nov. 13 | SWD | Godfrey | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Nov. 20 | St. Pius X | Pius | 7:30pm |
| Friday, Nov. 27 | Playoffs 1st Round | | |
| Friday, Dec. 4th | Playoffs 2nd Round | | |
| Friday, Dec. 11th | Quarterfinals | | |
| Friday, Dec. 18th | Semifinals | | |

State Championship December 28-30

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| <p>Describe the population of people who will be returning to in-person activities (students, staff, age levels, grades, programs, teams, etc.):</p> | <p>Approximately how many people in each of those groups will be impacted by this proposal (students, staff, volunteers, etc.):</p> |
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| <p>Student athletes grades 9-12 Ages 14-18 Coaching Staff</p> | <p>35-40 players 3 Certified Staff Coaches 1 Certified Lay Coach 3 Lay Coaches</p> |
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| <p>Describe the <u>benefits</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>risks</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:</p> | <p>Describe the <u>risks</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>benefits</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:</p> |
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| <p>Participating in GHSA Football events will help the social and emotional well being of our student athletes. So much has been taken from these students. Competing in games is the ultimate reward for their hard work and dedication to their sport. Competing in football games will also give them a healthier attitude about school. It adds purpose to their lives. It will also allow several of these students the opportunity to earn a scholarship to college which could possibly change their life trajectory. The risks of not playing GHSA football games include a negative mindset towards school, the student athletes feeling not valued and student athletes leaving DHS to play for a school that permits them to compete in football.</p> | <p>The risk of returning is the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus among the football team. The benefit of not playing is that our football team would not be at risk of contracting the virus while playing football for DHS. However, there is no guarantee our football players, our coaches or our football families will not contract the virus outside of the football program. All we can do is try to mitigate the virus to the best of our ability.</p> |
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Describe in detail the protocols, equipment, and other actions that will be implemented to protect the health and safety of the persons involved in this activity:

Our stadium holds 4500 people. I would like to limit the number of attendees in the stands to 675 (15%) for the first home game, and 1125 (25%) for the next two home games. Other schools who are limiting attendance are doing 30% of occupancy. These numbers include band members, Booster Club members, GHSA passes, Game Staff and fans. Everyone will be required to wear masks at all times. No middle school students admitted without an adult (kids 13 or under). We will mark off spaces to sit in the bleachers recognizing social distancing. The first two rows of bleachers will not be used. There will be regular announcements on the PA regarding social distancing and wearing masks. No concessions will be sold in the stadium. We will not allow visiting bands or cheerleaders. Bathrooms will

be checked and cleaned every 30 minutes. Locker rooms will not be used as a team meeting space by either home or visiting teams. Teams will not come together after the game for the traditional handshake. Players will have their own water bottles. DHS Football team will have their temperatures checked before the game. Anyone with a temperature of 100F or above will be sent home. Social distancing will be practiced on the sidelines to the extent possible. Hand sanitizer will be available on the sidelines for players and coaches. When on the sideline, every player will have a mask on. Water cows will not be utilized. Personal water bottles will be set up on designated tables and water will also be served in disposable paper cups. Game balls will be sanitized periodically during the game.

Describe in detail how the above protocols, equipment, and other actions will be monitored to ensure compliance and fidelity of implementation, including who will be responsible for each aspect of monitoring:

We will use the PA system to remind attendees about social distancing and the wearing of masks. Coaches will monitor the team protocols. The Athletic and Activities Director and his assistant will monitor all aspects of the event. DHS administrators will also help monitor the fans. We will have 8-10 game workers who will also monitor the stands and the field. Our trainer will also be on the sideline to ensure field protocols are being followed.

Will this activity be voluntary, compulsory, or socially compulsory? If the answers vary by participant (such as students vs. staff), answer separately for each category of people.

What will happen for those normally involved in this activity if they choose not to participate when it returns to in-person? (Answer separately for each category of people if applicable.)

Voluntary

Players and/or coaches who do not wish to compete in GHSA football games, will be allowed to practice with the team as long as they desire.

Describe in detail any interactions this activity will have with others (such as other teams/clubs within the district, other teams/clubs outside the district, etc.), the risks such interactions would introduce, and how those risks will be mitigated.

We will limit the contact between teams before and after games. During halftimes the teams will be in opposite end zones. Other than during the actual play, there is typically no interaction between the teams.

What other information, not already provided above, needs to be shared with the team evaluating this proposal?

For away games the team will travel 10 people per bus. We will travel with the windows down weather permitting. We will also maintain 6ft social distancing while on the buses. Parents will be able to transport their child to the game if they so choose. Student athletes will be required to wear masks while on the buses.

Proposal Review

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| Reviewed by CSD COVID Response Team: K. Beam, C. Burnett, D. Dude, M. Fehrman, L. Huddleston, E. Melton, S. Moore, S. Perez, R. Thomas | Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied | Date: 2020-10-01 |
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