

May 28, 2021

Viking Families,

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 on their graduation! The last all boys class in STL history will always be remembered for the adversity they faced and their contributions to athletics. I know the seniors, and all of our student-athletes, are prepared to bring home some hardware this postseason.

As the summer athletic season hits the stretch run, I want to thank all of our families for your cooperation with our COVID policies throughout the year. I also ask that you continue to follow the policies in place. A reminder that the IDPH and IHSA still require masks for all spectators at high school sporting events. We appreciate your cooperation with the policy and we will update you if anything changes.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the athletic department staff that has helped make this year possible for our student-athletes. There are currently 10 sports in-season, and we usually have multiple home events going on each day. We will host over 200 home sporting events from the time sports resumed in February until the end of the year, and we have hosted 175 home events from March 1st through last night. It would not be possible without the help of Kathy Becker, Bob Kelly, Jim Tracy, and Nik Siple. Also, a huge thank you to Bill Gaichas for streaming so many home events and taking pictures and providing teams with social media graphics. It also wouldn't be possible without Alexis Alzona covering all of the events. Finally, Jimmy Tracy, Joe McCormick, Mike Corbett, Joe Spano, Pat Griffin, Ryan Hackett, Chris Lyle, Mike Sterna, Dennis Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Ed Kozak, and Ken Kufner have all helped with running the scoreboard, keeping the book, doing PA, or working the gate -- all necessities for many games.

I hope all of our families understand that the athletic department staff and school administrators would like to be at every event, but it is not humanly possible. We divide up assignments based on needs at the events, and we try to give everyone a couple of nights off each week to spend with their family. It is impossible for any of us to go to any road games with the home schedule we have. While I know students and parents enjoy seeing staff at games, please understand that whether or not an administrator is at a game has nothing to do with how much the school cares about a program. To put it simply, if I, or the school, didn't care about a program, we wouldn't offer it. Rest assured, the same energy goes into providing opportunities and support for ALL of our sports, which is the primary role of our department.



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In closing, I'm looking forward to a great finish to a less than ideal school year. I'm proud of all of our student-athletes and their perseverance. It will be a quick turnaround for summer this year with the seasons running deeper into June. Returning students' summer camps are on [8to18](#), and students/parents should ask their coach for full details if you do not already have them. In-season student-athletes should not attend summer camps until their summer season IHSA sport has concluded.

Have a great summer, continue to stay healthy, and I hope everything returns to normal in the fall!

On Vikings!

Tim Chandler, CMAA
Athletic Director