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July 14, 2020

Dear Roycemore families,

My name is Both Long and I am the incoming Athletic Director. Even in these unprecedented times, I am honored to join the Griffin family. In the months leading up to the start of school this fall, I have been and will continue to be in close contact with Rob Linkhart and Jessi Wunder. I am excited to uphold the Roycemore tradition that Rob and Jessi have built, and also collaborate with them to move towards exciting new memories.

In different circumstances, I would prefer to immerse myself in the Roycemore culture before moving directly into departmental logistics and strategy but in the current climate, it is most helpful to our community for all of us to be as updated as possible regarding the latest developments in fall sports.

With respect to Athletics this fall:

As Roycemore continues to plan for in-person instruction, the Athletic Department is also considering opportunities for our students to engage in impactful sports and wellness activities that align with public health protocols and also holistically serve all of our Roycemore student-athletes.

We know that our students are eagerly awaiting the return of athletics, and to prepare for the potential return of scholastic and interscholastic sports in the fall, we are constantly assessing the logistics of scheduling meets, games, and competitions despite the fluid nature of fall sports.

We are committed to supporting our students' athletic interests, and we recognize that our Athletic and Physical Education program serves as an essential opportunity for students to engage in a dynamic learning environment towards their development as young leaders. The work at hand is to ensure that we take extra precautions once our academic and athletic programs resume because keeping our students and staff safe and healthy is our highest priority. To prioritize the safety of our students and staff above all else, we are strictly adhering to the health guidelines that align with the state's Ready to Play plan that were developed in coordination with public health officials relevant to the projected landscape.

In the coming weeks, we will share details on our plans to safely return to participating in Roycemore Athletics and Physical Education. As parents, we understand that you need these details, and we will provide as many updated status reports as possible per the development of the directives from IDPH, IHSA and the Governor's office related to modifications in the Phase 4 Return to Play guidelines.

At the moment, we only have guidance on protocols for summer activities that will take place outdoors. All schools hosting summer activities will have to follow district protocols, which include:

- Social distancing
- Mandatory daily temperature checks
- Check-in and check-out procedures for each conditioning session
- Cleanliness and sanitation protocols, including hand washing or sanitation prior to all activities and throughout the day
- Required symptom screenings for athletes and staff
- No contact drills/physical contact among athletes
- All persons must always wear masks. (We are working to determine if this includes outside while social distancing.)
- There must be a strict 50 person limit to all indoor activities, and that would include any spectators (people in those groups should also socially distance)
- Protocols to follow in the event of a positive case of COVID-19

It is very likely that these guidelines will continue into the fall and most likely affect the complicated logistics of running fall sports that resemble past experiences.

We know that participation in athletics is very important to our student-athletes, and we look forward to seeing them enjoy these activities again. Our goal as a department and academic community is to make sure that we make the decisions that will allow us to return to play as quickly and safely as possible.

The changes and adjustments to Phase 4 Return to Play guidelines could come periodically in the coming weeks as the athletic landscape continues to fluctuate. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this uncertain time.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

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